

Oct 11, 2020 ■ The Church of St. John the Divine  
**Choral Evensong: Thanksgiving Sunday**  
*We acknowledge these ancestral territories of the Lekwungen people.*

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Officiant: Stephanie Wood, Assistant Curate.

Music: Choral and Organ Scholars of the Church of St. John the Divine

*A note about COVID-19 safety: Please remain in your places through the service except in case of emergency. The toilet, located through the door at the front left, is for emergency use only. At the end of the service, after the clergy have left, please feel free to leave during or after the organ voluntary, maintaining physical distance.*

*Listed music is subject to substitution in the event of changes of personnel or situation.*

*A note about language: In our worship, we use language which is poetic and filled with metaphor and wonder – realising that any language about God is limited. We use some ancient words which may seem odd, or may seem to refer to God as male, or in terms which elsewhere we might not choose to use. The poetry and the metaphor are there not to restrict or define our understanding of God, but to remind us that our words are never enough to talk about the Divine: instead we use the beauty of the words and music in our worship to help us glimpse just a little of the God beyond all words.*

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## Order of Service

### Organ prelude

*Please stand as the clergy enter.*

### The Responses

*Musical setting: Sarah Cattley (b. 1995)*

*Cantor:* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Choir:* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Cantor:* O God, make speed to save us.

*Choir:* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Cantor:* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*Choir:* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Cantor:* Praise ye the Lord.

*Choir:* The Lord's name be praised.

### Psalm

*Psalm 100*

*Please sit for the Psalm, but stand at the final 'Glory be to the Father...'*

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands \*

serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God \*

it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise \*

be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting \*

and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## First Lesson

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

*Please sit during the reading of the lesson.*

## Magnificat

Text: Lk. 1:46-55 Music: G. O. Pitoni (1657-1743)

*Please stand.*

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and the meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Second Lesson

Text: Philippians 4.4-9

*Please sit during the reading of the lesson.*

## Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32. Music: Plainsong.

*Please stand.*

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Apostles' Creed

*All may join in reciting the creed.*

**All: I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

## Responses, Lord's Prayer, and Collects

*Cantor:* The Lord be with you;

*Choir:* And with thy spirit.

*Cantor:* Let us pray.

*Please sit or kneel for the prayers.*

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

*Cantor:* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

*Choir:* And grant us thy salvation.

*Cantor:* O Lord, save the Queen;

*Choir:* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Cantor:* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

*Choir:* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Cantor:* O Lord, save thy people;

*Choir:* And bless thine inheritance.

*Cantor:* Give peace in our time, O Lord;

*Choir:* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Cantor:* O God, make clean our hearts within us;

*Choir:* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*First Collect, of the day:*

Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

*Second Collect, for Peace:*

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*Third Collect, for Aid Against All Perils:*

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Anthem**

*Text: from Psalm 65. Music: Maurice Greene (1727-1755)*

*Please sit as the choir sings the anthem.*

Thou visitest the earth, and blesses it: and crownest the year with thy goodness.

**Intercessions**

*Please sit or kneel for the intercessions.*

**Response to the Prayers**

*Text: Psalm 145.15. Music: June Nixon (b. 1942)*

Oculi omnium in te sperant Domine: et tu das illis escam in tempore opportuno. Gloria tibi Domine, Amen.

*The eyes of all wait upon thee, [O Lord]; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Glory be to you, O Lord. Amen.*

**Sermon**

*Please sit*

## Final Hymn

Text F. S. Pierpoint (1864) Music: Dix, C. Kocher (1786-1872) and W. H. Monk (1823-89)

***In line with current Covid regulations the congregation is asked not sing.***

*Words are provided for meditation on the text of the hymn; please sit as the choir sings the hymn.*

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God;  
gifts bestowed on every nation, thanks be to God.

For the ploughing, sowing reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## The Blessing

*Please stand.*

## Organ Voluntary

***Please remain seated until you can leave maintaining appropriate physical distance.***

***If you wish to make a contribution towards the ministry of the Church of St John the Divine, you will find a collection plate at the exit.***

***Thank you for attending tonight's service. We wish you a pleasant and safe week.***

*There are recycling bins for this service sheet by the exit, as well as hand-sanitizing stations.*

**First Lesson Deuteronomy 26.1-11**

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’

When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

*Here ends the first lesson.*

## Second Lesson Philippians 4.4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

*Here ends the Second lesson.*