

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 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.

Presider: The Reverend Bill Tarter

Reader: Iris Elsdon

Gospel: Stephanie Wood

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair McCollum

Intercessor: Kit Pearson

Sacristan: Elizabeth McAuley

Greeters: Louise Langman, Sarah Kell

Safety Officer: Judith Reid

Audio: Patrick Ryan

Vergers: Douwe Bosma

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Musician: Emily Markwart (Sr. Sutton Organ Scholar)

Cantors: Char Hodgkins; David Stratkauskas

Setting: Missa a Cappella a due Voci –
Gasparo Sborgi (1737-1819)

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Please stand as the clergy enter.

Welcome to all those gathered here and those gathering online.

Gathering

Presider: From wherever we are, near or far, we gather in the name of 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.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

All: And also with 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 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 (CP 365) (sung by the Cantors)

Darwall

Glory to God on high,
and peace to all on earth.

We worship you, we give you thanks,
our heavenly King.

We give you praise,
almighty God and Father blessed
in glory bright.

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
the Father's only Son,
the sacrificial Lamb,
who saves the world from sin,

have mercy Lord.
Beside the Father's hand enthroned,
now hear our prayer.

You only are the Lord.

You only are most high.

You only are the holy one,

Lord Jesus Christ.

And now you reign
with Father and with Spirit one
in glorious light.

Text: Glory to God (*Gloria in excelsis*, Greek hymn, 200?); para. Paul Gibson (1932-)©.
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The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

O God,
in Christ you give us hope
for a new heaven and a new earth.
Grant us wisdom to interpret the signs of our times,
courage to stand in the time of trial,
and faith to witness to your truth and love.

All: Amen.

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002).

Please be seated.

The Proclamation of the Word

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

All: Amen.

The First Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

90:1-12

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God. You turn us back to the dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night. You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. For we consume away in your displeasure; we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation. Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone. Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation? So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Please stand.

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.

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with interest. So, take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Following the address there will be a pause for silence.

Please stand.

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

Leone Leoni (1560-1627)

Dulcissime Iesu Christe, O quam benignus es,
O quam amabilis, O quam desiderabilis
et misericors et suavis,
Qui pro nobis mori dignatus es, Alleluia,
Te decet laus Te decet hymnus
tibi debetur omnis honor, tibi benedictio et charitas,
Tibi gratiarum actio, Tibi gloria,
Virtus et fortitudo Deo nostro in secula seculorum,
Alleluia.

Dearest Jesus Christ, O, how good,
O, how lovely and wonderful,
compassionate and sweet,
Who gave yourself to death, Alleluia;
You are worthy of every praise,
You deserve every honor, blessing and charity;
We give you thanks and glory.
To you be all power and strength for ever;
Alleluia.

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:

Merciful God,
as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
were gathered together to become one bread,
so let your church be gathered together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ,
now and for ever.

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.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord;
you renew that mystery in bread and wine and nourish us,
to show forth your glory in all the world.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the holy people who have served you in every age, we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus (sung by the cantor)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

*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 (sung by the cantor)

Gregorian Chant

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of*
miserere nobis. *the world, have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of*
dona nobis pacem. *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.

Hymn during communion: (CP 497)

Orlando Gibbons

In line with current Covid regulations the congregation in the church building is asked not to sing. Words are provided for meditation on the text as the cantor and those joining in the service via livestream from their homes sing the hymn.

1. Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round
of circling planets singing on their way,
Guide of the nations from the night profound
into the glory of the perfect day:
rule in our hearts, that we may ever be
guided and strengthened and upheld by thee.
2. We are of thee, the children of thy love,
companions of thy well-belovèd Son;
descend, O Holy Spirit, like a dove,
into our hearts that we may be as one:
as one with thee, to whom we ever tend;
as one with him, our pattern and our friend.
3. We would be one in hatred of all wrong,
one in our love of all things sweet and fair,
one with the joy that rises into song,
one with the grief that finds no voice in prayer,
one in the power that makes thy children free
to follow truth, and thus to follow thee.
4. O clothe us with thy heavenly armour, Lord,
thy trusty shield, thy sword of love divine;
our inspiration be thy constant word;
we ask no victories that are not thine:
give us the shield of faith that we may be
steadfast, attentive, firm in serving thee.

Text: John White Chadwick (1840-1904), alt.

Following the Communion there will be a pause for silence.

Please stand to pray.

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

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.

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 November 22nd – The Reign of Christ

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 In spite of living when his country was invaded, Jerusalem destroyed, and his people exiled, Ezekiel offers a message of hope.

Psalms 100 God is joyfully thanked for being both creator and shepherd now and forever.

Ephesians 1:15-23 Members of the Church are Christ's body in the world, and it is crucial they realize their power and purpose.

Matthew 25:31-46 Here is invitation for acts of compassion, to be transformed into experiences of God's presence.

Flowers

In loving memory of my mum , Iris Powell, from Susan Powell and Larry Scyner.

In thankful memory for the lives of those who offered and gave their lives in the Canadian armed services so that we are able to enjoy our lives as their heirs, from the Ashwell family.



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. **Walk-ins are also very welcome, as long as attendance doesn't exceed 30 people.**

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.

Remembrance 2020

O God our help in ages past...yet who remembers today?

One hundred years ago another pandemic claimed the lives of millions.
And from the ashes of war, pandemic and financial ruin came an ugly generation of despotic, ruthless, barbaric, power hungry leaders who took the world to yet another devastation.

O God our help in ages past...don't let us forget today.
It's better to fight for peace through the ballot box than with a gun;
better to remember the beauty of the earth than the desolation of a bomb;
better to give thanks for a life well lived than one sacrificed on the altar of greed.

O God our help in ages past.
This is not an easy place to stand.
These are not easy times.
Enable and embolden us, we are better than cannon fodder.
We are the inheritors of the dreams of those who gave their all that we might know peace.

O God our help in ages past...be our help today!



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

Coumba, Mady, Idriss	Carolyn	Helen
Hagos, Tsigay & family	Nicholas	David & Pat
Sohaila & Fawad	Patrick	Kyla
Anne	Virginia	Gary
Harriet	Alan	Liz
Philip & Lisa	Derek	Lorraine
Rhoda	John	Michael
Silvana Carr	Linda	

RIP – Mike Sibley, Diane Bell, Michael Klingbaum

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

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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