

# Liturgy of Expectation

ST. PETER'S FIRESIDE



# Waiting In Expectation

We are in a period of transition as we search for a Lead Pastor of St. Peter's Fireside. This is a very important season in the life of our church. Moments like this can truly test a church - there is a risk that we may seek to rely on our own strength and wisdom instead of God's wisdom and leading.

One of our core values is Default to Prayer. We want prayer to be as natural as breathing, and desire to turn to prayer at all times, especially at moments like this. Though only a few representatives of our church will sit in the interviews, read applications, and prayerfully discern who we should hire, we are able to join with them and support them in this process through our prayers and encouragement.

Below is a short liturgy to be used in community or on your own to pray for our church, the Hiring Committee, our staff, our Parish Council, our sisters and brothers in Christ, and for the future Lead Pastor of St. Peter's Fireside.

This liturgy includes collects, space for intercessory prayer, time to listen to God on behalf of our community, and moments to be reminded that the LORD is here, his spirit is with us.

During this time if you receive a word or image from God, write it down and feel free to share it with those around you, as well as with our Parish Council and Staff team.

## Rejoice and Celebrate

“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” - *Acts 2:46-47*

### **COLLECT FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH**

*All* Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labours, and that in every place your servants call upon your name; for the kingdom and the power and glory are yours, forever and ever. Amen

### **GIVE THANKS**

Take time to give thanks for the blessing of St. Peter's Fireside in your life and in the city:

Share a story of how you were blessed through the ministry of St. Peter's, or where you have noticed God working in and through our church.

### **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

*All* “Lord, we give thanks for how you have led and blessed our church. We rejoice for the pastors, leaders and staff who have cared for and stewarded St. Peter's Fireside over the past ten years. We give thanks for how you have invited us to serve your church here in Vancouver.”

*Quiet*

## For Future Leaders

“God placed all things under [Christ’s] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. – *Ephesians 1:22-23*

*Quiet*

As we pray for our future Lead Pastor, we remind ourselves of a vital truth: Christ is the head of the church. All teachers, pastors and church leaders are under-shepherds serving under the one true shepherd.

### **COLLECT FOR SELECTION OF A MINISTER**

*All* Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Lead Pastor for St. Peters that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

### **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

Though we do not yet know who the future Lead Pastor of our church will be, we believe God knows.

Take time to pray for the future Lead Pastor of our church:

- that they would serve with grace, humility and conviction
- that they would lead us to continue to spread the Gospel in Vancouver and to be a blessing to our city.

*Intercessory prayer for Future Lead Pastor*

*Quiet*

## For our Church and Leadership

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

*Ephesians 4:12-13*

### **COLLECT FOR THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH**

*All* Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Saviour. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO PRAY**

Take time to pray for our leaders, staff and church. After each section leave time for intercessory prayer.

If you would like, write a note of encouragement to our Parish Council, Hiring Committee, Staff or members of our church.

### **FOR OUR PARISH COUNCIL**

Pray that God would give wisdom to the leaders of our church. That they would faithfully pursue God's will, with wisdom and grace.

Take time to pray for each of the members of our Parish Council.

Members of the Parish Council:

*Chandler, Paul, Jenn, Amelia, Colton, Mitch, Danielle, Lloyd & Phill.*

## **FOR THOSE ON THE HIRING COMMITTEE**

Pray that God would lead and guide them in their interviews and decisions. That they would be filled with wisdom and discernment, following God's spirit.

*Amelia, Charlotte, Chandler, Les, Michele H, Paul T, and Phill*

## **FOR OUR STAFF TEAM**

Take time to pray for our staff team, that God would continue to carry them through this transition, protect them from burnout, watch over them, and keep their families safe in Christ as he fills them with his spirit of love.

*Derek, Heidi, Lloyd, Rachel, Richard, Rob & Phill*

## **FOR OUR CHURCH**

Pray that our church will continue to discover the goodness of God, to be formed into Christlikeness, and be rooted in the joyful presence of Jesus for the sake of Others. That St. Peter's will be marked by discovery, formation and goodness.

That the Gospel will find good soil and grow to a flourishing Garden in our church and in Vancouver.

*Quiet*

## CLOSING

As we close we are reminded that the Church does not simply exist for itself, but as salt and light for the whole world. Hear this Collect for a Spirit of Evangelism.

### **COLLECT FOR A SPIRIT OF EVANGELISM**

*All* Almighty God our Saviour, you desire that none should perish and you have taught us through your Son that there is great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayer, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

*Quiet*

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*All* Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name  
Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever.  
Amen

### **DOXOLOGY**

*All* Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him all creatures here below,  
Praise him above ye heavenly Hosts,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

### **BENEDICTION**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – *Matthew 28:16-20*