The Church of St. John the Divine

The 4th Sunday after Epiphany ***January 31, 2021***

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: John Bergbusch
Gospel: Stephanie Wood
Sermon: The Venerable Alastair McCollum
Intercessor: Jamie Lawson
Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Welcome to all who are gathering online.

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

All: **And also with you.**

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.**

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 702)

Refrain
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to your people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Refrain

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
Refrain

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Refrain

Music: *Mass of Hope*, Beckett Gerald Senchur (1946-). © *1992 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.*
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The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light
to shine out of the darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Common Worship (2002) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

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

All: **Amen.**

The First Reading — 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'no idol in the world really exists', and that 'there is no God but one.' Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 'Food will not bring us close to God.' We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm — 111

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the deeds of the Lord! they are studied by all who delight in them.

His work is full of majesty and splendour, and his righteousness endures for ever.

He makes his marvellous works to be remembered, the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

He gives food to those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power of his works in giving them the lands of the nations.

The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure.

They stand fast for ever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

The Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

Cantor: Alleluia. Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world. Alleluia.

God is with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Here the Good news of Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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 397) 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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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:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

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 — 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.**

It is indeed right that we should praise you,
God of love, our source and our fulfilment,
for you create all things and in you we live and move and have our being.
Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.
You made us in your image.
And even though we turn from you,
again and again you call us to yourself,
and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own,
to nuture them in the way of compassionate love.
You sent Jesus among us,
incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary.
Jesus revealed your love for all Creation,
and showed us the way of reconciliation.

Having lived among us – Jesus suffered the cross,
Died,
And in rising again
became the firstborn of the renewed family.
And so as we gather around your table,
With saints of every age and your beloved creation we raise our voices and sing:

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 this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All: **We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn during communion (CP 560) MOSCOW

**1. God, whose almighty Word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight:
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!**

**2. Saviour, who came to bring
on your redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind:
now for all humankind
let there be light!**

**3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed on your flight!
Move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!**

**4. Gracious and holy Three,
glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride:
through the world far and wide
let there be light!**

Text: John Marriott (1780-1825), 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

God of glory,
you nourish us with bread from heaven.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
that through us your light may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

Book of Alternative Services

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 February 7th – The 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 The prophet calls to God's people to remember their source of strength, the one God who has created the universe and sustains everything within it.
Psalm 147:1-7, 21c God our creator is praised for gathering the outcasts, healing the broken-hearted, and lifting up the downtrodden.
1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Freedom in Christ empowers a servanthood so that others might believe.
Mark 1:29-39 Mark shows Jesus rapidly gaining fame, but is that what Jesus wants? Jesus finds clarity in prayer.

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

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

Hagos, Tsigay & family	Anne	Harriet	Philip & Lisa
Rhoda	Carolyn	Nicholas	Patrick
Derek	Linda	Helen	Anthony
David & Pat	Gary	Lorraine	Richard
Merle	Marion	Blanche	Cathy
Jessie	John	Olga	John
Bill			

R.I.P.
Connie Isherwood
Catherine Wankiewicz (van-KEV-itch)

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
Vocational Intern: Dr. John Thatamanil

Honorary Assistants

The Rev'd Derek Dunwoody / The Rev'd Canon Andrew Gates
The Rev'd Jane Reid

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