

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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.



**BY WHAT
AUTHORITY?**

Matthew 21:23-32

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 Reverend Canon Andrew Gates **Safety Officer:** Judith Reid
Reader: Joel Durkovic **Verger:** David Pupak
Gospel: Stephanie Wood **Streaming Technician:** Karen Coverett
Sermon: The Venerable Alastair McCollum **Pianist:** Emily Markwart
Intercessor: Kit Pearson (Senior Sutton Organ Scholar)
Sacristan: Iris Elsdon **Cantor:** Kyla Fradette (MacRae Choral Scholar)
Greeters: John & Ann McLaren **Setting:** John Rutter

The Gathering of the Community

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Gathering

Presider: From wherever we are, near or far, we gather in the name God. We gather in God's love. There is no distance greater than God, there is no separation possible from the love of God. We gather with God our Loving Creator. We gather with Jesus our brother and redeemer. We gather with God, the Spirit of Love.

All: Amen.

I will make a path in the wilderness for you

All: Bring us home, O God.

I will give you water in the wilderness.

All: Bring us home, O God.

I will part the seas for you.

All: Bring us home, O God.

I will guide you with a pillar of fire.

All: Bring us home, O God.

I will make you my people.

All: Bring us home, O God.

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. 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 as we gather in our church buildings, our homes, and online. Through your spirit keep us united in love. Bless each of us with your beloved friendship. Teach us, gracious God, how to be your church in these times. Help us to know that we are your people, that we are your Family, always. Amen.

Gloria

Cantor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

God of Abraham, Moses and the prophets,
your covenant binds us together as one:
help us to overcome the scandal of poverty
and the chasm of indifference,
so that we may recognize you in the wounded poor;
through Jesus Christ, the Builder of Bridges.

All: Amen.

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

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

All: Amen.

The First Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better

than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

78:1-4, 12-16

Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children.
We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works he has done.
He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
He split open the sea and let them pass through; he made the waters stand up like walls.
He led them with a cloud by day, and all the night through with a flow of fire.
He split the hard rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink as from the great deep.

The Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

Cantor: Alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. 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.

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?’ And they argued with one another, ‘If we say, “From heaven”, he will say to us, “Why then did you not believe him?” But if we say, “Of human origin”, we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.’ So they answered Jesus, ‘We do not know.’ And he said to them, ‘Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

O salutaris - Camille Saint Saëns

O salutaris Hostia, Quae caeli pandis ostium: Bella premunt hostilia, Da robur,
fer auxilium.

Translation:

*O saving Victim, opening wide The gate of Heaven to man below; Our foes press
hard on every side; Thine aid supply; thy strength bestow.*

The Prayer over the Gifts

In the name of all of us gathered, near and far, we present these our gifts to God. Let us pray:

God of mercy and grace,
the eyes of all wait upon you,
and you open your hand in blessing.
Fill us with good things at your table,
so that we may come to the help of all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

All: Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

As we prepare to celebrate this Eucharist, we remember that we are the people of God. Near or far we are gathered together by the love of Christ. We remember that we are incorporated into the body of Christ. We join together in this celebration of our union in Christ.

Let us pray.

Thanks be to you,

All: Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given us, and all that you have borne for us. In our sharing in this Eucharist, in Church or at home, 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. Amen.

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

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

Blessed is he who comes 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

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us 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

One body are we.

All: For, though we are in many places, we spiritually share one bread.

Prayer after Communion

O God, we give you thanks
that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son.
By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need
and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006)

The Blessing

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

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

Readings for October 4th – The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Our covenant relationship with God has terms of mutual consent. The Ten Commandments define how God's people are to behave toward God and one another.

Psalms 19 God's glorious revelation both in the beauty and complexity of creation and in the enlightening and life-giving order of the law is praised.

Philippians 3:4b-14 Paul boasts about his credentials and then dismisses them as meaningless compared to what he has gained through faith in Christ.

Matthew 21:33-46 In parable form Matthew teaches that to encounter Jesus is to face a moment of truth.

Flowers

Sunday, September 27

In loving and grateful memory of our much-missed mother and mother-in-law, Carole Hardin, from Daryl Hardin and Mark Hanson.

EVENSONG

Every Sunday at 5:30pm - sung by a small ensemble of Choral Scholars

Evensong is a contemplative, musical and prayerful liturgy, ideally suited to the end of the week and the close of day, and to this current time when we have been asked to avoid congregational singing, but still long for the depth and beauty of a choral liturgy.

Register to attend at stjohnthedivine.eventbrite.com

Registration for each service opens Monday morning, and closes just before the service starts, so please do register to come.

Usual safety protocols apply: please don't attend if symptomatic. See stjohnthedivine.bc.ca for more information on church safety during the pandemic.

Full-sized choirs are unable to participate in services at the moment due to attendance limitations and physical distancing guidelines - we will expand to our full choirs as soon as it is safe and permitted to do so! In the meanwhile, watch for extra-liturgical projects from both choirs over the course of the Autumn.

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

Joyce	Bradley	Alan
Coumba, Mady, Idriss	Philip & Lisa	Derek
Hagos, Tsigay & family	Rhoda	John
Mavis	Silvana Carr	Linda
Alan	Carolyn	Glen Wakefield
Sohaila & Fawad	Nicholas	
Anne	Patrick	
Harriet	Virginia	

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 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