

# The Church of St. John the Divine

*The 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*August 16, 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.

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***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

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

**Officiant:** The Reverend Bill Tarter

**Reader:** Mark Hanson, Lorraine Gates

**Gospel:** Stephanie Wood

**Sermon:** The Reverend Bill Tarter

**Intercessor:** Jamie Lawson

**Zoom Technician:** Karen Coverett

**Music:** David Stratkauskas (musician)

Aniela Erzinger (cantor)

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## The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn

NETTLETON

**1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light.**

**Praise the One who frees the prisoners,  
turning blindness into sight.**

**Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing every dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.**

**2. Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word.**

**Praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing two-edged sword.**

**Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand.**

**From this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in every land.**

**3. Praise the one true love incarnate:**

**Christ, who suffered in our place.**

**Jesus died and rose for many**

**that we may know God by grace.**

**Let us sing for joy and gladness,**

**seeing what our God has done.**

**Praise the one redeeming glory;**

**praise the One who makes us one.**

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Gathering

God is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Come Creator God, show us your peace.

**All: Come, God, come.**

Come Christ, Prince of Peace, bring us your peace.

**All: Come, God, come.**

Come Spirit of Grace, make our hearts havens of your peace.

**All: Come, God, come.**

## Collect for Purity

Almighty God  
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'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,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and sent into our hearts the Spirit of your Son.  
Give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
that all people may know the glorious liberty  
of the children of God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

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# The Proclamation of the Word

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

*All:* **Amen.**

## The First Reading

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, ‘Send everyone away from me.’ So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

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

## Psalm

133

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!  
It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard,  
Upon the beard of Aaron and runs down upon the collar of his robe.  
It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the Lord was ordained the blessing: life for evermore.

## The Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

Matthew 15:10-28

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 he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

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## 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.**

Creator God, we give you thanks that you are a generous, abundant,  
and gracious, host.

We thank you also that you became the guest of humanity.

In the Word made flesh you became guest of the animals in a stable,  
the villagers of Nazareth,

Religious Leaders in the temple, prostitutes, drunkards, and outcasts.

You let us play host, became one of us, dined at our table.

You ate the same bread, drank the same wine. You shared stories and you  
shared our story.

When you left the table, you left bread and wine to remember you by.

Alternative Worship (Baker & Gay)

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.**

Loving God,

May the weary find a soft place to rest.

May the searching be met by the Sacred.

May the travellers be encouraged, be fed, be clothed, be received.

May the righteous see the fruits of their labour.

May the lonely find comfort in the night.

May the privileged take extravagant actions of solidarity.

May the complicit repent.

May the apathetic come to recognize the hardness of their hearts.

May the courageous have multitudes behind them.

May the creative write, paint, sing, and dance the truths we all need to feel.

May the fearful keep showing up, keep wrestling, keep taking steps.

May the unjust powerful step-down or be torn down.

May the mourning not be rushed to heal.

May the caretakers have their cups refilled.

May the Holy One within each of us rise

**All: Amen.**

*enfleshed.com*

## 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.**

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# The Commissioning of the Community

## The Peace

Jesus said, "Peace I leave you, my own peace I give to you,  
Not as the world gives do I give you,  
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us go from our prayers to proclaim the good news.

## The Blessing

### Dismissal

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

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

## Final Hymn

CORVEDALE

- 1. There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in Their justice which is more than liberty.  
there is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.**
- 2. For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make God's love too narrow by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify God's strictness with a zeal They will not own.**
- 3. There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.  
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.**

**If our love were but more simple  
We should take God at Their word;  
And our lives would be all gladness  
In the joy of Christ our Lord.**

Text: Frederick W. Faber (1814–1863).

Our coffee hour will take place 15 minutes after the service has finished, continuing here in our Zoom meeting.

## Readings for The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – August 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Exodus 1:8—2:10** Here begins the story of the Exodus, the defining story for the people of Israel.

**Psalms 124** The Israelites recount their history and see God's hand in it.

**Romans 12:1-8** Paul urges his readers to respond to God's great gift of love in Christ by offering themselves as living sacrifices. Further, Paul compares the unity, diversity and interdependence of a faith community's members to a single human body and its parts.

**Matthew 16:13-20** Jesus asks the disciples a question that we too must ponder at various times in our lives.

### **The Special Blue Envelope for August is for Refugees.**

This envelope is designated for the support of refugee families assisted by the Church of St. John the Divine.

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#### **The following people have asked for our prayers.**

Please keep them in mind as you go through your week.

Joyce	Karen
Penny	Anne
Nolan	David, Kate, Laura and their families
Coumba, Mady, Idriss	Stanley
David	Harriet
Hagos, Tsigay & family	Michelle
Andrew	Richard
Mavis	Geoffrey
Kathy	Sussex
Alan	Bradley
Kristjan and family	Robin
Sohaila & Fawad	Anthony
Silvanna & family	Pat
James	Carolyn
Justin	Randy
Robyn	
Arnon	

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# 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 Banskrove, 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  
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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