

The Church of St. John the Divine

Ascension Sunday

May 24, 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: John McLaren, Christine Scott
Gospel: The Reverend Patrick Sibley
Sermon: The Reverend Grant Crosswell

Intercessor: Jamie Lawson
Zoom Technician: Karen Coverett
Music: David Stratkauskas (organist),
Soile Stratkauskas (soloist)

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn (CP 374)

Hyfrydol

1. **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!**
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.
2. **Alleluia! Not as orphans**
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?
3. **Alleluia! Bread of heaven,**
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia! here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.
4. **Alleluia! King eternal,**
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia! born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne.
Thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
thou on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898).

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.

The Sharing of Christ's Light

We are invited to bring our candles to the screen.

The Light and peace of Jesus Christ our Brother is with us.

All: Thanks be to God.

Let us ask our Loving God to enlighten us with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit:

All: That we may follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Grant to us the light of faith:

All: Enkindle in us the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Let us give thanks to God, the Loving Creator.

**All: In the name of our Brother Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit now and forever.
Amen.**

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 Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord.
Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of his peace,
and bring the whole of creation
to worship at his feet,
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

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

47

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a cry of joy.
For the Lord Most High is to be feared; he is the great king over all the earth.
He subdues the peoples under us, and that nations under our feet.
He chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.
Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.
For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill.
God reigns over the nations; God sits upon his holy throne.
The nobles of the people have gathered together with the people of the God of
Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, and he is highly exalted.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

John 24:44-53

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Here the Good news of Jesus Christ according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the sermon there will be a pause for silence.

Choral Meditation

Non vos relinquam orphanos (Gregorian chant).

Translation:

Alleluia.

I will not leave you comfortless.

I go, and I will come to you.

And your heart shall rejoice.

Alleluia.

Prayers of the People

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

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 (SPR 265)

Guiting Power

- 1. Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
Hear us as we sing:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, the eternal name.***
- 2. Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Human child* on earth!
Power and majesty concealing
By your humble birth:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, the eternal name.***

- 3. Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
Victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated,
Sinners justified:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, the eternal name.***
- 4. Priestly king, enthroned for ever
High in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
Stifle hymns of love:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, the eternal name.***
- 5. So, our hearts and voices raising
Through the ages long,
Ceaselessly upon you gazing,
This shall be our song:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, the eternal name.***

Text: Michard Seward (1932-2015). / Music: John Barnard (1948-).
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Our coffee hour will take place 15 minutes after the service has finished, continuing here in our Zoom meeting.

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

Becca

Margaret

Alan

Kristjan and family

Sohaila & Fawad

Silvanna & family

James

Justin

Robyn

Arnon

Vince, Vicky, Henry

The Parish of Christ Church, Alert Bay

Karen

Anne

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

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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