

Welcome to the Parish Church of St. John the Divine, Victoria. We are a community of faith in the Anglican Tradition, seeking to live lives of faith, hope and love as part of this community of Downtown Victoria. We are on a journey of learning to be a welcoming, inviting, inclusive and serving community which is open to all.

Our worship reflects our rootedness in the Anglican tradition, whilst drawing on liturgies that reflect the long history and heritage of our Christian faith. Please join in as you feel able, and enjoy the words, music and opportunity for prayer and to be a part of our community.

Social Distancing: In these times when we must practice social distancing our Sunday Services will be done remotely. You may find a link on our parish website

<https://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/>

Other worship services will also be posted. If our service seems unfamiliar, please follow the cues from our leaflet which is also posted on the web page.

Contacting Us: We are all learning ways to build community "at a distance." We are checking phone messages and answering emails. The main email for contact is:

admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca. If you wish to receive prayer for yourself or for another, there will be members of our Healing Prayer group who will offer their prayers. Please contact: the church office at the above email address.

You are very welcome here. We don't always get it right; please let us know when we do, and when we don't. Please stay and be a part of our family, for however long you would like.

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

The congregation is invited to join in the hymns, responses and prayers marked in bold print.

Officiant: The Venerable Alastair McCollum

Readers: Andrew Gates, Carol-Ann Zenger

Gospel: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Sermon: Stephanie Wood

Intercessor: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Zoom Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas (musician/cantor)

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn (CP 561)

Ravenshaw

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Lord, your word shall guide us
and with truth provide us:
teach us to receive it
and with joy believe it. | 4. Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure
by your word imparted
to the simple-hearted? |
| 2. When our foes are near us,
then your word shall cheer us—
word of consolation,
message of salvation. | 5. Word of mercy, giving
courage to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying. |
| 3. When the storms distress us
and dark clouds oppress us,
then your word protects us
and its light directs us. | 6. O that we, discerning
its more holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear you—
evermore be near you! |

Text: Henry Williams Baker (1921-81877), rev. *Hymns for Today's Church*. © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.
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Gathering

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Come, God, Creator, make us one in Christ.

All: Come to us, O God.

Come, God, living Word, open our hearts to your life.

All: Come to us, O God.

Come, Spirit of love, make us people of transformation.

All: Come to us, O God.

Lighting of the Family Candle

The Church Family Prayer

Loving God,

All: you've called us to be your family and to celebrate our life together in worship. We pray for all the members of our family, and especially for our young people now, tucked in their homes, surrounded by your love! We pray for the adults who care for them. Bless them, and each of us, in fun and learning, in friendship, and love. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

O God,
the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,
increase and multiply upon us your mercy,
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal,
that we lose not the things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

Let us listen for the Word of God in Holy Scripture.

All: Amen.

The First Reading

Genesis 29:15-28

Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you

deceived me?’ Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

105:1-11, 45c

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, and speak of all his marvellous works.

Glory in his name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Search for the Lord and his strength; continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God; his judgements prevail in all the world.

He has always been mindful of his covenant, the promise he made for a thousand generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham, the oath that he swore to Isaac,

Which he established as a statute for Jacob, an everlasting covenant for Israel,

Saying, “To you will I give the land of Canaan to be your allotted inheritance.”

Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Here the Good news of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the sermon there will be a pause for silence.

Affirmation of Faith

With the whole church,

**All: we affirm that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ,
empowered by the Spirit.**

With people everywhere,

**All: we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity
planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

With all creation,

**All: we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life;
the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work
in ourselves and the world.**

Iona Abbey Worship Book

Prayers of the People

Please note that those who have asked for our prayers are listed at the end of the leaflet.

The Celebration of our Eucharistic Faith

*Though we are unable to share in Bread and Wine, we remember that we are people of God,
joined together by the love of Christ. That we are incorporated into the body of Christ.*

*We remember our sharing in bread and wine is a symbol of our sharing in Christ's body and
blood. And we join together in this celebration of our union in Christ.*

The General Thanksgiving

God is here.

All: God's Spirit is with us.

Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Creator God, we give you thanks that you are a gracious, abundant,
and gracious, host.

We thank you also that you became the guest of humanity.

In the Word made flesh you became guest of the animals in a stable,
the villagers of Nazareth,

Religious Leaders in the temple, prostitutes, drunkards, and outcasts.

You let us play host, became one of us, dined at our table.

You ate the same bread, drank the same wine. You shared stories and you
shared our story.

When you left the table, you left bread and wine to remember you by.

Alternative Worship (Baker & Gay)

Hear the words of Scripture, the story of how our Sacrament began. 1 Corinthians 11: 23-27

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Let us pray.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given us. For all the pains and insults you have borne for us. Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day.

All: Amen.

Loving God,

May the weary find a soft place to rest.

May the searching be met by the Sacred.

May the travellers be encouraged, be fed, be clothed, be received.

May the righteous see the fruits of their labour.

May the lonely find comfort in the night.

May the privileged take extravagant actions of solidarity.

May the complicit repent.

May the apathetic come to recognize the hardness of their hearts.

May the courageous have multitudes behind them.

May the creative write, paint, sing, and dance the truths we all need to feel.

May the fearful keep showing up, keep wrestling, keep taking steps.

May the unjust powerful step-down or be torn down.

May the mourning not be rushed to heal.

May the caretakers have their cups refilled.

May the Holy One within each of us rise

All: Amen.

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The Disciple's Prayer

As Christ taught his friends, and longing for the new life of God's reign,
let us pray:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. 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 forever. Amen.

The Commissioning of the Community

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us go from our prayers to proclaim the good news.

The Blessing

Dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve our loving God.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Final Hymn (CP 631)

Paderborn

- 1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**
- 2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
the captives are freed, the sinners find place.
The outcasts are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened in place of despair.**
- 3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain and for loss.**
- 4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry "Glory!" to God All-in-All.**

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Our coffee hour will take place 15 minutes after the service has finished, continuing here in our Zoom meeting.

Readings for The 9th Sunday after Pentecost – August 2nd

Genesis 32:22-31 Jacob struggles all night to realize he has been wrestling with God, who gives him a new name.

Psalms 17:1-7, 16 A righteous individual cries for help against adversaries.

Romans 9:1-5 Paul reaffirms his solidarity with his ancestral tradition.

Matthew 14:13-21 Jesus' feeding of the 5000 suggests God's ability and willingness to provide bountifully for those in need.

The Special Blue Envelope for July is for Threshold Housing.

Threshold Housing Society was founded in 1990 by a group of concerned Anglican parishioners to address the transitional housing needs of youth aged between 16 and 21 years who are at risk of homelessness. The Society provides supportive programming in the several homes it owns, and a new initiative which helps youth who are renters in private rooms or suites. Threshold Housing Society was incorporated as a charitable society under the BC Societies Act in March 1990.

The following people have asked for our prayers.
Please keep them in mind as you go through your week.

Joyce	Justin
Penny	Robyn
Nolan	Arnon
Coumba, Mady, Idriss	Karen
David	Anne
Hagos, Tsigay & family	David, Kate, Laura and their families
Andrew	Stanley
Mavis	Harriet
Kathy	Michelle
Alan	Richard
Kristjan and family	Geoffrey
Sohaila & Fawad	Sussex
Silvanna & family	Robin
James	

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Stewards

People's Warden: Joan Huzar
Associate Warden: Lorraine Gates
Envelope Secretary: Jim Harlick

Rector's Warden: Chris Eve
Associate Warden: Karen Coverett
Treasurer: David Buckman

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Susan Bangrove, Carol Denton, Marguerite Heppell,
Penny Holt, Erin Kelly, Bill Williamson

Synod Delegates

Joel Durkovic, Joel Hefty, Bill Huzar

Staff Supporting the Ministry of St. John's

Rector: The Ven. Alastair McCollum
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Canon Kevin Arndt
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Bill Tarter
Deacon: The Rev'd Patrick Sibley
Curate: Stephanie Wood

Director of Music: David Stratkauskas
Family Ministry Coordinator: Ruth MacIntosh
Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger

Honorary Assistants

The Rev'd Derek Dunwoody / The Rev'd Canon Andrew Gates
The Rev'd Dr. Larry Scyner / The Rev'd Jane Reid

1611 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2L5 Tel. 250-383-7169 / Fax 250-381-3573
pastoral@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca or **for urgent calls only**, use 778-678-6873
www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca facebook.com/St.JohnVicBC
twitter.com/StJohnVicBC e-mail: admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca