

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 5th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 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.



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: Graeme Brown, Beryl Roundhill

Gospel: Stephanie Wood

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair McCollum

Guest Speaker: Daniel Kriztofer

Intercessor: Jamie Lawson

Zoom Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas (musician)

Alana Hayes (cantor)

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn (CP 354)

Nettleton

**1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious measure,
sung by flaming tongues above;**

**O the vast, the boundless treasure
of my God's unchanging love.**

**2. Here I make faith's affirmation:
thus far by thy help I've come,
and I hope, by thy compassion,
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

**3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
take my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.**

Text: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), 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 for Pride

The minister introduces the Collect with 'let us pray' or similar.

Silence is kept.

God of wisdom strange and surprising,
come and move us.
Enliven our faith.
Stir our spirits.
Stretch our minds and the capacity of our hearts.
Let your living Word renew our hope
and lead us on paths of justice and truth.

All: Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of your children
we do also for him.
Give us the will to serve others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us,
but 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 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

So he said, ‘I am Abraham’s servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, “You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.”

‘I came today to the spring, and said, “O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, ‘Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,’ and who will say to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw for your camels also’—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master’s son.”

‘Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, “Please let me drink.” She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, “Drink, and I will also water your camels.” So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, “Whose daughter are you?” She said, “The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.” So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.’ And they called Rebekah, and said to her, ‘Will you go with this man?’ She said, ‘I will.’ So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

‘May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.’ Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel,

and said to the servant, ‘Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?’ The servant said, ‘It is my master.’ So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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.

‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.” For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the sermon there will be a pause for silence.

Daniel’s Story

Music after the Sermon

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

(Isaiah 40:11)

Come unto Him, all ye that labour, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

(Matthew 11:28-29)

Music: G. F. Handel

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.**

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 of all that is, author of life itself, by your hand we are formed.

You made us relational.

You created us to thrive – not alone, but together.

You shaped the entire cosmos so that every form of life depends on another.

You never intended for us to power through these lives alone.

You made us strong and resilient people,

but equally vulnerable and dependent on you, the earth, and all our neighbours.

enfleshed.com

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.

The candles are lit:
Red for life in all its forms,
Orange for healing,
Yellow for sunlight and all kinds of light,
Green for nature in all her diversity,
Blue for harmony, and
Purple for the Spirit which guides us all.

We are called to practice this rainbow of colours in our lives--
in the conversations and interactions in our lives at home, at work, and at play--
as we share here in remembering our bonds of faith in this our faith family,
we prepared to go out, into our communities and the world,
to share the message of God's love for all!

Sydenham Street United Church

The Disciple's Prayer (enfleshed version)

**All: Mother of us all,
who dwells within and beyond,
Sacred is your name.
May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.
May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection
be enfleshed on earth.
Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul, and heart.
Forgive us for the harm we cause
as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.
Lead us away from everything that destroys
and liberate us from the hands of evil.
For you are the ultimate source of hope.
Your power-with exceeds all power-over.
Your presence incites eternal wonder.
All praise to you, our comfort and strength.
Amen.**

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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:
God takes on flesh in the strange and surprising.
Love liberates from the margins.
Together, we have what we need to resist evil and oppression.

The Blessing

Dismissal

With a renewed commitment to solidarity with God and all LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people, may the Spirit lead us from this place with peace.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Final Hymn (CP 508)

Kingsfold

**1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.**

**2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.**

**3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.**

Text: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889).

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



PRIDE EVENSONG

Pride Evensong has become a tradition at St John's; this year's is a little different, in that it was pre-recorded, in collaboration with the Cathedral, with a limited number of choral scholars, readers, and clergy, but it will be ready to view this Sunday on the St John's and Cathedral websites. Bill Tarter preaches!

Readings for The 6th Sunday after Pentecost – July 12th

Genesis 25:19-34 The story of Esau selling his birthright to Jacob shows the contrast in the twin brothers and the family conflict they represent.

Psalms 119:105-112 Divine assistance is needed in life's struggles.

Romans 8:1-11 Our existence in Christ eliminates the fear of condemnation, death and separation from God.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 The parable of the sower offers a lesson concerning the responses of those who hear the word of the kingdom of God.

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

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

Parish Council

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
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Grant Crosswell
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

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