

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 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 Canon Kevin Arndt

Readers: Joel Hefty, Margaret Walker

Gospel: Chris Eve

Sermon: The Reverend Bill Tarter

Intercessor: Lorraine Gates

Zoom Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas (musician/cantor)

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn (CP 559)

Liebster Jesu

1. Blessèd Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you.
By your gospel pure and holy,
teach us, Lord to love you solely.

2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us,
you must work all good within us.

3. Glorious Lord, yourself impart!
Light of light, from God proceeding,
open lips and ears and heart,
help us by your Spirit's leading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises!

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer (1619-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), 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, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

O Lord, thou hast searched me out and known me, thou knowest my downsit-
 ting,
 and mine uprising,
 thou understandest my thoughts long before. Whither shall I go then from thy
 spirit? Or whither shall
 I go then from thy presence? If I climb up into heaven, thou art there: if I go down
 to hell, thou art
 there also. If I take the wings of the morning, and remain in the uttermost parts of
 the sea, even there
 also shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Music: Philip W. J. Stopford (May 2009)

The Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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.

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen.

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 505)

Slane

- 1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- 2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Parent; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**
- 3. Riches I heed not, nor the world's empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
high king of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- 4. High King of heaven, when victory is won,
may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Text: Irish Hymn (8th cent.); tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); vers. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt.
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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 8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 26th

Genesis 29:15-28 Occasioned by deception, Jacob marries both Laban's daughters, the elder Leah and Rachel whom he loves.

Psalms 105:1-11, 45c God is acknowledged as the source of wisdom and as faithful to divine covenants.

Romans 8:26-39 Paul assures his audience of the divine help available in living the Christian life and in shaping the community of those chosen by God.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Jesus tells six parables about the nature and life 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	James
Penny	Justin
Nolan	Robyn
Coumba, Mady, Idriss	Arnon
David	Karen
Hagos, Tsigay & family	Anne
Andrew	David, Kate, Laura and their families
Mavis	Stanley
Kathy	Harriet
Alan	Michelle
Kristjan and family	Richard
Sohaila & Fawad	Geoffrey
Silvanna & 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

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

Synod Delegates

Joel Durkovic, Joel Hefty, Bill Huzar

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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

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