



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026



"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." (Ezekiel 47:9,12)

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

10:00 am — September 27, 2026 — Feast of St. Francis / Blessing of the Animals

Opening Hymn: "God of the Sparrow" (CP #414)

Land Acknowledgement

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are on. We give thanks to the Coast Salish peoples, the first people of this land. Creator let us be of good mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts we pray. Amen.

Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Almighty God, **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sung Gloria: “Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo” (CP #376)

The Collect

Grant us, Almighty God, after the example of your holy servant Francis, to do what you would have us do, and always to desire what is pleasing in your sight, that cleansed by your love, enlightened by your truth, and kindled with the fire of your Holy Spirit, we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son and make our way to you, O God most High; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Children’s Reflection

Children’s Song: “I can Feel You Near Me God” *see screens for lyrics*

The First Reading: Galatians 6:14-18 (*Beverley Unsworth*)

Psalm 148 (VU #871)

Gradual Hymn: “Listen Now for the Gospel” (SNC #188) *verse 2*

The Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30 (*Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred*)

The Sermon: *Rev. Marnie Peterson*

“Silence & Stillness for Prayer & Reflection”

The Blessing of the Animals

Pets and their companions are invited to come forward to be blessed.

An Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one,
the poor one, the malnourished one,
the climate refugee - who loves and cares for this world
and suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.**

**We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end
to death and all destructive forces.**

Prayers of Intercession *(Peter Bayley)*

Confession and Absolution

Lamenting is a passionate expression of sorrow or grief; a song, hymn or poem of mourning to express sorrow, mourning, or regret aloud; to regret strongly. Often sins are confessed in the plural, as a sign that, even if we personally have not committed each sin, our souls are bound up one with the other. The response in this service is, 'Ashamnu' which means in Hebrew 'we have all been guilty'.

We look upon your waters, O God, and we grieve:
Rivers run polluted.
Oceans choke with plastic.
Marine life disappears from warming seas.
Coral reefs fade and fisheries collapse.

Ashamnu

The seas rise and swallow coasts.
Storms grow stronger.
Floods destroy homes.
Drought cracks the Earth and children thirst.

Ashamnu

We confess that we have not guarded your waters.
We have consumed water without restraint.
We have polluted what you called good.
We have forgotten that the river of life flows from your throne.

Ashamnu

God's mercy flows like living water. The love of God, incarnate in Jesus
who spoke to troubled waters, forgives us and calms our hearts
so that justice may flow to all the dry places in our lives.
In the name of Christ, may this grace free us to follow and proclaim
the good news of the healing of all creation.

Amen.

The Peace: The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (CP #416)

— *The Celebration of the Eucharist* —

Prayer Over the Gifts

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish
your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way,
so that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God our Creator. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right at all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all.

We praise you here where the Fraser River meets the Salish Sea, where city and farm, wilderness and industry are side by side. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again.

We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens.

Together with angels and ancestors, orca and salmon, bear and raven, salal and cedar we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honour song: *(CP #732)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptised in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he travelled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, labour and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you, do this to remember me.

Again, after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood, which is shed for you. When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup.

Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being and safeguard the integrity of creation.

Bring us with all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily,
child and beggar which is both now and yet to come.

All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ and Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sung Lord's Prayer *by Gordon Light*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as in heav'n. 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Communion Anthem: "Come, Share with God" (VU #469) *verses 1, 2, 1*

Come to the banquet for now all is ready.

These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

If you require a gluten free wafer, please only extend one hand. If you do not feel comfortable drinking from the cup, please just acknowledge it and let it pass.

We ask that you refrain from intincting or dipping your wafer.

Communion Hymn: "Prayer of St. Francis" (VU #684)

Prayer After Communion

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, so that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

The Doxology

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.

The Blessing

Sung Blessing

The Closing Hymn: “Come, O God of All the Earth” (CP #589)

The Dismissal: Go in peace, share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Faithful giving expresses gratitude to God, reflects Christ’s call to serve and leaves a lasting legacy. There is an offering plate near the Sanctuary entrance where you may place cheques or cash in person – envelopes are available if you’d like the donation to be credited to you.

You can also make donations online.



Announcements

Godly Play (Sunday School): Sundays during the 10 am Worship Service

All children 3 and up are invited to the Side Chapel after the Children’s Focus time and will return to the Sanctuary when Communion begins. The time includes a story, reflection on the story through arts & crafts, and a light snack. All children with their caregivers are welcome to utilize the Godly Play room as needed (without disrupting the program). More information can be found on the rack card in the pews.

Mid-Week Eucharist: Wednesdays at 10 am

St. Anne’s Walkers: Mondays at 11 am

All are invited! Please make contact with Amanda, Diane, Sara, Sharmila or Cliff for gathering info, or email cliff.in.ladner@gmail.com.

Tea at Two: Thursdays at 2 pm

This is an opportunity for fellowship and conversation. Tea & Coffee are served.
All are welcome!

Transforming the Questions: Sundays at 11:30 in-person or Wednesdays at 7 online

This 11-week series takes seriously some of our most basic questions, from “Who is Jesus?” to “How should we read the Bible?” to “What does it mean to be Anglican?”. The study begins with prayer followed by a short video and then discussion.



Welcome



4071 Francis Road
Richmond, BC V7C1J8



www.stannessteveston.ca



604-277-9626



st_annes@telus.net

Archbishop ✙ The Most Reverend John Stephens

Rector ✙ The Reverend Marnie Peterson

Music Director ✙ Jonathan Der

*We acknowledge that we gather and worship
on the ancestral and unceded territories
of the Coast Salish Peoples.*