



Pentecost 19

19 October | 2025 | 11.30am

The Rev. Canon Dr. Penny Anderson - Rector

The Rev. Wojtek Kuzma - Priest Associate

Andy Elmhirst - Director of Music

Carrie Ford-Jones - Children's & Youth Ministry Coordinator

On the Cover

“Do Not Lose Heart”,
drawn by graphic artist Trey Everett in 2018.

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Thought for the Month

Interdependence over Independence:
Christian theology values interdependence, mutual care, and shared
vulnerability over the modern ideal of self-sufficiency.

*One of the “Ten Tenets of Disability Theology”,
From The Disabled God by Nancy Eiesland*

Welcome to St. Christopher's

Thank you for being with us this morning! We hope that this will be a meaningful time of worship for you! Please be assured that we are continuously evaluating and adapting our liturgical customs and hygiene practices to protect the health and safety of all.

About the Service

Everything you need for the service can be found in this booklet and large print copies are also available. You may take this service bulletin home with you or discard it in the blue box as you exit.

Children & Families

Please enjoy being together throughout the service. Programming for children, 0-3 years (Grannie's Place) takes place at 9.30am. Children aged 4+ meet in the preschool room during the 9.30am service with Carrie Ford-Jones. Should you require assistance at any time during the service, please let one of the greeters know and they will be happy to assist you.

Audio Loop

If you use a hearing aid with a "T" setting, you can take advantage of our audio loop in the main section (Nave) of the church.

"Collection"

We don't pass the collection plate at St. Christopher's. Instead, if you wish to make a financial contribution to support our ministries, there are donation boxes just inside the door into the worship space.

Communion

All are invited to share in the Holy Eucharist.

General Health Protocols

Mask use is not required. As always, if you are feeling unwell please stay home.

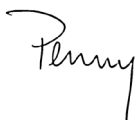
We encourage you to sanitize your hands frequently and there is sanitizer in many places throughout the church.

You may signal your preference to share the Peace in a distanced manner by crossing your arms over your chest, or by raising your hands, palms together. We ask you to check with your neighbours before making physical contact at the Peace.

Blessings

None of us comes to church by accident and each of us brings the rest of our lives with us. No matter what joys, burdens or dilemmas you bring with you today, we pray that this time will be a gift to you; that God's grace will touch you with hope and energy to live your life with greater depth, integrity, compassion, and courage.

Canon Penny Anderson



Pentecost 19

11.30 am

Welcome!

Cannon Penny

You belong here!
Everyone is welcome at the table.
No fussy rules.
No exceptions.

Land Acknowledgement

John Edmond, an Ottawa lawyer who practiced constitutional and Indigenous law, compiled a chronology of the Indian Residential Schools. Author Bob Joseph says Edmond compiled the chronology “to convey, by historic milestones, how the Indian residential school system came to be, how it embodied attitudes of its time, how critics were dismissed, and how, finally, the deep harm it did to many members of generations of Indian children was exposed in the course of a reconciliation process that continues.”

In one such historic milestone, in 1971, Blue Quills School, in St. Paul Alberta, became the first Indigenous-run school, following a month-long, contentious occupation by elders and others. (In 2015, the school became Blue Quills University, a First Nations owned and operated university, the first of its kind in Canada.)

May we who gather for worship on the territory of the Anishinaabeg and the Haudenosaunee peoples commit ourselves to learning our history, and to engaging in reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Gathering Prayer

Opening Song: Better than a Hallelujah

Amy Grant

God loves a lullaby
in a mother's tears, in the dead of night
better than a hallelujah, sometimes.
God loves the drunkard's cry,
the soldier's plea not to let him die
better than a hallelujah, sometimes.

[Refrain]

*We pour out our miseries.
God just hears a melody.
Beautiful, the mess we are.
The honest cries of breaking hearts
are better than a hallelujah.*

The woman holding on for life,
the dying man giving up the fight,
are better than a hallelujah, sometimes.
The tears of shame for what's been done,
the silence when the words won't come
are better than a hallelujah, sometimes.

[Refrain]

Better than a church bell ringing,
better than a choir singing out, singing out.

[Refrain]x2

Listening for God

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke (18.1-8)

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Reader

Holy Word. Holy Wisdom.

All

Thanks be to God.

Homily

Canon Penny

Silence for Reflection

Song: Holy Mother

Eric Clapton

Holy Mother, where are you?
Tonight I feel broken in two.
I've seen the stars fall from the sky.
Holy Mother, can't keep from crying

Oh I need your help this time,
get me through this lonely night.
Tell me please which way to turn
to find myself again.

Holy Mother, hear my prayer,
somehow I know you're still there.
Send me please some peace of mind;
take away this pain.

I can't wait,
I can't wait,
I can't wait any longer.

I can't wait,
I can't wait,
I can't wait for you.

Holy Mother, hear my cry,
I've cursed your name a thousand times.
I've felt the anger running through my soul;
all I need is a hand to hold.

Oh I feel the end has come,
no longer my legs will run.
You know I would rather be
in your arms tonight.

When my hands no longer play,
my voice is still, I fade away.
Holy Mother, then I'll be
lying in, safe within your arms.

The Prayers of the People

Please add your own prayers, ending with,

One God is good,
All **Thanks be to God.**

or

One God of love,
All **Hear our prayer.**

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Song: Blessings

Laura Story

We pray for blessings, we pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for your mighty hand to ease our suffering
And all the while, you hear each spoken need
Yet love us way too much to give us lesser things

[Refrain]

*'Cause what if your blessings come through rain drops
What if your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights
are what it takes to know you're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise*

We pray for wisdom, your voice to hear
We cry in anger when we cannot feel You near
We doubt your goodness, we doubt your love
As if every promise from your word is not enough
And all the while, you hear each desperate plea
And long that we'd have faith to believe

[Refrain]

When friends betray us
When darkness seems to win
We know that pain reminds this heart
That this is not,
This is not our home
It's not our home

*'Cause what if your blessings come through rain drops
What if your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know
you're near*

*What if my greatest disappointments or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
What if trials of this life
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights
Are your mercies in disguise*

Prayer over the Bread and Wine

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider May God be with you.
All **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the living God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the God of the universe.
All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The eucharistic prayer is spoken in the moment.

All **Holy, holy, holy,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in God's name.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The eucharistic prayer continues.

All **Amen.**

Presider We pray as Jesus taught us:
All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Sharing Bread and Wine

As we serve one another:

All **The body of Christ.
The blood of Christ.**

Communion Song: Call and Answer

Barenaked Ladies

I think it's getting to the point
Where I can be myself again.
[You think] It's getting to the point
Where we have almost made amends.
I think it's the getting to the point
That is the hardest part.

[Refrain]

*And if you call, I will answer,
And if you fall, I'll pick you up,
And if you court this disaster,
I'll point you home,
I'll point you home.*

You think I only think about you
When we're both in the same room.
[You think] I'm only here to witness
the remains of love exhumed.
You think we're here to play
A game of who-loves-more-than-whom.

[Refrain]

You think it's only fair to do what's
best for you and you alone.
[You think] it's only fair to do the same
to me when you're not home.
I think it's time to make this something
that is more than only fair.

[Refrain]

But I'm warning you, don't ever do
Those crazy, messed-up things that you do
If you ever do, I promise you
I'll be the first to crucify you
Now it's time to prove
That you've come back here to rebuild

Rebuild, rebuild
Rebuild, rebuild
Rebuild, rebuild
Rebuild, rebuild
Rebuild, rebuild

Blessing

Closing Song: Your Grace Is Enough

Matt Maher

Great is Your faithfulness, oh God.
You wrestle with our troubled hearts,
you lead us by still waters into mercy,
and nothing can keep us apart.

[Refrain]

*So, remember your people,
remember your children,
remember your promise, oh God.*

Your grace is enough,
your grace is enough,
your grace is enough for me!

Great is your love and justice, God.
You use the weak to lead the strong,
you lead us in the song of your salvation,
and all your people sing along.

[Refrain]

We invite you to join us for refreshments in the Atrium
following the service.



We are a dynamic, inclusive, diverse community
rooted in the life-giving, life-affirming, life-changing love of God
reaching beyond ourselves
caring for creation
making a difference with others.

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HARVEST FEST 2025

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23 · 6:30PM

Paradiso



A meal to support **Open Doors**, Burlington's vital community hub offering free, wraparound services to those in need.

Enjoy a three-course prix fixe dinner at Paradiso, complete with red and white wine pairings, all for \$150 per person.

Live music, door prizes, and the joy of giving back.