

The Church of St. John the Divine

Christmas Day

December 25, 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 Canon Andrew Gates

Reader: Michael Zenger

Gospel: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair McCollum

Intercessor: Lorraine Gates

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Welcome to all who are gathering online.

Lighting of the Christmas 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 Christmas candle.

Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe,

All: for you have made all things and your creation is sacred.

As Isaiah the prophet reminds us: The people have walked in darkness, the people have lived in a land of deep darkness. Open our eyes that have been closed by indifference and greed.

All: We are your people, send your Light to dwell among us.

As this Christmas candle is lit, we remember the light of Christ fills our hearts. This light proclaims that the hungry will be fed, the broken will be healed, the lowly brought into dignity. For a child is born unto us and he is named:

All: Wonderful Counselor, Loving God, Prince of Peace, Jesus, the Christ.

The Collect of Christmas

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
you wonderfully created
and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature.
May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ,
who humbled himself to share our humanity,
and now 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

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

96

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king!
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.”
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Cantor: Alleluia. The word became flesh and dwelt among us : and we have seen his glory.
Alleluia.

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Here the Good news of Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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 154)

Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy.

No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

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 peace,
your Son Jesus Christ has reconciled us to you.
May all we offer you today
renew us as members of your household.
We ask this in his name.

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,
because in the mystery of the Word made flesh
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
to give knowledge of salvation
in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now, with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
we lift our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus (CP 735)

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

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

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**All: God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn during communion (CP 136)

Winchester Old

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
and seized their troubled mind.
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.

To you in David’s town this day
is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin, and never cease.”

Text: Luke 2:8-14; para. Nahum Tate (1652-1715), alt.

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

Father of all,
the child born for us is the Saviour of the world.
May he who made us your children
welcome us into your kingdom,
where is alive and reigns with you 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



Readings for January 3rd – The Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 The glory of the Lord is light for all the nations.

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 In the ancient Near East, kings were next to gods. A king and his heir were seen as endowed with justice by gods, and had special responsibility for the poor and needy. This psalm is a prayer for the king, possibly written for a coronation.

Ephesians 3:1-12 The manifestation of God's revelation to the Gentiles is celebrated and Paul's ministry to them affirmed.

Matthew 2:1-12 "Wise men" (in Latin: magi) were members of a Persian caste of astrologers and interpreters of dreams. Astrology was widely accepted then. A star was associated with each person; the way the star rose told the wise men that a king had been born. A later church tradition called the wise men kings

Flowers are given to the Glory of God

in loving memory of Herb & Ruth Zenger, Hugh & Betty McCaw and Alan Ormerod.



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 | Derek | Merle |
| Anne | John | Marion |
| Harriet | Linda | Blanche |
| Philip & Lisa | Helen | Iris |
| Rhoda | David & Pat | Cathy |
| Silvana Carr | Gary | Jessie |
| Carolyn | Liz | John |
| Nicholas | Lorraine | |
| Patrick | Richard | |

R.I.P. – Alan Ormerod

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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