

# THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

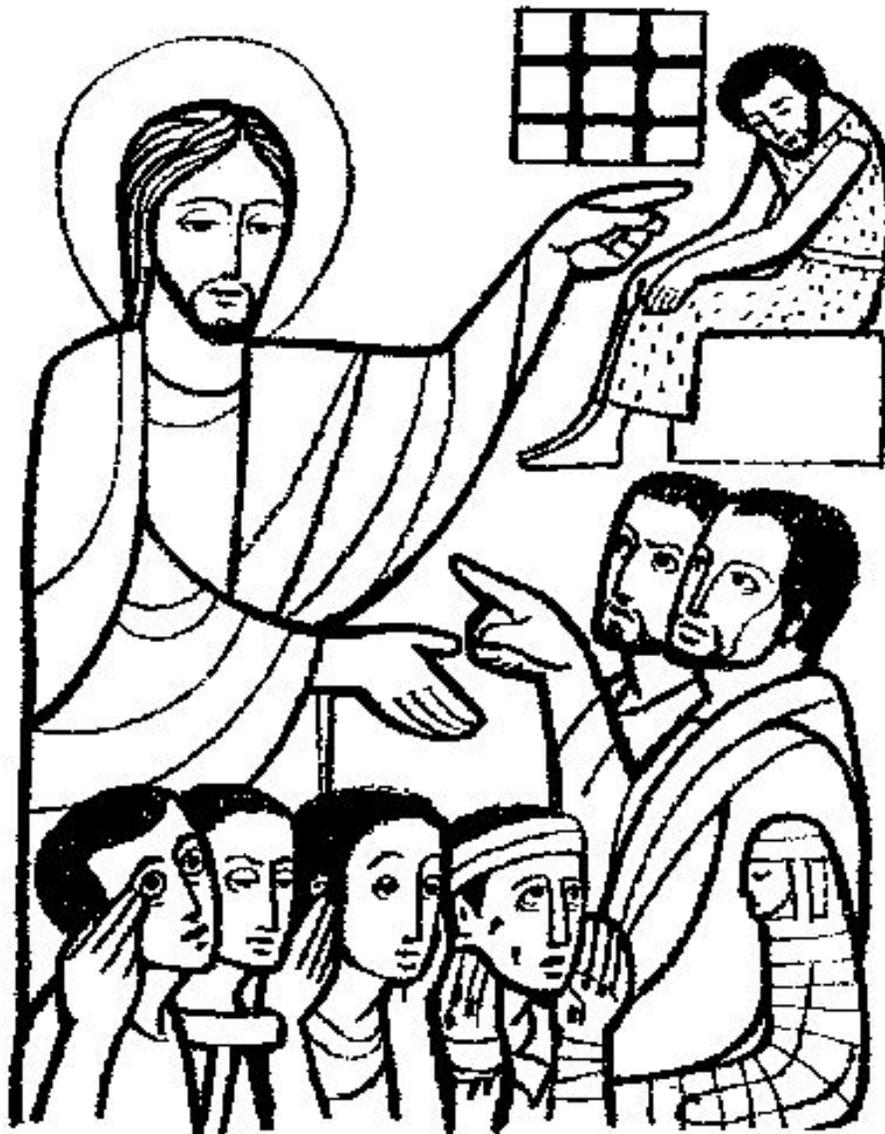
*December 15, 2019*

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.

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**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.

If our service seems unfamiliar, please follow the cues from our leaflet, the ministers leading the service and those around you. Most of our Sunday morning worship services have the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, at the heart of our worship – please feel free to join us, whatever your tradition, in the sharing of bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available: Please indicate if you need one.

Within the Anglican Church of Canada (under the advice of the Primate and the Chief Medical Officer for Canada) we would ask that bread is not dipped into the wine, as this has the potential to spread infection in a way that the sharing of the cup does not. If you would prefer not to share the cup then receiving only bread is considered ‘full communion’ (also known as ‘Communion in One Kind’).

If there is anything that you wish to talk about, please do take the opportunity to talk to the worship leaders, ministers and other members of the congregation following the service. If you wish to receive prayer for yourself or for another, there will be members of our Healing Prayer group in the south Quadra entrance who would be happy to pray with you as the Holy Communion is shared.

After our service we usually share coffee and an opportunity to get to know one another, in the Church Hall – through the door on the front left hand side. We have many visitors and newcomers here so please make yourself known to folks as you feel comfortable.

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.

## **8:00 am Holy Communion**

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*The order of service is found on page 67 in the Book of Common Prayer*

**Presider:** The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt

**Address:** Matthew Cook

# 10:00 am Parish Eucharist

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*The congregation is invited to join in the hymns, responses and prayers marked in bold print.*

**Presider:** The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt    **Intercessor:** Jamie Lawson

**Deacon:** The Reverend Patrick Sibley    **Audio:** John Bergbusch

**Readers:** Al Lehmann, Pat Payne    **Verger:** Rand Harrison

**Address:** Matthew Cook    **Music:** The Community Choir

*A Nursery for children under 3 is available from 10 am until the start of the Eucharist.*

**Today we welcome** Theresa James-Bates, of the Burnside Gorge Community Centre, along with her family, who will receive our white gifts for distribution to needy families and children at Christmas through the Centre.

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## **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

*Please turn to face the west end of the church.*

*Minister:* Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe.

**All: For you have made all things, and love your creation.**

*Minister:* Gracious God, you have made light and dark, day and night; we give thanks for the wholeness of your life. We remember that in light things are clearer, and in darkness we may learn to trust in you and celebrate your mystery.

**All: For darkness and light are the same to you.**

As these Advent lights remind us of the light brought to us from our history, and our welcome into your Church in baptism, we pray that we too may be people of light and life.

You are God through all time – God of the forerunner of the Christ, of John, known as the baptizer, who declared your promises and called people to repentance and transformation. May we know you in this time and in this place as the God of now and of always, God of promise, and God of hope.

*Minister:* Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe.

**All: For you have made all things, and love your creation.**

*Children and youth continue their worship in the Parish House and will rejoin us for communion.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

**PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS**

*The priest introduces the prayers, after which the Kyrie Eleison is sung:*

*Sung in parts at a convenient octave.*

1. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son,  
2. Chri - ste e - lei - son, Chri - ste e - lei - son,  
3. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son,

Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.  
Chri - ste e - le - - - i - son.  
Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.

Russian Orthodox chant.

*The priest reminds us of God's healing and forgiveness.*

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

God of power and mercy,  
you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son.  
Remove those things which hinder love of you,  
that when he comes,  
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder  
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**THE FIRST READING**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**All: Thanks be to God.**



The Al- migh-ty has done great things for me and ho-ly is his name.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed; **Refrain**

the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation. **Refrain**

He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit, casting down the might from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. **Refrain**

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy. The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever. **Refrain**

THE EPISTLE

James 5:7-10

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN (NEH 170)

MIT FREUDEN ZÄRT

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Before the Gospel



Deacon or Cantor: Show us your mercy O Lord : and grant us your salvation.



God is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Hear the Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**All: Glory to you, O Christ.**

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **ADDRESS**

*Following the Address there will be a pause for silence.*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us declare our faith in God:

**All: We believe in God, from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in the Christ, who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Ephesians 3*

*Patterns for Worship.* © The Archbishop's Council of the Church of England, adapted.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE PEACE**

*Please stand.*

The peace of the Christ be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*All may offer their neighbour a sign of peace.*

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## **THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **OFFERTORY HYMN** (CP 101)

CRÜGER

### **THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

God of hope,  
renew in us the joy of your salvation  
and make us a living sacrifice to you,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Liturgy of the Island, Prayer C

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff has four measures, each with a vocal line and lyrics. The first measure is labeled 'Priest:' and the second, third, and fourth are labeled 'All:'. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al-so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The second staff has two measures, each with a vocal line and lyrics. The first is labeled 'Priest:' and the second is labeled 'All:'. The lyrics are: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

It is indeed right that we should praise you,  
God of love, our source and our fulfilment,  
for you create all things and in you we live and move and have our being.  
Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.  
You made us in your image.  
And even though we turn from you, again and again you call us to yourself,  
and in every age, promise liberation.  
As a mother gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own,  
to nurture them in the way of compassionate love.  
You sent Jesus among us,  
incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary.  
Jesus revealed your love for all Creation,  
and showed us the way of reconciliation.  
Having lived among us - Jesus suffered the cross,  
Died,  
And in rising again became the firstborn of the renewed family.  
And so as we gather around your table,  
With saints of every age and your beloved creation we raise our voices and sing:

## SANCTUS

To you be glory, almighty God,  
because on the night before he died,  
Jesus took bread,  
when he had given thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body  
which is given for you; do this to remember me.  
After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:  
Drink this all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant,  
Poured out for you and for many;  
do this to remember me.  
Great is the mystery of faith.



**All:** Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Recalling Christ's death and resurrection,  
we ask you to accept this, our sacrifice of praise.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine  
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son.  
When all of creation groans, unite us in Christ and give us your hope  
that we might be strengthened to do your work, as your body in the world.  
Through Christ our Redeemer, in the power of the Spirit,  
all praise and glory be yours, Almighty God, now and forever.



**All:** A - - men, a - men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ambrosian Chant

### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**All: Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

### THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*All are invited to receive communion. Please follow the Greeters' instructions. Receiving bread or wine is considered full communion. It is the practice of the ACC not to dip the bread into the wine. Any not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing, and to indicate that by holding their arms crossed on their chest.*

*If you are unable to come to a communion station please make this known to the Greeters and we will bring communion to you.*

*Gluten free wafers for communion are available. Please request them from the person who is distributing the bread.*

*We invite those wishing prayer for themselves or on behalf of someone else to come to the front of the line to receive the bread and wine. Immediately after receiving, go to the prayer station in the south Quadra entrance. Briefly state your need. The prayer team will lay hands on your shoulders and will pray quietly for you.*

*An anthem may be sung by the choir.*

*After the Communion, silence is kept.*

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## **THE COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN** (CP 91)

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*During the hymn the clergy and choir move to the font.*

### **ACCLAMATION FOR ADVENT**

*Please turn to the Advent Wreath at the font at the west end of the Church.*

In the life of our Church

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

With love and compassion

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

In grace and mercy

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Through love and service

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

In wisdom and growth

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

### **THE BLESSING**

#### **DISMISSAL**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### **VOLUNTARY**

*You are invited to be seated for the Voluntary or to leave at this point.*

*Christmas Brunch will be served in the Parish Hall.*

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## READINGS FOR DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> – THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Isaiah 7:10-16** A pregnant young woman is announcement of salvation to the king and people of Judah. The child is to be called Immanuel, God with us.

**Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18** The people ask God to restore right relationship with them.

**Romans 1:1-7** What God has done in Jesus, while unique, is in continuity with the past.

**Matthew 1:18-25** Matthew tells his version of the story of Jesus' birth, a story with human courage and the willingness to risk public shame.

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## FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

in memory of our parents, Robert & Katharine Hutchinson and The Rev. Walter & Paula Sylwester, from John and Jean.



## Carol Service – Tonight at 7:30pm

The traditional carol service, first made popular through the Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, and the perfect way to start the Christmas season (slightly anticipated!). The favourite hymns are featured for all to sing, and the Choristers of St. John

offer a series of choral carols. Followed by a reception with hot beverage and cookies.

**Congregational hymns:** *Once in Royal David's City; It came upon a midnight clear; Gabriel's message does away; O little town of Bethlehem; In the bleak midwinter; Good Christians all rejoice; O come all ye faithful; Hark the herald angels sing.*

**Choral carols by:** *June Nixon; Elizabeth Poston; Edgar Pettman; Georgina Craig; Rafaella Aleotti; Elizabeth Maconchy; Imogen Holst; and Cecilia McDowall.*

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

### Today

11:30 am	Parish Christmas Brunch & Bake Sale	Hall
2:00 pm	Pflag	Denson Lounge
7:30 pm	Lessons and Carols for Christmas	Church

### Monday 16

1:00 pm	Garden Eucharist – all welcome	Memorial Garden
4:00 pm	Living Presence Meditation	Denson Lounge

### Tuesday 17

10:00 am	Food Bank	Church Basement
12:10 pm	Meditation Eucharist ( <i>note change of day</i> )	Chapel
7:00 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Denson Lounge

### Wednesday 18

7:45 am	Holy Communion followed by Breakfast	Chapel/Denson Lounge
9:30 am	Sermon Circle	Denson Lounge
7:00 pm	Reel Thought Movie Night – “Nativity!”	Denson Lounge

### Thursday 19

3:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Denson Lounge
5:30 pm	Holy Communion followed by soup	Denson Lounge

### Sunday 22 – Advent 4

8:00 am	Holy Communion	Chapel
10:00 am	Parish Eucharist	Church

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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24

#### **4:00 p.m. - All-Age celebration of the Christmas Story**

Bring the whole family and rejoice at the birth of Christ. Children, especially, are invited to participate in the telling of the Christmas story in word and song.

#### **10:30 p.m. Midnight Mass**

The festive Christmas service, with Holy Communion, traditional carols and candlelight.

With the Choristers of St. John the Divine and the Sermon by The Venerable Alastair McCollum.

### Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. - Wednesday, December 25

Christmas morning service of Holy Communion, with sermon, congregational carols, and the Community Choir of St. John the Divine.

## EVENTS



### Movie Night –

Next Wednesday evening, **December 18<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:00 pm. Reel Thought will present our regular screening for December and Christmastide in the Denson Lounge of St. John the Divine Anglican Church (1611 Quadra Street):

**Nativity!** (UK; 2009; 105 mins.) <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1242447/>

"An uptight but secretly heartbroken primary school teacher's little white lie about Hollywood coming to see his class's nativity play grows like wildfire in his rag-tag school low on self-esteem."

– *IMDb*

This is a mad-cap, high-energy, romp of a movie which, like all good children's movies, has gems for the grown-ups as well. You will recognize a number of well-known British actors (including *Sherlock's* Dr. Watson), but it's the young members of the cast who steal the show.

So, suspend your disbelief, bring your children or grandchildren, and enjoy this little-known seasonal treat. And feel free to bring seasonal treats to share!

Until Lent next year we will present Reel Thought on our usual third Wednesday of each month.

The Chancel Guild will be **decorating the Church** for Christmas on Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Any donations of greenery would be most welcome. They can be brought and left outside on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, or any time after 9am on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you for your help in beautifying our church for this festival season.

### **New Year's Eve Taizé**

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

7:00 – 8:00 pm

St. Philip Anglican Church

2928 Eastdowne Road (at Neil in north Oak Bay)

Everyone is invited to this simple candle-lit Taizé service with chant, prayer, anointing with oil, word and silence.

**The Art & Soul Group** will not be meeting over the Christmas period, but will resume again on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **Food Bank Fundraiser: Save the Date!!**

Wondering what to get someone for Christmas who has everything??? How about tickets to our exciting fund raising event scheduled for February 23, 2020 at 2:00 pm in support of our Food Bank. We will host the Greater Victoria Police Chorus for one of their amazing concerts. Tickets are only \$20 each and are available through the Church Office. Plan to attend and bring your friends!!

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### **Announcements**

**A Prayer Group** prays through the week; to request confidential prayers for yourself or others contact Pat Manning or leave the request at the church office.

**Prayer is the bedrock of our relationship with God through Christ.** Individual requests for intercessory prayer (read at Sunday and weekday services) may be made by filling out a **Prayer Request Card** available at the back of the church (on the west wall) or by emailing the same information requested on the card to: [admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca).

**Blue envelopes 2020:** Blue envelopes for next year will be considered by Parish Council at the December meeting. If you have a suggestion for outreach the parish should consider supporting this way please give me details and a short rationale. I will compile all your ideas and circulate to Parish Council.

Please leave a note for me (Chris Eve) at the office or email me at [ceve@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:ceve@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca)

### **The Special Blue Envelope for December is The Rector's Discretionary Fund**

This provides the rector with money that he can give away and use at his discretion. It could be to help a family in the parish whose house burned down. It could be used to buy a sandwich for a street person. It allows the parish to help people quietly and gives the rector a budget that he can use as he sees fit without getting approval from wardens, parish council, or vestry.

**Out of the Rain Christmas:** We're planning on buying hoodies for our homeless kids. If you can help us with a cash donation that would be wonderful. Please place in an envelope labelled OOTR.

Karyn & Gerry

Have you considered paying your church contributions by automatic debit or by credit card? Many people already do so and find it a convenient way to take care of their regular commitments to the church month by month. You can renew your commitment by simply completing the appropriate section of the 2020 Pledge card.

### **New Automatic Debits**

If you wish to START using Automatic Debit you can do so by completing a Pledge Card or by using the Automatic Debit pamphlet found at the back of the church and at the garden door. Just fill in the Pledge Card or the Automatic Debit pamphlet authorization and attach a 'VOID' cheque from your bank account to confirm your bank and account identification numbers. Place both in an envelope, mark it "For Automatic Debit," and place it in the offering plate or give it to the Church Office. Your account will be debited either monthly or twice monthly, as you choose, to coincide with the bank debit dates, which are the 15th and the last day of the month.

### **New Credit Card Debits**

If you wish to START using VISA or MASTERCARD you can do so by completing a Pledge Card. Just fill in the Pledge Card and ensure that your card numbers and expiry date are shown on it, which should then be put into an envelope, marked "For Credit Card Debit," and placed in the offering plate or given in to the Church Office. Your account will be debited at the mid-month.



# SOUL SPACE

Things to nourish our spiritual journey.

John the Baptist was supposed to point the way to the Christ. He was just the voice, not the Messiah. So everybody's calling has dignity to it and God seems to know better than we do what is in us that needs to be called forth. *-James Green*

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## A Public Menorah Lighting

Centennial Square  
Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 5:00 pm

You are invited to join Congregation Emanu-El Synagogue  
for a joyous Hanukkah Lighting.

We are pleased to announce that once again our musical headliner will be the ever popular **Victoria High Rhythm and Blues Band**. And, of course, *sufganiyot* (traditional doughnuts) will be served up to enhance the holiday spirit!

For more information please contact Congregation Emanu-El via email [info@congregationemanuel.ca](mailto:info@congregationemanuel.ca) or by telephone at 250-382-0615.

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## Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> - 7:00 pm

St. Luke Cedar Hill (corner of Cedar Hill and Cedar Hill Cross Road)  
Whether you have experienced loss in your life or simply are finding it difficult to enter into Christmas this year for whatever reason...

Come and enter gently into a quiet holy time...

For more information, call 250-477-6741  
or visit [www.stlukesvictoria.ca](http://www.stlukesvictoria.ca)

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# THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

## STEWARDS

People's Warden: Graeme Brown  
Associate Warden: Joan Huzar  
Envelope Secretary: Jim Harlick

Rector's Warden: Chris Eve  
Associate Warden: Karen Coverett  
Treasurer: David Buckman

## PARISH COUNCIL

David Buckman, Carol Denton, Marguerite Heppell, Penny Holt, Elizabeth McAuley, Rod Marsh

## 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

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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