

Saint Andrew's Presbyterian and St. Paul's United Ecumenical Shared Ministry

October 4, 2026 10:30 AM, 19th Sunday After Pentecost -World Wide Communion

We acknowledge that the land on which we worship is the traditional unceded territory of the Welastekwiyik, Mi'kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples. This land is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship," which were signed with the British Crown in 1726 and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between the nations, not a surrender of land and resources. May we continue to work towards a just and right relationship with the First Peoples of this land.

*Please note that **Bolded** words identify congregational responses.

COMING TOGETHER BEFORE GOD

Prelude:

Psalm

Young

Welcome & Announcements:

Lighting the Christ Candle & Call to Worship: ¹

What is the body of Christ?

We are the body of Christ.

What does the body consist of?

People worldwide who keep faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Why are we here today?

We gather to worship and give thanks to the One who calls us here and lights our way.

(Candle lit)

Come, let us gather in the light of Christ to worship as the body of Christ.

Opening Hymn:

Holy Spirit Hear Us

TBoP 381

**Holy Spirit, hear us;
help us while we sing;
breathe into the music
of the praise we bring.**

**Holy Spirit, prompt us
when we try to pray;
nearer come and teach us
what we ought to say.**

**Holy Spirit, speak now
through this book we read;
on its living pages
shine the light we need.**

**Holy Spirit, give us
Jesus' heart and mind;**

**make us as our Teacher:
loving, strong and kind.**

**Holy Spirit, help us
daily by your might,
what is wrong, to conquer,
and to choose the right.**

Grounding Prayer:

Prayer of Confession:²

Holy One, we come before you not as your perfect creation, but as a people who do not always get it right. As we face our flaws and failures, we build an authentic relationship with each other and with you. Hear our prayer this day...

For our failure to feel the sufferings of others and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

God, forgive us.

For the self-righteousness that denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion,

God, forgive us.

For those who live their lives in careless unconcern, who cry “peace, Peace” when there is no peace,

We ask your mercy.

For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,

We ask for your mercy.

For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don’t really listen, when we are too quick to act from a motive other than love,

God forgive us.

Assurance of Pardon:

HEARING AND PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time for all ages:

Prayer for Understanding:³

Send us your Spirit of wisdom, O God, so that we may hear your Word speaking through the Scriptures with ears that understand and hearts that respond in love. Amen.

Hebrew Scripture: Exodus 14:5-7,10-14,21-25

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, “What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?” So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him; he took six hundred elite chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” But Moses said

to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

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 on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a 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.”

Responsive Reading: Psalm 118:22-29

The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord’s doing;
 it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
 let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
 O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 We bless you from the house of the Lord.
The Lord is God,
 and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
 up to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
 you are my God; I will extol you.
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
 for his steadfast love endures forever.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:
'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Choir Anthem: God of Mercy, God of Grace Davidson

Message: Thank God for Grace

Invitation to Offering:

Doxology: Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow TBoP 306

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures high and low;
praise God in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication:³

Generous God, we have received so much from you in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we offer so that they will speak of your love for the world in all its detail and diversity. May our gifts touch the need around us in the name of Christ who makes us one. Amen.

Hymn of Response: I Come with Joy TBoP 530

**I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,**

**and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

Call to Communion:²

From every corner of the earth, Christ calls us to the table.

We come from many peoples, many places, many traditions.

We come with the songs of our ancestors and the prayers of those who came before us.

We come carrying stories of faith, struggle, hope and joy.

From the villages of Africa and the islands of the Pacific, from the mountains of Asia and the cities of the Americas, from the churches of Europe and the Middle East –

We come as one people, gathered in Christ.

Some come to this table with abundance. Some come longing for daily bread.

At this table Christ welcomes us all.

Some come singing. Some come grieving. Some come with questions. And some come with gratitude.

Christ welcomes it all, ensuring we have a place.

Today, the walls that divide us do not have the final word. Language does not divide us. Geography does not divide us. Culture does not divide us.

At Christ's table, there is room for all.

So come, people of God. Come with open hands and open hearts.

We come to receive. We come to remember. We come to share. We come to be made one.

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving:⁴

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One who spoke the world into being, we raise our praise to you....

Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the Universal Church and the Heavenly Choir:

O Holy, Holy, Holy God. O God of time and space.

All Earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the Highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Saviour:

You sent Jesus, your beloved Son,

...

Remembering your goodness and grace,

We offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast,

Proclaiming the heart of our faith

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Holy Spirit, breathe upon this bread and this cup

And upon all who receive them.

...

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,

In the unity of the Spirit,

All glory is yours now and forever.

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Bread and Cup Shared

Hymn (bread distributed): One Bread One Body vs 1-2 TBoP540

Refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,

One cup of blessing which we bless,

And we, though many throughout the earth,

We are one body in this one Lord

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, women or man, no more -R

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all -R

The bread of life, given for all.

We receive with gratitude.

Hymn (cup distributed): One Bread, One Body vs 3-4 TBoP540

Refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,

One cup of blessing which we bless,

And we, though many throughout the earth,

We are one body in this one Lord

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all -R

Fruit of the vine, gathered and crushed, poured out and blessed, for all - R

The cup of blessing, shared for all.

We receive with gratitude.

Post Communion Prayer:

God of every nation and generation,
gather us into the great company of your people-
those who have gone before us,
those who worship beside us,
those we may never meet in this life.

May this meal that we have just shared shape us in our actions and bind us together,
keeping us faithful to one another and to you until we are all gathered into your eternal feast.

Send us from this table as people of Christ's peace.

One body. One Spirit. One Lord. One faith. One hope. One table. Amen.

GOING OUT TO THE WORLD FOLLOWING THE WAY

Closing Hymn:

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

VU 481

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

**The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.**

**The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.**

**Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.**

**With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us,
united us as one in this life and we share.**

**Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.**

Commissioning and Benediction:

Postlude:

Prelude in Classic Style

Young

Announcements

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) originated in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In 1936, on the first Sunday in October, it was celebrated in Presbyterian churches in the United States and overseas. From the beginning, it was planned so other denominations could use it, and after a few years, the idea spread beyond the Presbyterian Church. Today we join with congregations around the world in celebrating the Sacrament of Communion and remember that the communion of Christ extends beyond these walls.

Thank you to those who have offered their gifts, time and talents to serve God in support of our worship today.

READERS

Hebrew Scripture: Barbara Cull-Wilby
Responsive Psalm: Ardith Kerr
Gospel: Kelly Simpson

GREETERS: Etta Davis, Joan Shaw
and David Charters

AUDIO VISUAL

Beth and Shawn Meister

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

Beth and Shawn Meister

COMMUNION SERVERS

Mary Charter, Roger Miller,
Beth and Shawn Meister,
Ron Naugler

Fall Potluck Lunch for after Church today, **October 4**. All are welcome as we share in fellowship and fun.

Immediate support needed for Zoom for the next two weeks; Beth and Shawn will be away the next couple of weeks. We need someone to monitor Zoom and start the service recording. If you can help us out, or are just interested in learning about Zoom, Beth and Shawn will provide an overview in the Zoom pew around 10:15. We aren't looking for someone to regularly set up the Zoom, just occasional fill in.

Can you Help?

Where can you serve God in the church and beyond our walls? Within our congregation, we are looking for people who can coordinate fellowship events, support Beth and Shawn with our Zoom, members for a property committee (for ongoing operations and improvement opportunities), and people willing to help answer phones and light office duties while Joanna is away. **Please prayerfully think about where you can offer your gifts in support of our ministry.**

Thanksgiving offering envelopes will be available today and next week at the back of the sanctuary. I encourage you to make a special seasonal offering from the blessings God has provided you.

Save the Date! The Tuesday Morning Ladies group is making plans for their annual **Fall Rummage Sale**, which will be held on **Friday, October 23** from 3 -7 pm and **Saturday, October 24** from 9 - Noon.

Donations of Gently Used items (Clothing, Household goods, puzzles, books, linens, seasonal items, toys, craft items, etc.) can be brought in after Thanksgiving and dropped off at the back of the church hall. We very much appreciate your support as we prepare for this sale which benefits our community and our church.

Scholarship Recipients Announced - Congratulations from the congregation are extended to Hannah Simpson and Kirsten Simpson, who have been awarded St. Paul's Scholarships to support their university studies. Hannah is now in her fourth and final year in the Honours Mechatronics Engineering Co-op Program at the University of Waterloo. Kirsten is studying at the University of Ottawa, where she is enrolled in the Honours program, Bachelor of Science in Physics and Geography (French Immersion Stream). We send our best wishes to both recipients.

Scholarships are available for members or adherents of St. Paul's who are pursuing post-secondary studies. Information and application details can be found on the St. Paul's website under "Resources".

Looking to connect with Rev. Michelle, you can call her direct office line at **(506)455-0639**, email michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com, or **text (506)259-7602**. For pastoral emergencies, please call her cell.

The Pantry and Breakfast 2 Go: both programs thank you for your donations. I didn't get a list of needed items this week. We continue to serve many people, providing food and other basics – your donations of pantry staples are always appreciated and needed.

Weekly Congregational Activities

Tuesdays ~ Ladies Group, in the Hall: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!!

Tues. & Thurs. ~ Quilting Group, Parlour - 1-4 p.m. ~ All are welcome!

Wednesdays ~ Pantry Program, Basement - 9-11 a.m. - Basement

Thursdays ~ Choir Practice, in the Hall: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. ~ All are welcome!

Fridays ~ Breakfast 2 Go, Hall entrance - 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Can't attend Sunday Service in person?

Consider joining us online. Worship via Zoom - Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83673756287>

Passcode: 2023

View past services here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG2wvjhQzgAm-2Co5WvRkmA>

External announcements

Nashwaaksis United Church, 46 Main Street, are holding their annual fall "Chili Take Out Supper" on Friday, October 23, pick up between 4:00-5:30pm. The menu consists of mild chili, a roll, Caesar salad and apple crisp, all for \$18.00. Please reserve your meal by calling the church office at 506-458-9452 or by email at admin@nashwaaksisunited.ca by Wednesday, October 21 at 2:00pm.

¹ Sandy Ferguson, Gathering - Pentecost 2, 2026 pg 40

² A Global Table of Grace, World Communion Sunday 2026, Global Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and The United Church of Christ. <https://www.globalministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/WCS-worship-service-2026.pdf>

³ PCC Worship Planner, October 4, 2026

⁴ Adapted from <https://calltoworshipjournal.org/october-4-2026-nineteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-proper-22/> and A Global Table of Grace, World Communion Sunday 2026, Global Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and The United Church of Christ. <https://www.globalministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/WCS-worship-service-2026.pdf>