

Easter 5

3 May | 2026 | 9.30am

Rev. Canon Dr. Penny Anderson - Rector

Andy Elmhirst - Director of Music

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

Welcome to St. Christopher's

Thank you for being here 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.

Washrooms are located off the Great Hall - just ask one of the greeters for directions.

Children & Families

Children belong in church! We know that children move around, and children make sound - kids are allowed to be kids at St. Christopher's. Programming for children 4 and older takes place with Carrie Ford-Jones in the Youth Room during the 9.30am service. Caregivers, please pick up your children from the Youth Room at the end of the service. Parents are welcome to spend time with their children ages 0-3 in Granny's Place. There are also activity kits available in the atrium for those who prefer to remain in church. Please ask one of our greeters if you need assistance finding your way there.

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. Also, there is now a tap machine on a stand in the Atrium. You can tap with your credit card or using your mobile phone or watch. Please use your mobile device to scan the QR code if you wish to receive a tax receipt.

Sensory Room

There is a space for you at St. Christopher's - including a brand new sensory room, located in the south hallway, on the left just beyond the freezers. The sensory room is a space where you can lower or raise sensory inputs. There are blackout curtains so you can control the lighting, mats you can place on the floor, and options for listening to the service, or enjoying silence. The space is available for people of all ages, although we ask that caregivers remain with children who wish to use the sensory room.

Communion

All are invited to share in the Holy Eucharist.

Please remain seated until you are invited up the centre aisle by the greeter. When it's your turn, please hold out your hands and the communion minister will drop the wafer into your hands (without touching you). Once you have received the wafer, you may choose to receive the wine, or simply touch the base of the cup. Please return to your seat by the side aisle. If you are not comfortable receiving the bread or wine, you can come forward to receive a blessing - just cross your arms over your chest; the priest will pray for God's blessing on you (without touching you). If you require gluten-free bread, please ask the communion minister.

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 you will encounter God's grace in a way that frees you to experience newness, compassion and hope.

If you are looking for a spiritual home, we have a variety of services and programs to meet your needs. For more information, please visit our website. We are at www.stcb.ca.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny'.

Canon Penny Anderson

On the Cover

Early 21st century mural: Jesus the Holy Mural.
<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57613>

Thought for the Month

“We seek the presence of God
.... as the restoration of human dignity
the reclamation of our joy
and the liberation of all
it is the gravitas of presence
incarnated in our flesh and bones.”

From 'Gravitas', by David Gate

Easter 5
May 3, 2026
9.30 am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

St. Stephen

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Welcome & Announcements

Canon Penny

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 August 2015, a plaque is unveiled at Ottawa’s Beechwood Cemetery, the National Cemetery of Canada, in honour of Dr. Peter Bryce (1853-1932), author of *The Story of a National Crime*. This 1922 book laid out evidence that the Government of Canada maintained conditions in Indian Residential Schools that led to the deaths of thousands of students.

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.

Please rise in spirit or in body.

Opening Hymn: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Blue book #620

Gathering Prayer

Presider

Living God,
your beloved one Jesus Christ
goes ahead to prepare a place for us.
May we have grace
to join you in preparing a place
for all you are drawing into your new society;
through Jesus Christ,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All

Amen.

Hearing God's Word

Please be seated.

A Reading from the Book of Acts (7.55-60)

read by Amy Collard

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader Holy Word. Holy Wisdom.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in spirit or in body.

Before the Gospel: Thou Art the Way: to Thee Alone

Blue book #515 vv. 1-3

1. Thou art the way: to thee alone
 from sin and death we flee;
 and those who would the Father seek
 must seek him, Lord, by thee.
2. Thou art the truth: thy word alone
 true wisdom can impart;
 thou only canst inform the mind
 and purify the heart.
3. Thou art the life: the rending tomb
 proclaims thy conquering arm;
 and those who put their trust in thee
 nor death nor hell shall harm.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John (14.1-14)

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

Reader The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John.
All **Glory to you, O Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Reader The Gospel of Christ.
All **Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.**

After the Gospel: Thou Art the Way: to Thee Alone

Blue book #515 vv. 4

4. Thou art the way, the truth, the life:
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.

Please be seated.

Homily

Canon Penny

Silence for reflection.

Anthem: My Father's House

Patsy Ford Simms

Come and go with me to my Father's house.
There is joy, sweet joy.
Peace and love abide in my Father's house.
There is joy, sweet joy.

In my Father's house, there'll be no sorrow there.
In my Father's house, there'll be no pain to bear.
Happiness all over the place when we see Him face to face.
Come and go with me to my Father's house.

In my Father's house, a feast He will prepare.
In my Father's house, He'll hear our every prayer.
Thanks to His amazing grace we will see Him face to face.
Come and go with to my Father's house.

Traditional Praise Song

Please rise in spirit or in body.

Affirmation of Faith

Presider

Let us affirm the faith we share.

All

**We trust in God,
who has created and is creating;
who came to us in Jesus,
the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new;
who works in us and others
by the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe we are called to be God's people:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection
by word and deed.**

**We live in hope because
in life, in death, in life beyond death,
we are not alone:
God is with us.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Led by Gerry Anthony

The Peace

The presider addresses the people.

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

The members of the community offer signs of peace to one another.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

Blue book #404

The Prayer over the Gifts

Presider God of grace,
renew your gift of life within us
as we seek you in this simple meal;
through Jesus Christ,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

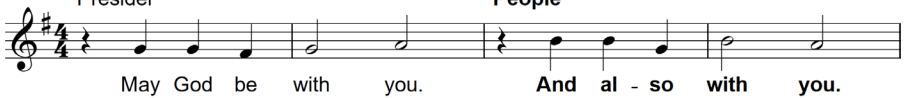
The Great Thanksgiving

All

Presider

People

Stephen



Presider

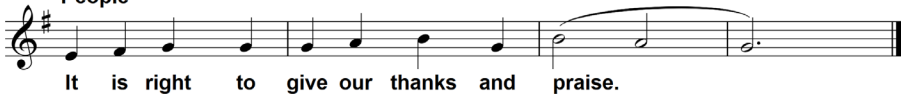
People



Presider



People



Presider

We give you thanks, O God,
because in your beloved one, Jesus Christ,
you dwelt with us,
embracing all that we are
with the fullness of your love and mercy.
We praise you, O God,
because in the resurrection of Jesus Christ
you show us the way and the truth and the life.
And so we join with all who have served you
in every place and time
to praise you with these ancient words:

All

Stephen

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God of pow - er and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry! Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bles-sed is the one who comes in the name of God. Ho-
sa - na in the high - est! Ho - sa - na in the high - est!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the phrase with a double bar line.

Presider

Living God, you prepare a place for us
in the new society you are creating.
Come among us now, in the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may recognize your self-giving love in the breaking of bread
and that these gifts may become for us
the body and blood of Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
“Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.”

Presider

After supper Jesus took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks,
and gave it to his friends, saying,
“Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
As often as you drink it, to this to remember me.”

Great is the mystery of faith:

All

Stephen



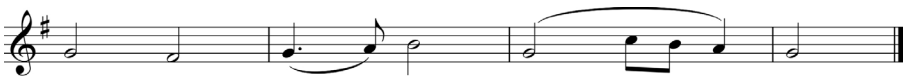
Christ has died. Christ is ri - sen. Christ will come a - gain.

Presider

Life-giving God, you promised that those who believe in you
will do greater things than these.
Pour out for us the gifts of your Holy Spirit,
that your people may meet the hungry with generosity,
show grace amid hostility,
rejoice in making beauty,
and see our stories woven into your story.
Make us living stones
and build us into a spiritual house,
that we may serve you whole heartedly,
and that all creation,
suffering and flourishing,
faithful and fallen,
may be suffused with your grace,
and may overflow with your praise,
O Trinity of peace and love.

All

Stephen



A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

Presider

We pray as Jesus taught us, singing,

All

Brown



Our Fa - ther in heav - en hal - lowed be thy Name Thy



king - dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heav'n Give



us this day our dail - y bread and for - give our sins As we for - give



those who sin a - gainst us And lead us not in - to temp



ta - tion but de - liv - er us from ev - il For thine is the king - dom and



thine is the pow - er And the glo - ry for - ev - er, the glo - ry for



ev - er The glo - ry for ev - er, a - men

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider

We break this bread,
to share in the body of Christ.

All

Live in us, that we may live in you.

Invitation

Presider This is God's table
ready for those who love God
and those who want to love God more.

So come,
you who have much faith
and you who have little,
you who have been here often
and you who have never been before,
You who have tried to follow Jesus
and you who have failed.
Come, because it is Christ who invites us
to meet him here.

All The gifts of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

All are invited to share in the Holy Eucharist. Please remain seated until you are invited up the centre aisle by the greeter. If you require gluten-free bread, please ask the priest. Please do not dip your bread in the cup of wine.

Songs During Communion

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place

Blue book #498

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

Blue book #569

Please rise in spirit or in body.

Prayer after Communion

Presider God of love,
in this eucharist we are embraced by your truth.
Evermore share your life with us
that we may always walk in your way;
through Jesus Christ,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Doxology

Presider Together we say,
All **Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

Blue book #505

Dismissal

Presider Alleluia! Go forth into the world
rejoicing in the risen Christ!
All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

Improvisation on Slane

Andy Elmhirst

Refreshments are served in the Atrium.
We invite you to join us,
or to remain in the church to enjoy the postlude.

Easter 5

The Eucharistic Prayers are based on Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher,
Eucharistic Prayers

Unless otherwise attributed the music is drawn from:

The Anglican Church of Canada Book of Common Praise, 2000
Sing Your Praise, September 2007

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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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