

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 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, appropriate protocols are in place. For the time being due to the instructions from the Provincial Health Officer we will be meeting virtually on Zoom. Please check our website on how to attend: <https://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/> or contact admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

We will continue to livestream the weekly service of Evensong.

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: Judith Branion

Gospel: Stephanie Wood

Sermon: The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt

Intercessor: Jamie Lawson

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Welcome to all who are gathering online.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Loving God, you have called us to be your family and to celebrate our life together in worship. We gather now in our church building, our homes and online to light the Advent candle.

Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe,
All: for you have made all things and your creation is sacred.

Gracious God, you have brought us the Good News of life. Our broken hearts are healed, our sight recovered, our feet set to dancing. Your favour is upon us. We are your beloved children.

All: We are your people, you place your tent among us.

As these Advent candles are lit, may we see what is in our path that hinders our way to God. May we see how the light of Christ brings freedom and fulness, hope and peace, justice, and love.

Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe,
All: for you have made all things and your creation is sacred.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

God of power and mercy,
you call us once again
to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes,
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

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

All: Amen.

The First Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Cantor: Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight : and all flesh shall see the salvation of our Lord. Alleluia.

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.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ He said,
‘I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
“Make straight the way of the Lord”’,
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the address 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.

The Peace

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

Hymn during the Offertory (CP 91)

Besançon

People, look east! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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 hope,
renew in us the joy of your salvation
and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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

Liturgy of the Islands and Inlets – Prayer C

God is here.

All: The Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts and minds.

All: We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh
and opened to us the way of salvation.

Now we watch for the day when he will come again
in power and great triumph to judge this world,
that we, without shame or fear,
may rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, we praise you,
joining our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus (CP 722)

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

*Blessèd is he who comes,
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.*

To you be glory, almighty God,
because on the night before he died,
Jesus took bread,
when he had given thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body
which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;
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, poured out for you;
do this to remember me.
Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Recalling Christ's death and resurrection,
we ask you to accept this, our sacrifice of praise.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son.
When all of creation groans, unite us in Christ and give us your hope
that we might be strengthened to do your work,
as your body in the world.
Through Christ our Redeemer, in the power of the Spirit,
all praise and glory be yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

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

God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**All: Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.**

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn during communion (CP 102)

Bereden väg för Herran

Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet one who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

Refrain

Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion:
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.

Refrain

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Saviour's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.

Refrain

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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

Merciful God,
may this eucharist free us from our sins,
fill us with unending joy,
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,
who is Lord now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Blessing

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.

Readings for December 20th – The 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11 David will not build a temple for God; instead, God will create a dynasty for David.

Luke 1:47-55 In a praise-filled song of rejoicing, Mary lifts up the good news of God's reign and coming restoration.

Romans 16:25-27 The wonder of a mystery, hidden for generations but now revealed, is the heart of this ending to Paul's letter.

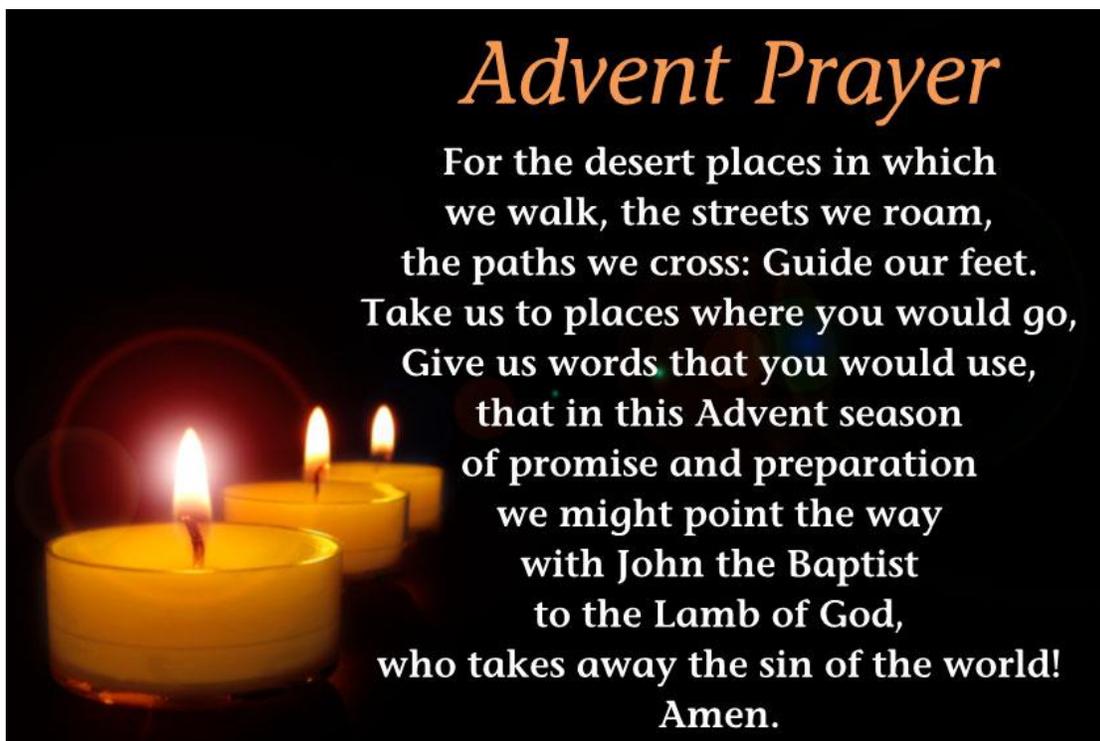
Luke 1:26-38 Mary finds herself in a long line of women in whom God's promises bear fruit. The Messianic hope is to be birthed by her for the world.

EVENSONG

Every Sunday – 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.

Evensong will be livestreamed on the church Facebook page and available via the website www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca



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

Hagos, Tsigay & family	Patrick	Liz
Anne	Alan	Lorraine
Harriet	Derek	Richard
Philip & Lisa	John	Merle
Rhoda	Linda	Marion
Silvana Carr	Helen	Blanche
Carolyn	David & Pat	Iris
Nicholas	Gary	

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: Michael King
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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