

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2020

As people of God, we celebrate Christ in the heart of Victoria through joyful worship, building inclusive community, and putting faith into action.

St. John's acknowledges these ancestral lands of the Lekwungen speaking people.

We are an inclusive and affirming parish; the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we.



Parable of the Sower, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54265> [retrieved July 11, 2020]. Original source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/sacred_destinations/2198710198/.

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 Reverend Grant Croswell

Readers: Duane Lecky, Penny Holt

Gospel: Karen Coverett

Sermon: The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt

Intercessor: Susan Banskrove

Zoom Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas (musician)

Dahlia Adamson (cantor)

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn (CP 478)

Albano

- 1. Almighty God, thy word is cast
like seed into the ground:
now let the dew of heaven descend
and righteous fruits abound.**
- 2. Let not the foe of righteousness
this holy seed remove:
but give it root in every heart,
to bring forth fruits of love.**
- 3. Let not the world's deceitful cares
the rising plant destroy:
but let it yield a hundredfold
the fruits of peace and joy.**
- 4. Oft as the precious seed is sown,
thy quickening grace bestow,
that all whose souls the truth receive
its saving power may know.**

Text: John Cawood (1775-1852), alt.

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.

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.
May we find peace in your service,
and in the world to come, see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for 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 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.' When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.
I have sworn and am determined to keep your righteous judgements.
I am deeply troubled; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.
Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, and teach me your judgements.
My life is always in my hand, yet I do not forget your law.
The wicked have set a trap for me, but I have not strayed from your
commandments.
Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; truly, they are the joy of my heart.
I have applied my heart to fulfil your statutes for ever and to the end.

The Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

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.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

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 because 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.

enfleshed.com

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 429)

Dix

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.
2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.
3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.
4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Christ our God, to thee we raise,
this our sacrifice of praise.
5. For each perfect gift of thine
to our kind so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

Text: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.

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

Readings for The 7th Sunday after Pentecost – July 19th

Genesis 28:10-19a In a dream with a stairway connecting earth and heaven Jacob, now a fugitive fleeing for his life, receives the promise of God originally given to his grandfather Abraham. **Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23** This lament acknowledges God's universal presence and power. **Romans 8:12-25** Paul speaks of the Spirit's presence in us enabling obedience. He also envisions a cosmic transformation that will eventually result in the liberation of the created order. **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43** The parable of the weeds in the field speaks about salvation, redemption, and judgment.

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

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

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Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger

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

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