

Celebrate Centre for Christian Studies Sunday



**CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIAN STUDIES**
Imagine Church Differently

Collect

God who opens the doors to learning as you journey with your people through the ages, inspire us with your vision of a people with roots in justice and wings of hope. Let your Spirit move through all who learn at the Centre for Christian Studies, that they may know Jesus as their companion in everyone they meet, building in love and faithfulness until the whole creation is transformed into a community that is a reflection of your wisdom and holy generosity. Amen.

Call to Worship

Fiery, cloudy pillar, you guide our lives.

As followers and learners of the faith, may we remember our story of community and liberation.

God of the prophets, you demand of us justice,

As servants and ministers in the faith, may we embody our call and covenant.

Holy Wisdom, you centre us in wholeness,

As teachers and students of the faith, may we discern our direction and purpose.

Christ of the parable, you teach us with conviction and insight,

As people of passion and perspective, may we learn and grow.

Spirit of holiness, you direct us toward compassion and wholeness.

As church and community, may we embody and inspire faith.

Divine future, you sustain us with vision and promise,

As the people of today and tomorrow, may we honour our roots and soar with the wings of hope.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

O God, we give thanks for opportunities to learn and grow.

We are grateful for educational experiences that have taken place in a variety of settings and with so many people.

We appreciate the various ways that your people have developed and nurtured their minds and hearts and souls:

in groups and alone,
in mass audiences and one-on-one,
in reading and discussions,
on retreat and on the streets,
in youth groups,
in church school,
in bible and book studies,
at camp and at home,
on service projects and work experiences,

We are grateful for the numerous ways that graduates and students of the Centre for Christian Studies have engaged and prepared for their vocation:

in learning circles and field placements,
in on-line learning and classroom courses,
with panels, videos and guest speakers,
in research and scholarship,
in team projects and global tours.

We give thanks for the CCS program

which honours creativity and a variety of learning styles,
which presents evaluation, feedback and assessment in a dignified, caring way
and which integrates the theoretical, the practical and the spiritual in its educational model.

O God, help us all to be your people.

Whether in crisis or calm,
in quiet contemplation or animated extroversion,
in joy or in sorrow,
teach your ways and your gospel.

May we understand your comfort and your challenges to us.

May we live out lives of diaconal vision in a rich blending of action and reflection.

May we offer others affirming support with an honest ability to speak the truth in love.

May we combine respect for individuals while building communities of diversity and connection.

May we bring the resources of the church to the world,
and the needs of the world to the church.

Commissioning

O God, your church needs ministers:

embody in us an integrated wisdom of heart, head and hand,
exhibit in us a depth of spirit and a maturity of character,
manifest in us compassion and competent capacity for leadership.

Bless all who endeavour to live into the call of faith vocations.

O God, your world requires prophet pastors:

empower us to speak truth to power,
strengthen us to offer care and fierce tenderness,
guide us with spiritual insight.

Lead us in diaconal service to, and with, others and Creation.

Reflection/sermon thoughts

From the Revised Common Lectionary the suggested reading is Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15 with two theme ideas:

- “Seek good that you may live” with a focus on learning as a life giving good
- “Prosper the work of our hands” with a focus on the ways in which justice, compassion, and transformation are work Jesus’ calls us to. These are also the areas of ministry and leadership formation at the Centre for Christian Studies.

From the Narrative Lectionary, the suggested reading is Joshua 24: 14 - 26 with two theme ideas:

- “Serve God In Sincerity and Faithfulness” with a focus on vocations that serve God
- “Choose this day whom you will serve” with a focus on choosing God’s way and what that looks like