

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 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.

Social Distancing: In these times when we must practice social distancing our Sunday Services will be done remotely. You may find a link on our parish website

<https://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/>

Other worship services will also be posted. If our service seems unfamiliar, please follow the cues from our leaflet which is also posted on the web page.

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 hymns, responses and prayers marked in bold print.

Officiant: The Reverend Bill Tarter

Readers: Murray Harris, Doug Sheepwash

Gospel: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Sermon: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Intercessor: Kit Pearson

Zoom Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas (musician)

Soile Stratkauskas (cantor)

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn (CP 9)

Slithers of Gold

1. Today I awake
and God is before me.
At night, as I dreamt,
he summoned the day;
for God never sleeps,
but patterns the morning
with slithers of gold
or glory in grey.

2. Today I arise
and Christ is beside me.
He walked through the dark
to scatter new light.
Yes, Christ is alive,
and beckons his people
to hope and to heal,
resist and invite.

3. Today I affirm
the Spirit within me
at worship and work,
in struggle and rest.
The Spirit inspires all life
which is changing
from fearing to faith,
from broken to blest.

4. Today I enjoy
the Trinity round me,
above and beneath,
before and behind;
the Maker, the Son,
the Spirit together—
they called me to life
and call me their friend.

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Gathering

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Come, God, Creator, makes us one in Christ.

All: Come to us, O God.

Come, God, living Word, open our hearts to your life.

All: Come to us, O God.

Come, Spirit of love, make us people of transformation.

All: Come to us, O God.

Lighting of the Rainbow

The rainbow is a sign of diversity and hope,

All: a reminder of the covenant made between God and humanity.

Lighting of the Red Candle

We light the red candle, symbolizing life in all its richness.

Come, let us worship, learn, and celebrate together.

All: Sweet and vivacious, colour of life.

Thank you God! (*red candle is lit*)

Lighting of the Orange Candle

We light the orange candle, symbolizing healing.

All: Bright and enlivening, colour of healing.

Thank you God! (*orange candle is lit*)

Lighting of the Yellow Candle

We light the yellow candle, symbolizing sunlight and hope.

All: Radiant and bold, colour of hope.

Thank you God! (*yellow candle is lit*)

Lighting of the Green Candle

We light the green candle, symbolizing nature.

All: Restful and abundant, colour of nature.

Thank you God! (*green candle is lit*)

Lighting of the Blue Candle

We light the blue candle, symbolizing harmony

All: Soaring and fluent, colour of harmony.

Thank you God! (*blue candle is lit*)

Lighting of the Purple Candle

We light the purple candle, symbolizing Spirit.

All: Profound and majestic, colour of spirit.

Thank you God! (*purple candle is lit*)

In God's sight, all humanity is a rainbow people.

All: Come, let us worship God together.

United Church of Canada

Lighting of the Family Candle

The Church Family Prayer

Loving God,

All: you've called us to be your family and to celebrate our life together in worship. We pray for all the members of our family, and especially for our young people now, tucked in their homes, surrounded by your love! We pray for the adults who care for them. Bless them, and each of us, in fun and learning, in friendship, and love. Amen.

The Collect for Pride

The minister introduces the Collect with 'let us pray' or similar.

Silence is kept.

God of wisdom strange and surprising,
come and move us.
Enliven our faith.
Stir our spirits.
Stretch our minds and the capacity of our hearts.
Let your living Word renew our hope
and lead us on paths of justice and truth.

All: Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love fulfils the law.
May we love you with all our heart,
all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength,
and may we love our neighbour as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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

Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said,

‘The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?’
Abraham said, ‘God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.’
So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.’ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place ‘The LORD will provide’; as it is said to this day, ‘On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

13

How long, O Lord? will you forget me for ever? how long will you hide your face from me?

How long shall I have perplexity in my mind, and grief in my heart, day after day?

How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God; give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

Lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over me, and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

But I put my trust in your mercy; my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me richly; I will praise the name of the Lord Most High.

The Second Reading

Romans 6:12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free

from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42

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.

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the sermon 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 Celebration of our Eucharistic Faith

Though we are unable to share in Bread and Wine,
we remember that we are people of God, joined together by the love of Christ.
That we are incorporated into the body of Christ.

We remember our sharing in bread and wine
is a symbol of our sharing in Christ's body and blood.
And we join together in this celebration of our union in Christ.

The General Thanksgiving

God is here.

All: God's Spirit is with us.

Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

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

Creator of all that is, author of life itself, by your hand we are formed.
You made us relational.
You created us to thrive – not alone, but together.
You shaped the entire cosmos so that every form of life depends on another.
You never intended for us to power through these lives alone.
You made us strong and resilient people,
but equally vulnerable and dependent on you, the earth, and all our neighbours.

enfleshed.com

Hear the words of Scripture, the story of how our Sacrament began.

1 Corinthians 11: 23-27

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Let us pray.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given us. For all the pains and insults you have borne for us. Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, 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.

All: Amen.

We have lit candles:
Red for life in all its forms,
Orange for healing,
Yellow for sunlight and all kinds of light,
Green for nature in all her diversity,
Blue for harmony, and
Purple for the Spirit which guides us all.

We are called to practice this rainbow of colours in our lives--
in the conversations and interactions in our lives at home, at work, and at play--
as we share here in remembering our bonds of faith in this our faith family,
we prepared to go out, into our communities and the world,
to share the message of God's love for all!

Sydenham Street United Church

The Disciple's Prayer (enfleshed version)

All: Mother of us all,
who dwells within and beyond,
Sacred is your name.
May your holy vision for collective flourishing
come to fruition among us.
May your dreams of justice, love, compassion, and connection
be enfleshed on earth.
Provide us today with what we need to be nourished in body, soul, and heart.
Forgive us for the harm we cause
as we seek to forgive those who have harmed us.
Lead us away from everything that destroys
and liberate us from the hands of evil.
For you are the ultimate course of hope.
Your power-with exceeds all power-over.
Your presence incites eternal wonder.
All praise to you, our comfort and strength.
Amen.

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The Commissioning of the Community

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us go from our prayers to proclaim the good news:

God takes on flesh in the strange and surprising.

Love liberates from the margins.

Together, we have what we need to resist evil and oppression.

The Blessing

Dismissal

With a renewed commitment to solidarity with God and all LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people, may the Spirit lead us from this place with peace.

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

**1. Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
every gift which you impart.**

**2. Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.**

**3. As we worship, grant us vision
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.**

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Our coffee hour will take place 15 minutes after the service has finished, continuing here in our Zoom meeting.



Readings for The 5th Sunday after Pentecost – July 5th

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 According to God's plan, Rebekah of Abraham's kindred becomes the wife of Isaac. **Psalm 45:11-18** This celebratory psalm was composed for the marriage of a king in ancient Israel. **Romans 7:15-25a** Paul speaks of the tension between willing and doing, and of God's mercy through Christ. **Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30** Jesus' words expose the fickleness of humans as they respond to God's duly appointed messengers. Jesus also invites the weary of heart to take up the yoke of discipleship.

The Special Blue Envelope for June is for PEERS.

PEERS Victoria Resource Society is a non-profit society established by former sex workers and community supporters. It provides support, resources and programs for past and current sex workers of all genders, such as help with housing, education, and advocacy services etc.

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

Joyce
Penny
Nolan
Coumba, Mady, Idriss
David
Hagos, Tsigay & family
Andrew
Mavis
Kathy
Alan
Kristjan and family
Sohaila & Fawad
Silvanna & family
James
Justin
Robyn
Arnon
Karen
Anne
David, Kate, Laura and their families

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: Chris Eve
Associate Warden: Karen Coverett
Treasurer: David Buckman

Parish Council

Susan Bangsgrove, Carol Denton, Marguerite Heppell,
Penny Holt, Erin Kelly, Bill Williamson

Synod Delegates

Joel Durkovic, Joel Hefty, Bill 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
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Grant Croswell
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 Dr. Larry Scyner / The Rev'd Jane Reid

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