

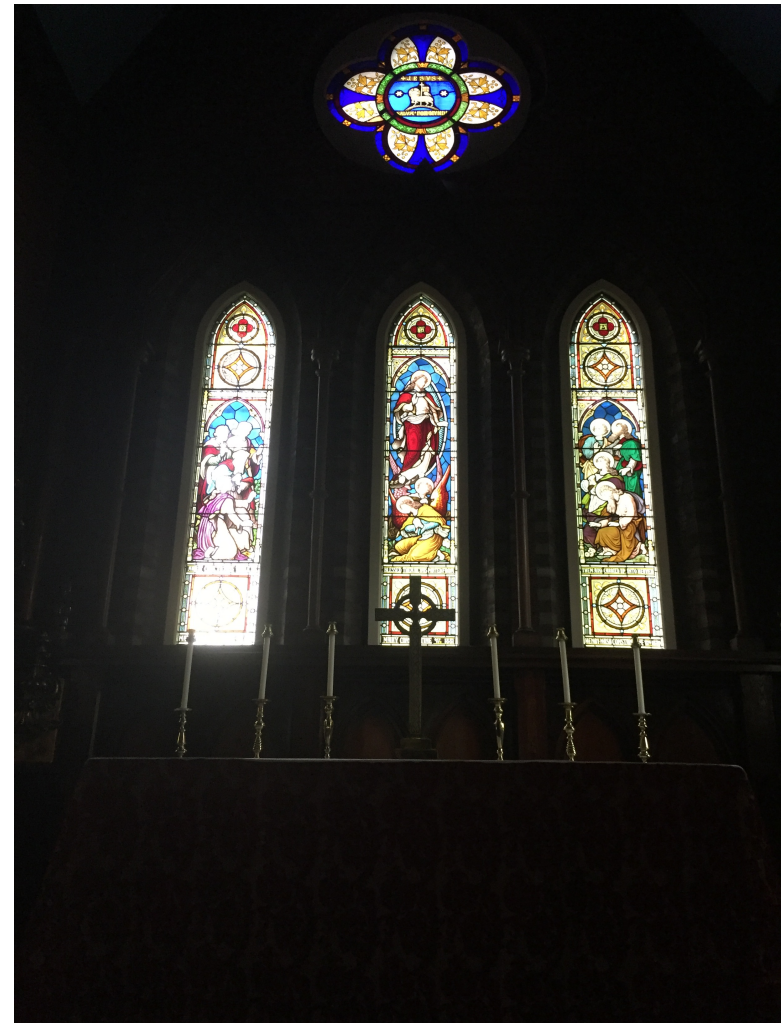
A Digital Project of the Regional Ministries of Brome-Missisquoi & Châteauguay



A Service of Morning Prayer for
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (13 September)

A Prayer for Community

Once again, we enter into a virtual gathering place. We worship together in spirit and in truth, though not in person. We pray, sing, and listen to God's Word despite all the fear and darkness that pervades our world. God is with us. The Holy Spirit is among us, blowing with a wind of hope and renewal. Christ is present in our midst.



#527: How Firm a Foundation

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who to Jesus for refuge have fled.

2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5. "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

Territorial Acknowledgment

In this holy time and place, we acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Abanaki and Mohawk first peoples.

May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace.



Confession & Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



“The Confession,” by Leila Slimani (2019)

Opening Responses

Lord, open our lips
**And our mouth shall
proclaim your praise.**

Glory to God, Source of all being,
eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of
holiness:
O, come let us worship.



The Venite (Tune: *Old 100th*)

Come, let us sing to God on high,
The Rock of our salvation praise;
Come with thanksgiving
to God's courts
And joyful psalms before Him raise.

For God is Lord above all gods,
The heights and depths are
in His hand;
God made the sea and it is His,
God's hands have molded
the dry land.

Let us bow down and worship God
Who is our maker and our Lord;
We are God's people and His sheep;
Today, then, hearken to God's Word.



Psalm 114



When Israel came out of Egypt,
The house of Jacob from a people of a strange
tongue,
Judah became his sanctuary,
Israel his dominion. **Refrain.**

The sea saw that, and fled;
Jordan was driven back.
The mountains skipped like rams,
The little hills like young sheep. **Refrain.**

What ailed you, o sea, that you fled?
O Jordan, that you were driven back?
You mountains, that you skipped like rams,
You little hills like young sheep? **Refrain.**

Tremble, o earth, at the presence of the Lord,
At the presence of the God of Jacob,
Who turns the hard rock into the pool of
water,
The flint-stone into a springing well. **Refrain.**

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

A Song of Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
call upon him when he draws near. Let the
wicked forsake their ways and the evil ones
their thoughts; And let them turn to the
Lord, and he will have compassion, and to
our God, for he will richly pardon. For my
thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your
ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the
heavens are higher than the earth, so are
my ways higher than your ways, and my
thoughts than your thoughts. For as rain
and snow fall from the heavens and return
not again, but water the earth, Bringing
forth life and giving growth, seed for
sowing and bread for eating, So is my word
that goes forth from my mouth; it will not
return to me empty; But it will accomplish
that which I have purposed, and prosper in
that for which I sent it.



“Rocky Mountains,” by Lawren Harris (1930)

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

#614: Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

1. 'Forgive our sins as we
forgive,'
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us
grace
to live the words we say.

2. How can your pardon reach
and bless
the unforgiving heart,
that broods on wrongs and will
not let
old bitterness depart?

3. In blazing light your cross
reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to
us,
how great our debt to you!

4. Lord, cleanse the depths
within our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of
love,
our lives will spread your peace.

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Sermon

Father Marc-Philippe Vincent, *Priest-in-Charge* of Stanbridge East, Frelighsburg, Stanbury, and Pigeon Hill



Confession of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God, *singing*...

- 1. We believe in God the Father, God Almighty by whose plan,
earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour, Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary, upon whom the Spirit came.**
- 2. Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended 'till as judge he comes again.**
- 3. We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above:
Saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Saviour, Lord, and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.**

Prayers of the People

Led by Lay Reader George Ryder

(St. George's, Châteauguay)



The Collect of the Day

God of deep compassion, you welcome the weak and free us from the bondage of sin. Break our human cycle of judgement and violence, the hurt that we do others, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

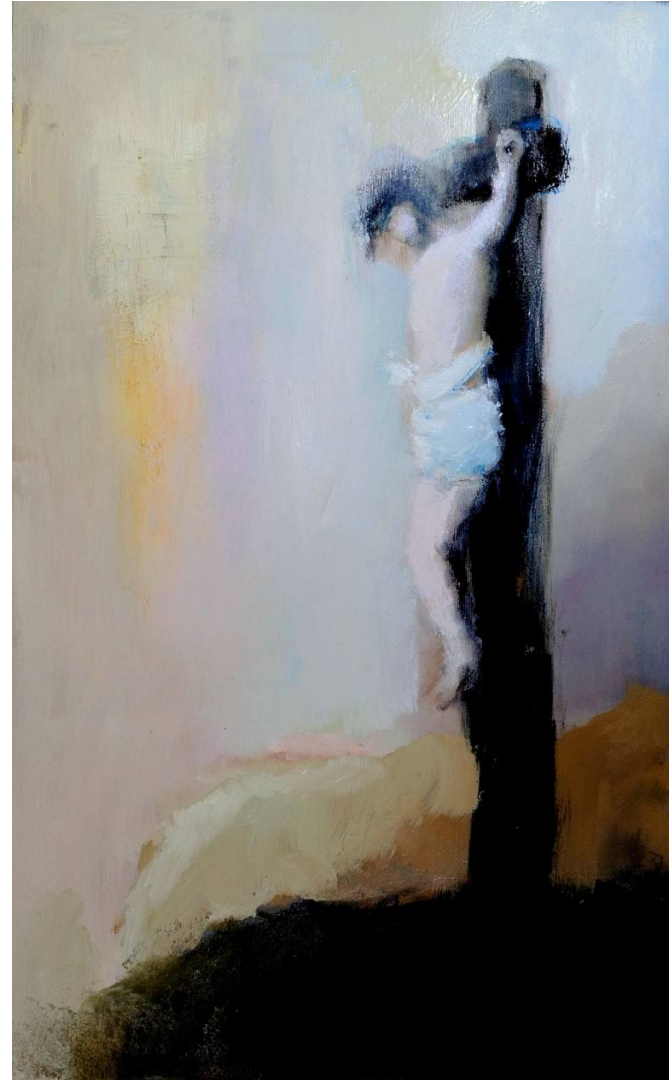
Amen.



The Collect for Holy Cross Day

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross, that the whole world might be drawn to him: mercifully grant that we may have the grace to take up our own cross and follow Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés. Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation mais délivre-nous du mal. Car c'est à Toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire, pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.

#466: 1 How Clear Is Our Vocation

1. How clear is our vocation,
Lord,
when once we heed your call:
to live according to your word,
and daily learn, refreshed,
restored,
that you are overall
and will not let us fall.

2. But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear,
if worldly pressures fray the mind
and love itself cannot unwind
its tangle skein of care:
our inward life repair.

3. We mark your saints, how they
became
in hindrances more sure,
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your
Name,
and by our faults obscure
your power to cleanse and cure.

4. In what you give us, here, to
do,
together or alone,
in old routines and ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you,
the cross you hung upon
all you endeavoured done.

Blessing and Dismissal

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk the way with us. So let us be swift to love, and fast to show kindness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you this end-of-summer day, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

