



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 21st, 2025—10:00 a.m.

Welcome.

This church is a place of prayer and encounter with God. The stones of these walls have sheltered people seeking the presence of the Holy One for almost two centuries. This place of worship has been made hallowed by the prayers of generations and you are welcome to join your heart and voice to theirs.

St John's is an inclusive community of faith in the Anglican tradition: we welcome saints and sinners, people of faith and of no faith, people who are sure they know everything and those who are full of questions. All persons may share equally in the life and leadership of our church and we worship with and serve people of different ethnicities, politics, gender identities and sexual orientations, economic circumstances, and abilities. This church belongs to God, so all of God's children are welcome here.



Peterborough's Oldest Church—Established 1826
99 Brock Street, Peterborough Ontario K9H 2P2
705-745-7624 www.stjohnspeterborough.ca



THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather in this place in person and virtually and we acknowledge that we are in Nogojiwanong, the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe, the Original inhabitants and stewards of this part of the Creation, on whose land and by whose waters we gather by the Williams Treaty to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

Prelude Three Preludes on “Balm in Gilead” Fred Bock; John Leavitt; Adolphus Hailstork

The Congregation stands as the hymn begins.

Hymn 590—All Who Love and Serve Your City Gott Will’s Machen

The Greeting

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

People **And also with you.**

Collect for Purity

Presider Almighty God,
All 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.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy, Christ, have mer-cy.

Lord, ____ have mer-cy. Lord, ____ have mer-cy.

Collect of the Day

Presider O God, you are rich in love for your people: show us the treasure that endures and, when we are tempted by greed, call us back into your service and entrust us with the wealth that never fails. We ask this through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Collect for the Parish Bicentennial

Presider God of life and love, who put into the hearts of our ancestors in faith the building of a church in this place: we give you thanks and praise for your steadfast mercy through the generations; for the calling of this parish of St John the Evangelist to serve the needs of our neighbours and to proclaim the good news of your kingdom. In our bicentennial year, renew in us our zeal for your mission: let us be generous, compassionate, and faithful servants of the gospel and wise stewards of the heritage handed down to us, that this place and its people may be a light upon the hill, showing forth your love to all who see it. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Congregation sits.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

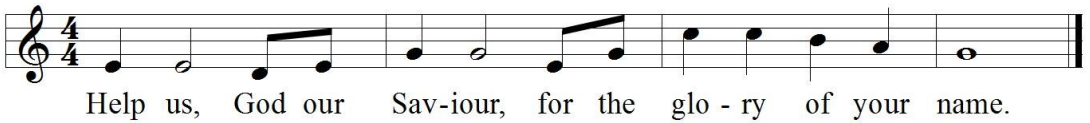
Reader A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her? ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Cantor sings the verses. The Congregation joins in the Refrain (R).



O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance; they have profaned your holy temple, they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble. They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air, and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field. **R**

They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem and there was no one to bury them. We have become a reproach to our neighbours, and object of scorn and derision to those around us. **R**

How long will you be angry, O Lord? Will your fury blaze like fire forever? Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name. For they have devoured Jacob and made his dwelling a ruin. **R**

Remember not our past sins; let your compassion be swift to meet us; for we have been brought very low. Help us, O God our Saviour, for the glory of your Name; deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake. **R**

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all - this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation stands.

Hymn

435—Take My Life and Let It Be

Mozart

Gospel Acclamation *(sung before and after the Gospel)*



Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

Gospeller

May God be with you.

People

And also with you.

Gospeller

The Holy Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People

Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Gospeller

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

People

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Sermon

*A silence for reflection follows the sermon.
The Congregation stands at the invitation of the Presider.*

Affirmation of Faith

Presider Let us affirm our faith and renew our baptismal covenant.

All **I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

**I will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.**

**I will persevere in resisting evil and,
whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.**

**I will proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ.**

**I will seek and serve Christ in all persons,
loving my neighbours as myself.**

**I will strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being.**

**I will strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation,
and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the Earth. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Presider Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
welcoming sinners and inviting them to the table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

All 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.**

The Presider pronounces the absolution, to which all answer, "Amen."

The Prayers of the People

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please turn to the people around you and exchange a sign of God's peace.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

At the Offertory, gifts of bread and wine, signs of the fruit of human labour, are brought to the altar to be transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, signs of God's love for the world. The money offering, a sign of our gratitude for God's blessing of our lives, collected before the liturgy, is blessed. If you are participating in worship online, please consider making your offering through one of the means available at www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/donate

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Beloved God, you spread before us a table of plenty, and give us the cup of new life to drink. Receive all we offer this day with our grateful thanks and praise, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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

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

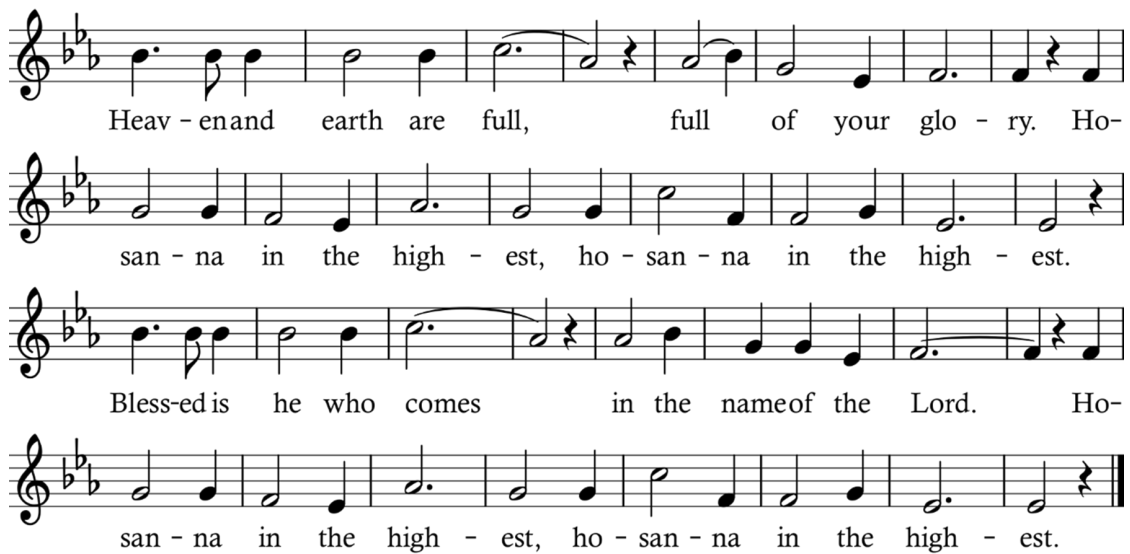
Presider Let us give thanks to God our Cre - ator.

People It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Presider It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in every generation, and your word endures for ever. Therefore with angels and archangels, with the fellowship of saints and the company of heaven, we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you and singing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.



Presider

We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought, but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost.

Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

All

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Presider Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin
a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

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

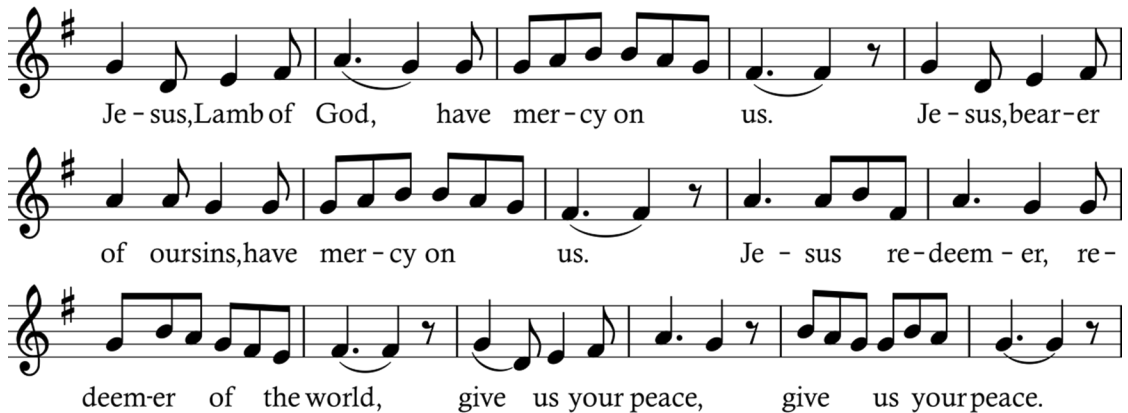
Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Presider Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be, to receive Christ, in communion with the saints, and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now. In this Eucharist, many are made one.

Fraction Anthem

747



The Congregation sits.

Communion

For those who are present in person, all baptised persons may receive Communion. Please come forward via the centre aisle in line across the Chancel step to receive the Bread from the Presider and the Wine from the Chalice Administrator. Gluten free Hosts are available upon request. Those who find walking difficult may request that Communion be brought to them. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion may indicate their desire by crossing their arms over their breast when they approach the Presider.

Hymn: Lord, We Have Come At Your Own Invitation

Stella Orientis

**Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted as friends:
yours is the strength that sustains our vocation,
ours a commitment we know never ends.**

**Here, at your table, confirm our intention
ever to cherish the gifts you provide;
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
led by your Spirit, defender and guide.**

**When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed, and our courage restored:
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.**

**So, in the world where each duty assigned us
gives us the chance to create or destroy,
help us to make those decisions that bind us,
Lord, to yourself, in obedience and joy.**

Anthem O Jesus, I Have Promised

Barrie Cabena

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end: be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend; I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee, that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be; and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend!

Words John Ernest Bode

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Announcements

The Congregation stands at the invitation of the Presider.

Prayer after Communion

Presider All your works praise you, O Lord,
All and your faithful servants bless you.
Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we, who share his body, live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Hymn 362—Tell Out, My Soul

Woodlands

Dismissal

Deacon Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves!
All



Thanks be to God, thanks be to God, thanks be to God, al-le-lu-ia!

Thanks be to God, thanks be to God, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Postlude Toccata III and Chorale (from “Sonata Giojoso”)

Barrie Cabena

TODAY'S MUSIC

PRELUDE: In today's first lesson, God and the prophet Jeremiah express intense sorrow over the Babylonian onslaught that the people of Israel are having to experience. The healing balm that is available in Gilead (a region in Jordan) cannot provide healing for them; only God can do that. The traditional African American spiritual "There Is a Balm in Gilead" dates back to at least the 19th century. Its refrain appears in Washington Glass's 1854 hymn "The Sinner's Cure", although the hymn is substantially based on an earlier work by John Newton. The spiritual's lyrics focus on the New Testament concept of salvation through Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, the balm of Gilead is a healing compound, symbolizing spiritual medicine for Israel and sinners.

I've chosen three varied settings of this spiritual this morning by three American composers. The piano setting by Fred Bock (1939-1998) is in his usual rich, jazzy, harmonically progressive style. Bock started his own music company in the late 60's and was also an organist in several Presbyterian churches in California. The second setting is another piano arrangement – this one by the Kansas City-based composer, conductor and pianist John Leavitt (b. 1956). His setting, from his 2004 collection entitled "Shall We Gather at the River", is in a more "contemporary praise" vein with a definite southern United States flavour. The third example is an organ setting by the Virginia-based composer and educator Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941). Hailstork is of African American, Native American and European ancestry and his works blend musical ideas from the African, American and European traditions. His setting of the spiritual comes from his "Suite of Five Spirituals for Organ". After hearing the tune played, Hailstork embellishes the tune with extra notes. He also uses clusters of chords, giving his setting an ethereal sound.

ANTHEM: Canadian composer Barrie Cabena (1933-2025) is no stranger to organ and choral music. His output includes numerous chorale preludes on hymn tunes and many sacred anthems. His setting of the text, "O Jesus, I Have Promised" was published in 1994, and consists of three verses of the original hymn text. The first verse is for three-part choir; the second verse he gives to the female voices, and the last verse is a two-part round.

POSTLUDE: One of Barrie Cabena's numerous organ works is his "Sonata Giojoso", Op. 84. This work was commissioned by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kitchener for their 125th anniversary celebrations in 1979 and is dedicated to organist Douglas Haas. The work comprises seven continuously played sections, two of which you will hear today. The Toccata III (a reprise of the opening Toccata section) consists of rapid manual passages over a moving bass line. The Chorale which follows immediately thereafter, is a slower hymn-like movement, with short rhythmic solo passages on the pedals interspersed between the phrases of the chorale. The piece concludes with a short final statement of the original Toccata theme.

Liturgical Ministers

Presider	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Deacon	The Rev. Deb Wilson
Organist	Robert Grandy
Tower Chimes	
Greeters	Alan Brunger and Mary Ann Hall
Readers	AJ Trossman and Mary Ann Hall
Cantor	Alex Meinhardt
Intercessor	Mickey Bongers
Crucifer	Elijah van Slageren
Server	Avery Tucker
Sacrist	Owen van Slageren
Chalice Administrators	The Rev. Deb Wilson and Barb Smith
Chancel	Betty Hinton and Sandy Hoult
Refreshments Hosts	St. Margaret's Guild
A/V	Matt Grandy

Acknowledgements

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To the right are some commonly-asked questions by visitors. If you have a question that is not answered here, please do not hesitate to ask one of the greeters or clergy for assistance.



The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Rector

The Rev. Ruth Adams
The Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe
The Rev. Steve Smith
Honorary Assistants

The Rev. Deb Wilson
Deacon

Mr. Robert Grandy
Director of Music

Ms. Jennifer Passmore
Dr. Andrew Vreugdenhil
Churchwardens

Colin Walsh
Deputy Churchwarden

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Welcome!

Children's Ministry

We welcome children and youth, who may remain with you to worship and do not have to remain perfectly still and quiet! Please feel free to allow them to roam if they wish. Families are most welcome to use the activities in the children's area in the church and to bring colouring sheets, toys, and snacks for their children.

On Posture in Worship

It is customary that we stand to pray and sing and sit to hear God's Word proclaimed and interpreted. Some people prefer to kneel to pray. Please adopt the posture that helps you to worship.

Visitor's Cards

If you're visiting, please do take the time to complete a visitor's card, which can be found in the rack on the bookcase in the Chapel. We would love the opportunity to stay in touch with you.

Making an Offering (Donation)

To support the ministry of the parish, an offering may be made by placing cash or a cheque in an envelope available where you picked up this order of service. Please write your name and address on the envelope, then place it on the brass offering plate. Tax receipts are issued for gifts of \$20 or more. We also have a convenient pre-authorised giving program for monthly donations that are debited from your bank account or we accept e-transfers to office@stjohnspeterborough.ca. Please visit www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/donate for more information.

Assistive Hearing Devices

Headsets to assist you to hear the service are available. Please ask a Greeter or Sidesperson (usher) to bring you one.

Accessibility

The facility is entirely accessible through the Brock St entrance, from where all levels of the facility are accessible via elevator.

Washrooms/Change Table

Accessible washrooms are located down the hall from the narthex (lobby). A change table is in the nursery at the end of the hall.

Fragrances

We ask that you refrain from wearing strong fragrances in order to accommodate those with breathing sensitivities.