

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 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 Reverend Bill Tarter
Readers: Muriel Ryan, Michael Zenger
Gospel: Stephanie Wood
Sermon: The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt

Intercessor: Lorraine Gates
Zoom Technician: Karen Coverett
Music: David Stratkauskas (musician)

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn (CP 468) – *led by Soile Stratkauskas*

Thornbury

1. To Abraham and Sarah
the call of God was clear:
“Go forth and I will show you
a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey,
for I have pledged my word
that you shall be my people
and I will be your God.”

2. From Abraham and Sarah
arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey
on God’s abundant grace;
and in their heart was written
by God this saving word,
“That you shall be my people
and I will be your God.”

3. We of this generation
on whom God’s hand is laid
can journey to the future
secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God’s goodness,
and trusting in this word,
“That you shall be my people
and I will be your God.”

Text: Judith Fetter (1937-). ©
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Gathering

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May Christ’s grace and peace be with you.

All: May God fill our hearts with joy.

Come, Holy Spirit, creator, bring your light and renew the face of the earth.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, counsellor, and touch our lips that we may proclaim your word.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, love from within and without: make us agents of peace and ministers of wholeness.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, breath of God, make us a living people, holy and free.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Come, Holy Spirit, wisdom and truth: enlighten and strengthen us in the risk of faith.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

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,

without you we are not able to please you.

Mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit

may in all things direct and rule our hearts;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, ‘My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.’ So they said, ‘Do as you have said.’ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, ‘Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.’ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, ‘Where is your wife Sarah?’ And he said, ‘There, in the tent.’ Then one said, ‘I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.’ And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, ‘After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?’ The LORD said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh, and say, “Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?” Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.’ But Sarah denied, saying, ‘I did not laugh’; for she was afraid. He said, ‘Oh yes, you did laugh.’

The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, ‘God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.’ And she said, ‘Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
 How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me?
 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.
 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his servants.
 O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.
 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
 In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Matthew 9:35—10:23

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.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

‘See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the sermon there will be a pause for silence.

Music after the Sermon Andante

Florence B. Price

played by Emily Markwart, Sutton Organ Scholar

For a note about Florence B. Price, and music in this time of continuing struggle against racism and for equality, see this week’s blog post by Emily on the church website.

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.

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.

Almighty God, giver of grace, we your servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord'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.

The Blessing

Dismissal

Final Hymn (NEH 333) – *from a recording made in March 2020 before the shutdown*

1. **All my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown,
He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.**
2. **Human pride and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray his trust;
What with care and toil he buildeth,
Tower and temple, fall to dust
But God's power,
Hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.**
3. **God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep her wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light and life attend her,
Beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
From her store,
New-born worlds rise and adore.**
4. **Daily doth th'Almighty giver
Bounteous gifts on us bestow;
Her desire our soul delighteth,
Pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
At her hand;
Joy doth wait on her command.**
5. **Still from earth to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ the Son.
Christ doth call
One and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.**

Text: Robert Bridges (1844-1930); based on the German of J. Neander (1650-1680).

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

Readings for National Indigenous Day of Prayer – June 21st

Isaiah 40:25-31 The writer, speaking to those exiled from Israel, reminds readers that there is nothing that is separate from the view or purview of the Divine. There is no one ‘hidden’ from God’s sight, or ‘disregarded’ by the Divine. God is greater than any situation and found in all places – even when in the moment life may bring despair. The message is to continue to trust and be open to the life of God and hold on to hope.

Psalms 19 The Psalmist rejoices in God’s creation, in God’s communication with us in revelation (the law), and reminds hearers that with knowing the life of God comes responsibility to honour the creator and act and speak with humility and grace.

Philippians 4:4-9 The author brings readers back to the focus of the life of faith – gratitude, graciousness, and goodness. We are to emulate the gentleness and kindness of those who have been our teachers and leaders through the ages, and to live lives reflecting the values of Christ.

John 1:1-18 The Evangelist begins their Gospel with a creation story – one that links the Divine act of creation with the living Word and the Spirit. In setting the scene here the writer is both refuting some of the heresies that were concerning the early Christian community: that Jesus was simply a ‘good man’, that John the Baptist was Messiah, that the Word of God could not be expressed in human form, and introducing the person of Jesus in order that readers may link the stories they are about to hear in the Gospel that follows with the divine work in creation. In poetic and powerful language, John (or the community of John’s followers) are preparing to share their years of meditation and reflection on the person of Jesus the Christ in story form, so that all may know who ‘the Word’ is.

The Special Blue Envelope for June is for PEERS.

PEERS Victoria Resource Society is a non-profit society established by former sex workers and community supporters. It provides support, resources and programs for past and current sex workers of all genders, such as help with housing, education, and advocacy services etc.

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

Joyce

Penny

Nolan

Coumba, Mady, Idriss

David

Hagos, Tsigay & family

Andrew

Mavis

Kathy

Alan

Kristjan and family

Sohaila & Fawad

Silvanna & family

James

Justin

Robyn

Arnon

Karen

Anne

David, Kate, Laura and their families

RIP – Janice Skipsey

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 Croswell
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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