

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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.



FOR WHERE

two or three

GATHER

IN MY NAME

I am with them

MATTHEW 18:20



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.

Worship in a time of COVID-19 : In these times when we must be careful in any gathering we have careful protocols in place for our limited gatherings on a Sunday – the plans are available to download on the Website, and for those unable to attend in person our services are also livestreamed there: <https://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/>

We will continue to meet on Sundays at 10am for our Parish Eucharist, and at 5:30 pm for a service of Evensong, please check details on the website as to how to book for each service and the information needed to comply with Provincial requirements.

We continue to share daily prayer online with a link on our website daily.

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 responses and prayers marked in bold print.

Celebrant: The Venerable Alastair McCollum

Reader: Judith Reid

Gospel: The Reverend Bill Tarter

Sermon: The Reverend Bill Tarter

Intercessor: Karen Coverett

Sacristan: Terry Needham

Greeters: Susan Powell, Sherrie Allen

Safety Officer: Andrew Gates

Vergers: Chuck Neilson

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas, organist
Alana Hayes, cantor

Setting: Unison Communion Service -
L. J. White

The Gathering of the Community

Welcome and Announcements

Organ Prelude

Gathering

God of Creation, the earth and skies sing your glory.

All: Beloved God be with us.

God of Life, we strive to care for our fellow creatures, the deer and the ravens.

All: Beloved God be with us.

God of Care, you prepare the rain for the earth and we watch our gardens grow.

All: Beloved God be with us.

God of Presence, you show us the beauty of our waterfront, hills and forests.

All: Beloved God be with us.

God of Wonder, inspire us with the world around us,

All: Beloved God be with us.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God

**All: to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen.

Lighting of the Family Candle

The Church Family Prayer

Loving God,

All: you have called us to be your family and to celebrate our life together in worship. We pray now, for all members of our family, gathering in our church buildings, in our homes, and online. Through your spirit keep us connected. Bless each of us with beloved friendship. Teach us, gracious God, how to be your church in these times. Amen.

Gloria

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards all. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004)

The Proclamation of the Word

Let us listen for the Word of God in Holy Scripture.

All: **Amen.**

The First Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.
 Let Israel rejoice in his maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.
 Let them praise his name in the dance; let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory.
 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds.
 Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand;
 To wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples;
 To bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron;
 To inflict on them the judgement decreed; this is glory for all his faithful people.
 Hallelujah!

The Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

Cantor: Alleluia. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, says the Lord, ask for whatever you wish and it will be done for you. Alleluia.

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.

‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

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 sit, stand or kneel as is your custom.

Please note that those who have asked for our prayers are listed at the end of the leaflet.

The Peace

Please stand.

The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

All may offer their neighbour a sign of peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Anthem

A Grateful Heart

Thou that hast given so much to me
Give one thing more, a grateful heart.
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if thy blessings had spare days:
But such a heart whose pulse may be thy praise.
Thou that hast given so much to me
Give one thing more, a grateful heart.

Text: George Herbert (1593-1632).
Music: Mary Plumstead (1905-1980).

The Prayer over the Gifts

Holy God, gracious and merciful,
you bring forth food from the earth
and nourish your whole creation.
Turn our hearts toward those
who hunger in any way,
so that all may know your care;
and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life,
Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

The Great Thanksgiving

Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 2

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eternal God, Source of all being,
we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love.
You call us into friendship with you and one another
to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world.
When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us.
When we injure others, you confront us in your love
and call us to the paths of righteousness.
You stand with the weak, and those, broken and alone,
whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last, and the last first.
Therefore we raise our voices with angels and archangels,
forever praising you and singing:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, O Holy One:
when Hagar was driven into the wilderness
you followed her and gave her hope.
When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good.

When you called Israel out of slavery,
you brought them through the wilderness into the promised land.
When your people were taken into exile
you wept with them by the river of Babylon and carried them home.

All: Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

At the right time you sent your Anointed One to stand with the poor,
the outcast, and the oppressed.
Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them.
He accepted water from a woman of Samaria and offered her the water of new life.
Christ knew the desolation of the cross
and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said,
“Take and eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine,
and 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
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”
Loving and Holy One,
recalling Christ’s death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts,
longing for the bread of tomorrow
and the wine of the age to come.

Therefore we proclaim our hope.

**All: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace.
We hold before you all whose lives are marked by suffering,
our sisters and brothers.

When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

All: Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O Source of all life, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

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 Breaking of the Bread

Creator of all,
who summons the salmon
from the depths of the seas
to yearn for the place of their origin.

**All: So may your Spirit stir in our hearts
to return and find our home in you.**

Liturgy of the Islands, 2018, Diocese of Islands and Inlets

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

All are invited to receive communion. Please follow the Greeters' instructions. Receiving bread is considered full communion. 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 forward for communion 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.

Following the Communion there will be a pause for silence.

The Commissioning of the Community

Prayer after Communion

O God, our life, our strength, our food,
we give you thanks for sustaining us
with the body and blood of your Son.
By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world,
so that more and more we will you praise
and serve your earth and its many peoples,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

The Commissioning of the Community

The Blessing

Dismissal

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

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Organ Postlude

Our coffee hour will take place on Zoom at 11:00 am.

Readings for The 15th Sunday after Pentecost – September 13th

Exodus 14:19-31 A powerless people emerge victorious, and a powerful army is brought to nothing.

Psalms 114 Reflecting the joy of the Exodus experience, creation proclaims the story of God's saving presence.

Romans 14:1-12 We are called to be slow in condemning the behaviour of others, remembering we are accountable to God for the love and acceptance we extend to others.

Matthew 18:21-35 In a world that stores up debts, we are called to be people of forgiveness.

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

Joyce	Kathy	Anne	Pat
Penny	Alan	Stanley	Carolyn
Nolan	Kristjan and	Harriet	Nicholas
Coumba, Mady,	family	Michelle	Randy
Idriss	Sohaila & Fawad	Richard	Philip & Lisa
David	James	Geoffrey	Liz
Hagos, Tsigay &	Justin	Sussex	Rhoda
family	Robyn	Bradley	Silvana Carr
Andrew	Arnon	Robin	
Mavis	Karen	Anthony	

R.I.P. - June Keyte (pronounced 'Keet')

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: vacant
Associate Warden: Karen Coverett
Treasurer: David Buckman

Parish Council

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

Synod Delegates

Karen Coverett, Joel Hefty, Bill Huzar, Joan 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
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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