

The Church of St. John the Divine

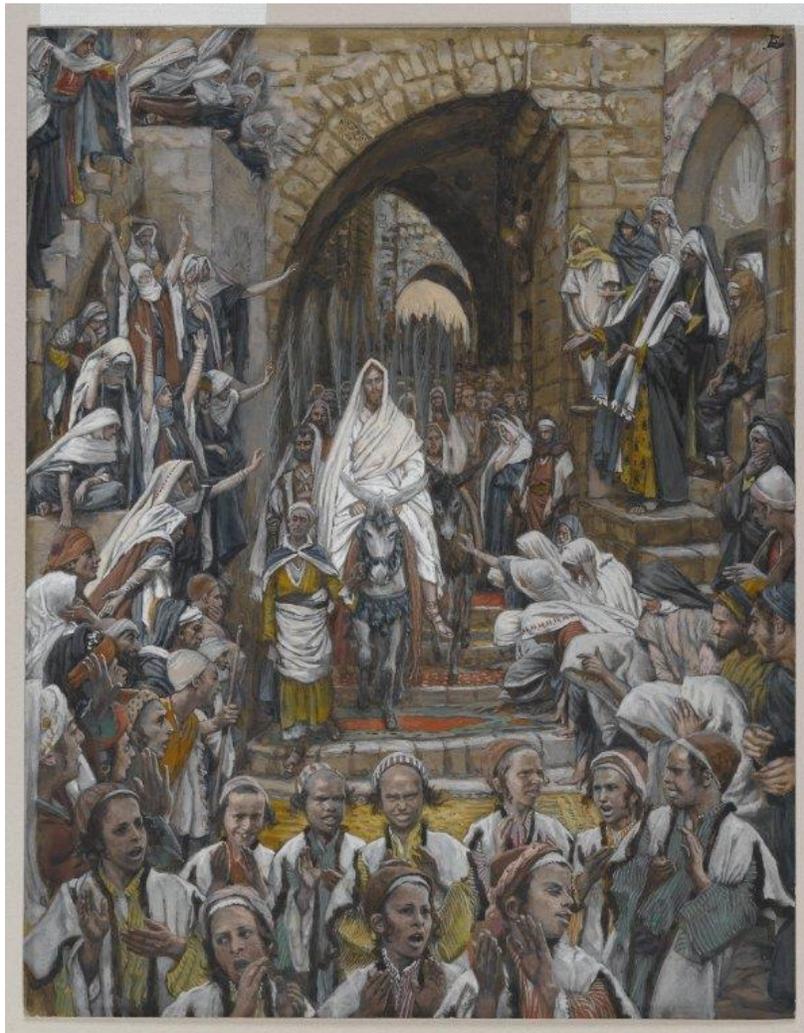
Palm Sunday

April 5, 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.



Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, by James Tissot. [Wikipedia/Brooklyn Museum](#)

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 the 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.

A Service of the Word for Palm Sunday – The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine, Victoria

Officiant: The Venerable Alastair McCollum

Palm Gospel: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Readers: The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt, Lorraine Gates

Passion Gospel: Peggy Wilmot, Chris Eve, Catherine Small, Michael King, Richard Routledge

Intercessions: Kit Pearson

Sermon: The Right Reverend Logan McMenamie

The Gathering of the Community

The Bishop welcomes us and acknowledges the traditional lands of the Indigenous Peoples of these Islands and Inlets.

Lighting of Candle and 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, wherever they may be, and however they are continuing their worship. Bless them, and each of us, in fun and learning, in friendship, and love. Amen.

Introduction

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help,
Lord God of our salvation,
that we may enter with joy
into the celebration of those mighty acts
whereby you give us life and immortality;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

We gather in God's name.

All: We claim Christ's promised presence.

Hymn (All Glory, Laud and Honour)

Refrain:

**All glory, laud and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.**

**1. Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and blessed one.**

Refrain

**2. The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and we with all creation
in chorus make reply.**

Refrain

**3. The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.**

Refrain

**4. To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.**

Refrain

**5. Thou didst accept their praises;
accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.**

Refrain

Text: Theodulph of Orleans (750?-821), tr. John Mason Neale (1818-66), alt.

The Gospel of the Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

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.

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' ⁴This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ 'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey
and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large
crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees
and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that
followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is
this?' ¹¹The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in
Galilee.'

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

We raise our palms/branches/cutouts as a minister says,

God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right to praise you, almighty God,
for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Hebrews acclaimed Jesus as Messiah and King,
with palm branches in their hands, crying,
Hosanna in the highest.

God our Saviour,
whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah
to suffer and to die;
let these palms be for us signs of his victory
and grant that we who bear them in his name
may ever hail him as our King,
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God
as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scriptures.

All: Our hearts and minds are open.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴ The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
⁷ The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
⁹ It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life. But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said, "You are my God. **Refrain.**

My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me." *Refrain*

Gospel of the Passion

Evangelist Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus You say so.

Evangelist But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him

Pilate Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?

Evangelist But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them

Pilate Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Evangelist For he realised that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him

Pilate's wife Have nothing to do with that innocent man; for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.

Evangelist Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them

Pilate Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

Crowd Barabbas

Pilate Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called the Messiah?

Crowd Let him be crucified!

Pilate Why, what evil has he done?

Crowd (louder) Let him be crucified!

Evangelist So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying

Pilate I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.

Evangelist Then the people as a whole answered

Crowd His blood be on us and on our children!

Evangelist So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying

Soldiers Hail, King of the Jews!

Evangelist They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull) they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying

Passers by You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Evangelist In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

Priests He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son'.

Evangelist The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way. From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice

Jesus Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?

Evangelist That is 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'
When some of the bystanders heard it, they said

Passers by This man is calling for Elijah

Evangelist At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said

Passers by Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

Evangelist Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

Centurion Truly this man was God's Son!

Evangelist This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through whom all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
Who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified.
Who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The Disciples Prayer

Drawing our prayers and praises together, we pray as Jesus taught his friends:

**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 Commissioning of the Community

Collect of the Day.

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God.

Almighty and everliving God,
in tender love for all our human race
you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross.
May we follow the example of his great humility,
and share in the glory of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Blessing

Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses and we respond "**Thanks be to God**".

Final Hymn (Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty)

1. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! All the tribes 'Hosanna' cry;
O saviour meek, pursue thy road
with palms and scattered garments
strowed.
2. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp, ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
3. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The angel-squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.
4. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh:
the Father on his sapphire throne
expects his own anointed Son.
5. Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp, ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain;
then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Text: Henry H Milman (1791-1868).

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 Bansgrove, David Buckman, Carol Denton, Marguerite Heppell,
Penny Holt, Erin Kelly, Bill Williamson

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 Crosswell
Deacon: The Rev'd Patrick Sibley

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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