

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 1st Sunday of Lent

February 21, 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 Venerable Alastair McCollum

Reader: Iris Elsdon

Gospel: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Sermon: John Thatamanil

Intercessor: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Cantor: Char Hodgkins

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Welcome to all who are gathering online.

Opening Hymn (CP 170)

ERHALT UNS, HERR

1. **The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**
2. **Alone and fasting, Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.**
3. **So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the bridegroom's friend,
became the herald of Messiah's name.**
4. **Then grant us, Lord, like them to be
full oft in fast and prayer with thee;
our spirits strengthen with thy grace,
and give us joy to see thy face.**
5. **O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in three-fold name adored,
from age to age, the only Lord.**

Text: Latin (6th cent.); tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt. Tr. © Oxford University Press.
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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.

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.

Confession and Absolution

Christ calls us to be reconciled
to our loving Creator, one another, and within ourselves.
Let us open ourselves to God's call for our healing and wholeness.
Let us remember God's kindness, mercy, and love.

Silence is kept.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

God of the wilderness, your Son battled with the powers of darkness
and grew closer to you in the desert:

help us to use these forty days to grow in wisdom and prayer,
so that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Common Worship (2000) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

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

The First Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

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.

Psalm

25:1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be
humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in
their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you
have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

Remembering not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me
according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant
and his testimonies.

Cantor: Praise to you O Christ, **King of e - ter - nal glo - ry!**

Deacon or cantor: *Blessed are those who have endured temptation; they have stood the test and will receive the crown of life.*

All: Praise to you O Christ, **King of e - ter - nal glo - ry!**

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Hear the Good news of Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the address there will be a pause for silence.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare the faith of the Church as we say,

**All: Hear, O Israel;
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.**

Prayers of the People

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 628)

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

- 1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**
- 2. God sent no angel to our race,
of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame
for us, and to this lost world came.**
- 3. For us he was baptized, and bore
his holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.**
- 4. For us he prayed, for us he taught,
for us his daily words he wrought;
by words and signs, and actions, thus
still seeking not himself but us.**
- 5. For us by wickedness betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.**

6. **For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.**
7. **To God whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through the Son,
to God the Father, glory be
both now and through eternity.**

Text: Latin (*O amor quam*, 15th cent.) tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885).

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 our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.
Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006)

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

Prayer 1, Book of Alternative Services

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.

It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God,
for you created all things.

You formed us in your own image.

When we turned away from you in sin,

You did not cease to care for us
but opened a path of salvation for all people.

You made a covenant with Israel,
and through your servants Abraham and Sarah
gave the promise of a blessing to all nations.

Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom;
through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation.

Therefore, with them, and with all your saints
who have served you in every age,
we give thanks and raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

Cantor: Ho - ly, *All:* Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of power and might.
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Gregorian

Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise.
In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ,
to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.
He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners;
he opened the eyes of the blind
and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom
to the poor and to those in need.
In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,
'Take, 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.'

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice
destroys the power of sin and death;
by raising him to life you give us life for evermore.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection,
and looking for his coming again in glory,
we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,
that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people,
a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, almighty Father,
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

We break this bread,

All: Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Let your Church be the wheat
which bears its fruit in dying.

**All: If we have died with him,
we shall live with him;
if we hold firm,
we shall reign with him.**

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

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

Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage;
may our fasting be hunger for justice;
our alms, a making of peace;
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

All: Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

Blessing

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn during communion (CP 180)

SONG 13

1. **Giver of the perfect gift,
only hope of human race,
hear the prayer our hearts uplift,
trembling at thy throne of grace.**
2. **Though the accusing voice within
speaks of many a wrong to thee,
thou canst cleanse from every sin;
thou canst set the conscience free.**
3. **Who can save us, Lord, but thou?
Let thy mercy show thy power.
Lo, we plead thy promise now,
now, in this the accepted hour.**
4. **Oh! may these our Lenten days,
blest by thee, with thee be passed,
that with purer, nobler praise
we may keep thy feast at last.**
5. **God the holy Trinity,
grant the mercy we implore;
God the One, all praise to thee
through the ages evermore.**

Text: Latin (11th cent.?); tr. John Ellerton (1826-1893).

Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.



Readings for February 28th – The 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Abraham is asked to believe in a promise of God that strains his imagination, and he and Sarah are given new names signifying their new relationship with God.

Psalms 22:22-30 A psalm beginning in lament ends in thanksgiving.

Romans 4:13-25 Paul's concern is to show how God works through the faith of people to accomplish God's purposes. At issue is our faith and God's faith in us.

Mark 8:31-38 Peter's difficulty is not unlike our own: it is hard to reconcile suffering with power given by God. We want God to take our suffering away.

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 your heart and 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	John	Bill

R.I.P.

Pat Nichol

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 Bangrove, 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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