



National Indigenous Day of Prayer

21 June | 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.



Canon Penny Anderson

Thought for the Month

'God loved us before he made us,
and his love has never diminished and never shall.'

Julian of Norwich

On the Cover

This photograph by Daiyan Zubaier is titled,
"Sunrise over Lake Ontario."

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National Indigenous Day of Prayer

June 21, 2026

9.30 am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Miimii (Mourning Dove)

Barbara Assiginaak

Welcome & Announcements

Canon Penny

Land Acknowledgement

In the appendix to his book, *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act*, author Bob Joseph provides a list of 21 Things You Can Do to Help Change the World. Here are a few of his suggestions:

- Read books by Indigenous authors
- Buy food from an Indigenous food truck; eat at an Indigenous-owned restaurant
- Learn the Indigenous names for where you live and work
- Support Indigenous language revitalization
- Attend an Indigenous film festival
- Attend an Indigenous music festival
- Attend a pow wow

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

Please rise in spirit or in body.

Opening Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful

Blue book #416

Gathering Prayer

Presider

Creator,
whose dream for raising up
your reordered new society
is our hope for our broken world;
guide us as we seek
to walk in the way of justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All

Amen.

Hearing God's Word

Please be seated.

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (40.25-31) *Read by Amy Collard*

Reader To whom, then, will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and assert, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Holy Word. Holy Wisdom.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in spirit or in body.

Before the Gospel: Before the World Began *Blue book #621 vv. 1-3*

1. Before the world began,
one Word was there;
grounded in God he was,
rooted in care;
by him all things were made,
in him was love displayed,
through him God spoke, and said,
"I AM FOR YOU."

2. Life found in him its source,
death found its end;
light found in him its course,
darkness its friend.
For neither death nor doubt
nor darkness can put out
the glow of God, the shout,
"I AM FOR YOU."
3. The Word was in the world
which from him came;
unrecognized he was,
unknown by name;
one with all humankind,
with the unloved aligned,
convincing sight and mind,
"I AM FOR YOU."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John (1.1-5,10-14,16-18)

First Nations Version

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.**

Long ago, in the time before all days, before the creation of all things, the one who is known as the Word was there face to face with the Great Spirit. This Word fully represents Creator and shows us who he is and what he is like. He has always been there from the beginning, for the Word and Creator are one and the same. Through the Word all things came into being, and not one thing exists that he did not create. Creator's life shined out from the Word, giving light to all human beings. This is the true Light that comes to all the peoples of the world and shines into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it or put it out. He came into the world, and even though he made all things, the world did not recognize him. Even his own tribe did not welcome or honour him. But all who welcome and trust him receive their birthright as children of the Great Spirit. They are born in a new way, not from a human father's plans or desires, but born from above – by the Great Spirit. Creator's Word became a flesh-and-blood human being and pitched his sacred tent among us, living as one of us. We looked upon his great beauty and saw how honourable he was, the kind of honour held only by this one Son who fully represents his Father – full of his great kindness and truth. From the fullness of his being we have all had many gifts of kindness poured out on us. Drawn from the Water (Moses) gave us our tribal laws, but the gift of great kindness and truth came from Creator Sets Free (Jesus), the Chosen One. No one has ever seen the Great Spirit, but the one Son, who is himself the Great Spirit and closest to the Father's heart, has shown us what he is like.

Reader

The Gospel of Christ.

All

Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel: Before the World Began

Blue book #621 v. 4

4. All who received the Word
by God were blessed;
sisters and brothers, they
of earth's fond guest.
So did the Word of grace
proclaim in time and space
and with a human face,
"I AM FOR YOU."

Please be seated.

Homily

Canon Penny

Silence for reflection.

Anthem: Blue Bird

Brian Finley and Sarah Lewis

Spoken word artist: Rebecca Durance Hine

*The performance of this anthem was made possible by a gift from the
Janet Gadeski Memorial Fund.*

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.**

All

**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: God the Sculptor of the Mountains

Yellow book #265

God the sculptor of the mountains,
God the miller of the sand,
God the jeweler of the heavens,
God the potter of the land:
You are womb of all creation,
We are formless; shape us now.

God the nuisance to the Pharaoh,
God the cleaver of the sea,
God the pillar in the darkness,
God the beacon of the free:
You are fount of all deliv'rance,
We are sightless; lead us now.

God the dresser of the vineyard,
God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest,
God the source of all we eat:
You are host at ev'ry table,
We are hungry; feed us now.

God the unexpected infant,
 God the calm, determined youth,
 God the table-turning prophet,
 God the resurrected truth:
 You are present ev'ry moment,
 We are searching; meet us now.

The Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Loving God,
 accept all we offer this day.
 Nourish us at your table
 that we may join
 your reconciling work in the world;
 through Jesus Christ,
 in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

All *Stephen*

Presider *People*

May God be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Presider *People*

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the liv - ing God.**

Presider

Let us give thanks to the God of the U - ni - verse.

People

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider

Blessed are you, O God of creation.
With vivacious joy you called forth
a universe of limitless variety.
The cosmos responded to your creative whispering
with energetic expansion.
As fundamental particles coalesced from dazzling light,
galaxies began to take their shape
with black holes, stars, planets and moons,
all held in their places
by the irresistible gravity of your wisdom.
Out of the overflowing fullness of your own life
you caused life to spring up from the primal elements
on the fragile planet we call home.
Your creative whispers are audible still
when we attend to the cry of the earth:
the sunrise that lights the sky,
the smog that chokes things that breathe;
the strength of the tide,
the discarded plastic that washes ashore;
the arresting intelligence of deer and crow
and Douglas fir and beluga in their habitats,
the paradise we pave over for our convenience.
With people of goodwill who hear your whispers
we respond with ancient words to praise you as we sing:

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!

Presider

Pour out your Spirit, loving God,
for your people gathered here
that we may embody your care for creation.
Pour out your Spirit also upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be for us the body and blood
of your beloved one, Jesus Christ,
who at supper with his friends took bread,
gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
"Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
"This cup is God's new promise in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this to remember me."

Longing for you, O God, to renew the face of the earth,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All

Stephen



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

Presider

Faithful God,
awaken us to your vision
for a right relationship with the earth and all its inhabitants.
Renew our creativity and our hope
as, by grace, we embody your vivacious joy in creation.
Sharpen our senses to perceive the cry of the earth,
that we may find new ways to live in harmony with one another,
with all that lives on earth, and with you,
so the new society you are making
will be a place of flourishing for all,
O Trinity of peace and love.

All

Stephen



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

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

Called by Earth and Sky

Yellow book #223

Refrain:
Called by earth and sky,
Promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
Treasure of life sanctified,
Called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas,
Deep ocean's dream,
Waters of healing, rivers of rain,
The wash of love again.
Refrain

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
Wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
Our gathering and our grace.
Refrain

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
Vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song.

Refrain

Precious the fire that lights our way,
Bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
Our faith and justice one.

Refrain:

*Called by earth and sky,
Promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
Treasure of life sanctified,
Called by earth and sky,
Called by earth and sky.*

La ténèbre n'est point ténèbre

Blue book #549

Please rise in spirit or in body.

Prayer after Communion

Presider = God of love,
= in this eucharist you restore our relationship with you.
Empower us to be reconciled reconcilers;
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

Dismissal

Presider Go forth from this place
 rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Niimi Aandeg (Crow Dances) *Barbara Assiginaak*

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

National Indigenous Day of Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer is based upon the prayer created by the St. Christopher's Liturgy Writers for Lent 2024.

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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About the Music in Today's Service

Barbara Assiginaak is an Anishinaabekwe composer and musician whose music has received global attention and national acclamation. She earned a Bachelor's degree in composition from the University of Toronto and a Master's in composition from the University of München, Germany. Her music blends traditional Anishinaabe voice, oral tradition, and instrumentation with classical training.

Sarah Lewis (she/her) is an Anishnaabe Kwe (Ojibwe/Cree) spoken word artist, activist, musician, community organizer and mother. She was appointed as Peterborough's inaugural Poet Laureate in 2021-2022, and has been featured on CBC Arts, Global News, and stages across the world. Sarah encourages other aspiring poets to speak their truth, and to envision a decolonial society where sexism, the patriarchy, capitalism and racism do not exist. Her poetry reminds us to rest, to resist, to question, to choose nature, to choose love and embrace all of our beautiful and complex humanness.

Brian Finley enjoys a multi-faceted career as a composer, pianist, director and impresario. In addition to several works for the stage, Brian's compositions include music for piano, voice, choral works and arrangements for full symphony orchestra. With his musical and life partner, Donna Bennet, Brian co-founded the Westben Arts Festival Theatre near Campbellford, Ontario. For their work in building community through music and providing a platform for Canadian and emerging artists, Brian and Donna are Members of the Order of Canada.

Blue Bird

by Sarah Lewis

I forgot to breathe

I held my breath, waiting for my own approval

made myself sick with grief for a person I missed so dearly

the child in me

had forgotten how to play

I see those emails peeking out of my inbox like a big red flag, I can't ignore,

but I keep going back

keep going back to

the deadlines

the 9-5

the bills

the event I sent my regrets to

the angry scheduler that loves to label me procrastinator, a hater

so today, I smile and I wave

finally took a deep breathe, and exhaled expectations I'll never meet

I skip to the garden, middle fingers in air (or arms thrown in air) and fate in

hands

natural law and self sufficiency were replaced with an angry accountant, tells

me this way of life isn't adding up and I agree, he looks confused, the same

look I've had until this very moment, i tell him I'm done with abuse

I tell him that the spreadsheets and office desks have replaced my mountain

view, my place of ceremony

the meadow I make love in so

they gots to go

when did the newest version of the DSM replace books of poetry and water

coloured portraits

I don't have depression

I've been robbed of my sanity, spirituality, creativity

my abuser stole my paint brush and filled my hands and time with deadlines

and worry and called me successful

today, rest is considered a luxury, if self care isn't written in policy

from the bigwigs who are in charge of the cards at the big table, convinces us

we are small

that we must deal with the cards we are dealt

but I'm sick of this game, and I call your bluff

stuck in this rat race, when I'm a bird
caged to colonial concepts, but the key to the valley has always been there
is dangling at my window

Bluebird

shall we fly to the mountains?

fly to the evergreen trees
that do not obsess and sweat about a todo list
all it does is exist, and that is enough

this way of life doesn't make sense to me bluebird, I don't trust them

they are experts in self harm, for every tree you cut down, is a me you cut
down

your mistake is thinking that we are separate from nature, but honey, the bees
are not the only thing that is endangered

you see only an old growth forest has the beauty and ability to take my breath
away and in a split second, gift it back to me – the leaves, the bark are my
therapy, could replace my oxygen mask, they gave me for my panic attacks

so

tonight, I travel with bluebird

we sing our songs

here, we can simply be

here, anxiety no longer fills the cracks of my teeth

here, my jaw softens and is filled with wild berries nuts and poems

this is your reminder to breathe

to rest

to put down your phone

your lists

this is your call to inaction

because the mountains valleys and rivers miss you, have been waiting for you

Bluebird misses you

and is waiting for you



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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