

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

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

Presider: The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

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

Presider: The Reverend Bill Tarter

Audio: Joel Durkovic

Deacon: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Verger: Kelly Somogyi

Readers: Harriet Kendrick, John McLaren

Music: The Choristers of St. John the Divine,

Sermon: The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt

The MacRae Choral Scholars, The Sutton Organ Scholar

Intercessor: Lorraine Gates

Mass Setting: Messe Basse, Gabriel Fauré (1883-1924)

A Nursery for children aged 0 to 3 is available from 10 am until the start of the Eucharist.

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 prophets of old – Miriam, Nathan, Deborah, Amos, and Huldah, who declared your truth and justice, and spoke out against the powerful. 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 by the choir:

Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison; Kyrie eleison.
(Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy.)

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist
to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah,
inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our hearts to you,
that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge
we may stand with confidence before his glory;
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

Isaiah 11:1-10

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(sung by the choir)*

72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring
righteousness.
He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the
oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall
be no more.
Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds!
And blessed be his glorious name for ever! and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 15:4-13

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN (CP 103)

WINCHESTER NEW

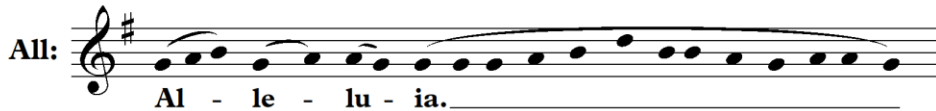
THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

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.

SERMON

Following the Sermon 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.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN (CP 106)

BANCROFT ASCENSION

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our strength,
we are nothing without you.
Receive all we offer you this day
as you sustain us with your mercy;
in the name 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, alternating between 'Priest:' and '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, both labeled 'Priest:'. 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 *(sung by the choir)*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

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, A - - men.

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.

BENEDICTUS AND AGNUS DEI *Sung by the choir*

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

*Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.*

A motet may also be sung by the choir.

After the Communion, silence is kept.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMUNITY

RECESSIONAL HYMN (CP 102)

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

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.
Coffee and tea will be served in the Parish Hall.*

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 15TH – THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-10 In the coming of God's glory, healing, wholeness, and restoration of the land are anticipated. **Psalms 146:4-9** God is celebrated as the one who helps all in any kind of need. **James 5:7-10** The coming of the Lord is affirmed, and patience is counseled. **Matthew 11:2-11** Jesus quotes Isaiah to answer a question, and we are reminded that healing and the lifting up of the oppressed are God's way.

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Main

In memory of my father, Rev. Dr. Julius Bergbusch, Lutheran pastor and bishop, on the anniversary of his birthday, from John Bergbusch.

In loving and grateful memory of our sister, Cheryl Hanson, on her birthday, from Mark Hanson and Daryl Hardin.

Lectern

In loving memory of our dear sister, Brenda, from the Chancel Guild.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today

11:30 am	Sunday Reflections	Denson Lounge
2:00 pm	Memorial Service for Brenda Morton followed by a reception in the Baumann Centre (parish hall)	Church

Monday 9

12 Noon	Book Study Luncheon	Denson Lounge
1:00 pm	Garden Eucharist – all welcome	Memorial Garden
1:30 pm	The Divine Knitters	Home of Anne Hay

Tuesday 10

10:00 am	Food Bank	Church Basement
12 Noon	ACW Christmas Luncheon	James Bay Inn
12:10 pm	Meditation Eucharist (<i>note change of day</i>)	Chapel
7:30 pm	Concert: Flash of Brass	Church

Wednesday 11

7:45 am	Holy Communion followed by Breakfast	Chapel/Denson Lounge
9:30 am	Sermon Circle	Denson Lounge
12 Noon	Art & Soul Drop-In Group	Church Basement

Thursday 12

1:00 pm	Chancel Guild Meeting	Denson Lounge
5:30 pm	Holy Communion followed by soup	Denson Lounge

Friday 13

10:00 am	Food Bank	Church Basement
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Saturday 14

3:30 pm	Gather for barbecue and hot apple cider	Parking lot
4:00 pm	Christmas Pageant	Parking lot and church garden

Sunday 15 – Advent 3 (White Gift Sunday)

8:00 am	Holy Communion	Chapel
10:00 am	Parish Eucharist	Church
11:30 am	Parish Christmas Brunch & Bake Sale	Hall
2:00 pm	Pflag	Denson Lounge
7:30 pm	Lessons and Carols for Christmas	Church

EVENTS



"THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER" - Poinsettias are now available to make our church look even more beautiful at Christmas. Please consider making a dedication. Cost: \$10 per plant, **available until Mon., Dec. 9th**. Contact Carol-Ann in the church office (admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca or 250-383-7169 ext. 226) to order a poinsettia and give a dedication. Thank you.

Spiritual Director Sherri Koster will be at St. John's this Monday, Dec. 9th and Tuesday, Dec. 10th. If you have any questions or would like to book an appointment please contact Sherri directly.

Flash of Brass with a Hint of Holiday Cheer

including a carol sing-a-long

BC Brass Collective with Artistic Director: Scott MacInnes

Tuesday, December 10th @ 7:30 pm

at St. John the Divine

Admission by donation.

White Gifts – Sunday, December 15th

White gifts have typically been toys for children or appropriate gifts for adults, wrapped and labelled with age and gender. This year, the Burnside Gorge Community Centre has given us a "wish list", with the name/age of a child or adult, so that when you go shopping you can choose a gift knowing that this is something a person wants or needs. We will have a collection of cards with these details at Coffee Hour (please see Dorothy Chuhuran), so that if you wish to choose a particular person to buy for you will be able to do so. First names only, to maintain confidentiality - we ask that you let us know if you have made the purchase, so that we can notify the Centre which gifts have been purchased, and for whom. (Similar to the process involved in purchasing gifts through Santa's Anonymous.)

You are also welcome to purchase a gift as in the past, with a simple "age/gender" designation on the gift.

The families and children of the Burnside Gorge Community Centre look forward to these gifts every year and are very appreciative of the generosity of St. John's parishioners. The Centre has operated for over twenty years with thirty staff and provides personalized services to over 500 families each year.

Christmas Brunch, December 15th by donation on day of Brunch

Tickets are now ready for pickup. They are available from the Front Office during the week and at coffee hour after Church today from Carol-Ann.

Please get them early so we know how many to accommodate.

No tickets will be available after Friday, December 13th, at 4:00pm.

Menu – turkey dinner:

Turkey	Mixed greens
Whipped mashed potatoes	Vegetable platters
Roasted yam	Cranberry sauce
Roasted vegetables	Gravy
Stuffing	Assorted cookies for dessert
Assorted breads	Vegetarian, vegan dish - TBD



CHRISTMAS



Next Sunday, December 15th after the 10:00 am service.

Baking contributions may be brought to the parking lot entrance of the Court after 9:00 am on the day of the sale or may be left at the church during the week between 9:00 am and noon, if refrigeration is not required.

Contact Heather Baker at 250-382 9693 or hbaker@islandnet.com if you have any questions.



LESSONS and CAROLS

The Christmas Carol Service – Sun., Dec. 15th, 7:30pm

The traditional carol service, held on the last Sunday of Advent, featuring the standard Christmas hymns and the sequence of lessons and accompanying choral carols first made popular through the Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge.

Sung by the Choristers of St. John the Divine. Followed by a reception with hot beverage and cookies.

A Public Menorah Lighting

Centennial Square

Sunday, December 22nd, 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 or by telephone at 250-382-0615.

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.

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

Thank you to the youth group: Sir James Douglas School did a food drive for our food bank and last Friday evening the youth group sorted the food so we could put it away in the store room. Thanks to the kids who collected over 60 boxes of food and to our youth group for sorting it all. I know our clients will appreciate all the wonderful food items that we received.

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.

PWRDF MOMENT! This Sunday at coffee is your last chance to purchase **PWRDF Christmas Cards!** For \$25 (a tax receipt will be issued,) you will receive 12 beautiful cards! Also, make sure you pick up a copy of the "**2019 Alternate Christmas Gift Giving Catalogue**". It is available with the current (Dec.) Anglican Journal. Extra copies can also be picked up from the PWRDF table at coffee today! Thank you for supporting the world's most vulnerable people with PWRDF gifts this Christmas.

(Parish Reps. - Murray L. & Pat P.)

St. John's Court has a vacancy

The Board of St. John's Court has a garden suite available immediately for a parishioner or someone you know. Prospective tenants must be 55+ and earn less than \$34,000. The newly carpeted one-bedroom suite rents for \$735, with a subsidy for eligible tenants. No pets. No smoking. Please get an application form from the office.

Out of the Rain Christmas: We're planning on busying 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.

Christmas at St. John the Divine

Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 14 – 4:00 p.m.

Urban Outdoor Retelling of the Christmas Story –
rain or shine, dress appropriately!
Barbecue & hot apple cider at 3:30 p.m.

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Sunday, December 15 - 7:30 p.m.

The traditional service of lessons and carols for Christmas,
as popularized by King's College Cambridge:
carols new and old sung by the Choristers of St. John the Divine,
and favourites for everyone to sing.

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.



SOUL SPACE

Things to nourish our spiritual journey.

BC:AD

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.

U A Fanthorpe



The Christian gospel is a summons
to peace, calling for justice beyond
anger, mercy beyond justice,
forgiveness beyond mercy, love
beyond forgiveness.

— *Wendell Berry* —

AZ QUOTES

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

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