

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 6th Sunday of Easter

May 17, 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 Venerable Alastair McCollum

Readers: Richard Routledge, Virginia Miller

Gospel: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Sermon: The Reverend Bill Tarter

Intercessor: Peggy Wilmot

Zoom Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas (organist),

Soile Stratkauskas (soloist)

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn (CP 487)

TWENTY-FOURTH

1. **Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.**
2. **With grateful joy and holy fear
his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength
now love him in return.**
3. **Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.**
4. **Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek
be ours his holy peace.**
5. **Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.**
6. **Love can exclude no race or creed
if honoured be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Father is the same.**

Text: Latin (9th cent.); tr. Omer Westendorf (1916-1997), alt.

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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

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
riches beyond imagination.
Pour into our hearts such love toward you,
that we, loving you above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord

of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said,
“For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

66:7-18

Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of his praise to be heard;

Who holds our souls in life, and will not allow our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he has done for me.

I called out to him with my moth, and his praise was on my tongue.

If I had found evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

But in truth God has heard me; he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld his love from me.

The Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for

all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

John 14:15-21

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.

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the sermon there will be a pause for silence.

Choral Meditation

God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at mine end, and at my departing

Text: Book of Hours (1514).

Music: Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941).

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 (CP 239)

ST. ALBINUS

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| <p>1. Jesus lives! Thy terrors now
can no more, O death, appal us.
Jesus lives! By this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia!</p> <p>2. Jesus lives! Henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal;
this shall calm our trembling breath
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!</p> | <p>3. Jesus lives! For us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia!</p> <p>4. Jesus lives! Our hearts know well
nought from us his love shall sever;
life, nor death, nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia!</p> |
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Text: Christian Furchtegott Gellert (1715-1769); tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897), alt.

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

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 Bansgrove, 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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