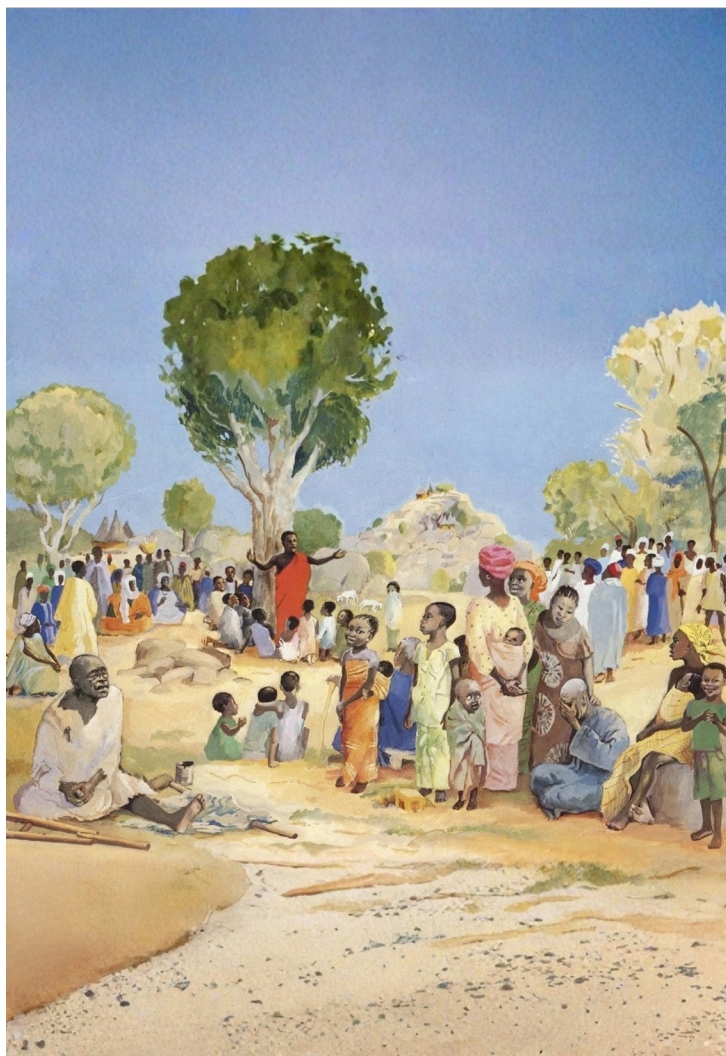




Harvest Thanksgiving

11 October | 2026 | 11.30am

The 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 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



On the Cover

Created by a Christian Community in Cameroon, this picture represents our reading from Matthew in a central-African context.

Used with permission.

Thought for the Month

“Come let us sing to the Lord ...
Let us come to him with thanksgiving.”

Psalms 95

Harvest Thanksgiving

October 11, 2026

11.30 am

Welcome!

Canon Penny

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

Land Acknowledgement

The Government of Canada launched an independent inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in June 2018. Commissioners examined and reported on the systemic causes behind the violence that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people experience, and their greater vulnerability to violence, identifying the patterns and underlying factors that explain why higher levels of violence occur.

The commission's final report finds that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. The report delivers 231 individual Calls for Justice directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians. The report further includes a National Action Plan which lays out a series of goals and short term priorities to assist organizations seeking to embody the Calls for Justice.

The first goal is to achieve transformative changes in attitudes, behaviours, and knowledge within our broader society to prevent and end the root causes of systemic racism, inequality, injustice, and violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Canada. One short term priority attached to this goal is to produce public education/awareness campaigns on the issues Indigenous people experience and to challenge the acceptance and normalization of violence.

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

Prayer

Song: God of Wonders

Steve Hindalong and Marc Byrd

Lord of all creation,
of water, earth and sky,
the heavens are your tabernacle;
glory to the Lord on high.

[Refrain]

*God of wonders beyond our galaxy,
you are holy, holy.
The universe declares your majesty.
You are holy, holy;
Lord of heaven and earth,
Lord of heaven and earth.*

Early in the morning,
I will celebrate the light.
And when I stumble in the darkness,
I will call your name by night.

[Refrain]

Listening for God

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (6.25-34)

Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

Reader	Holy Word. Holy Wisdom.
All	Thanks be to God.

Song: Ordinary Miracle

Sarah McLachlan

It's not that unusual
When everything is beautiful
It's just another ordinary miracle today

The sky knows when it's time to snow
Don't need to teach a seed to grow
It's just another ordinary miracle today

Life is like a gift they say
Wrapped up for you everyday
Open up and find a way
To give some of your own

Isn't it remarkable?
Like every time a rain drop falls
It's just another ordinary miracle today

Birds in winter have their fling
But always make it home by spring
It's just another ordinary miracle today

When you wake up everyday
Please don't throw your dreams away
Hold them close to your heart
'Cause we're all a part
Of the ordinary miracle

It seems so exceptional
That things just work out after all
It's just another ordinary miracle today

Sun comes up and shines so bright
And disappears again at night
It's just another ordinary miracle today

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.**

The Peace

The community offer peace to one another.

Song: Turn Turn Turn

Pete Seeger

[Refrain]

To everything (turn, turn, turn)

There is a season (turn, turn, turn)

And a time to every purpose under heaven

A time to be born, a time to die

A time to plant, a time to reap

A time to kill, a time to heal

A time to laugh, a time to weep

[Refrain]

A time to build up, a time to break down

A time to dance, a time to mourn

A time to cast away stones,

A time to gather stones together

[Refrain]

A time of love, a time of hate

A time of war, a time of peace

A time you may embrace,

A time to refrain from embracing

[Refrain]

A time to gain, a time to lose

A time to rend, a time to sew

A time for love, a time to hate

A time for peace,

I swear it's not too late

[Refrain]

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.**

Invitation

Presider The gifts of God, for the people of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sharing Bread and Wine

As we serve one another:

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

Communion Song: Thank U

Alanis Morissette

How bout getting off of these antibiotics
How bout stopping eating when I'm full up
How bout them transparent dangling carrots
How bout that ever elusive "could have"

[Refrain]

Thank you India
Thank you terror
Thank you disillusionment
Thank you frailty
Thank you consequence
Thank you thank you silence

How bout me not blaming you for everything
How bout me enjoying the moment for once
How bout how good it feels to finally forgive you
How bout grieving it all one at a time

[Refrain]

The moment I let go of it
Was the moment I got more than I could handle
The moment I jumped off of it
Was the moment I touched down

How bout no longer being masochistic
How bout remembering your divinity
How bout unabashedly bawling your eyes out
How bout not equating death with stopping

Thank you India
Thank you Providence,
Thank you disillusionment
Thank you nothingness
Thank you clarity
Thank you thank you silence...

Prayer After Communion

Song: Everything Glorious

David Crowder

The day is brighter here with you.
The night is lighter than its hue
would lead me to believe,
which leads me to believe:

[Refrain]

*You make everything glorious,
you make everything glorious,
you make everything glorious, and I am yours.
What does that make me?*

My eyes are small but they have seen,
the beauty of enormous things.
Which leads me to believe
there's light enough to see, that:

[Refrain]

From glory to glory
you are glorious, you are glorious.
From glory to glory,
you are glorious, you are glorious.
Which leads me to believe,
why I can believe that:
[Refrain]

Blessing

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

Service Music

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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