

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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.

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 Bill Tarter

Reader & Sacristan: Iris Elsdon

Gospel: Stephanie Wood

Sermon: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Intercessor: Lorraine Gates

Greeters: Margaret Taylor, Sherrie Allen

Safety Officer: Judith Reid

Vergers: Chuck Neilson

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas, organist
Alana Hayes, cantor

Setting: Missa Sancti Johannis - M. Larkin

The Gathering of the Community

Welcome and Announcements

Organ Prelude

Beloved, we are gathered together in God's Name and Love. This love knows no distance, no separation, no division. We are united in this love. Together we lift our hearts and voices to give God thanks for our lives, our healing, our love.

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.

Sing to God's glory as we walk along our harbours.

All: All creation blesses you.

Sing to God's glory for the warmth of the sun on our skin.

All: All creation blesses you.

Sing to God's glory as we admire the fog and clouds above the mountains.

All: All creation blesses you.

Sing to God's glory as ocean breezes refresh us on our walks.

All: All creation blesses you.

Sing to God's glory for the refreshing rain giving us flowers along the shoreline.

All: All creation blesses you.

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, 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

Choir: Glory be to God on high, And on earth peace, good will towards all. We praise you. We bless you. We worship you. We glorify you. We give thanks to you for your great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. You take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For you only are holy. You only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Translation: Book of Common Prayer, modernised.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

Merciful God,
you seek us in the hidden places of our ignorance
and in the forgotten corners of our despair.
Gather us into your loving embrace,
and pour upon us your wise and holy Spirit,
so that we may become faithful servants
in whom you rejoice with all the company of heaven.

All: Amen.

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

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

All: Amen.

The First Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

114

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,
Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel God's dominion.
The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back.
The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep.
What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back?
You mountains, that you skipped like rams? you little hills like young sheep?
Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob.
Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

Cantor: Alleluia. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved 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.

Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times.

‘For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So, the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So, my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

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

Ego flos campi (C. Conteverdi)

Ego flos campi et lilium convallium. Sicut lilium inter spinas sic amica mea
inter filias.

Sicut malus inter ligna silvarum, sic dilectus meus inter filios. Sub umbra illius
quem desideraveram sedi, et fructus ejus dulcis gutturi meo.

Translation: *I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. As the lily among
thorns, so is my love among the daughters.*

*As the apple tree among the trees of the woods, so is my beloved among the sons. I
sat down under his shadow with great delight: and his fruit was sweet to my taste.*

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 all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.
You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, so that we might for the world be signs of your gracious presence in 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.

As communion is given, the deacon will offer these words for those not able to be present in the church:

Though we are unable to share in Bread and Wine, we remember that we are people of God, gathered 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.

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.

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

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, so that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

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 16th Sunday after Pentecost – September 20th

Exodus 16:2-15 The Hebrews learn that the God of escape through the sea is also the God of provision in the wilderness. **Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45** The wonderful works of God are praised, including the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. **Philippians 1:21-30** Paul, suffering with the limitations of his imprisonment and possibly facing trial and execution, exhorts his readers to live worthy of the gospel. **Matthew 20:1-16** The question of what is enough and what is abundant permeates Jesus' parable.

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
Coumba, Mady, Idriss
Hagos, Tsigay & family
Mavis

Alan
Sohaila & Fawad
Anne
Harriet

Bradley
Philip & Lisa
Rhoda
Silvana Carr

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 Bansgrove, 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

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pastoral@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca or **for urgent calls only**, use 778-678-6873

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