

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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 Patrick Sibley

Reader: Darcy Garneau, Erin Kelly

Gospel: Stephanie Wood

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair McCollum

Intercessor: Peggy Wilmot

Zoom Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas (musician)

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn (CP 429)

ENGLAND'S LAND

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
Christ our God to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.
2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light.
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.
3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.
4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.
5. For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,
Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

Text: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.

Gathering

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Come Creator God, show us your peace.

All: Come, gracious God, come.

Come Christ, Prince of Peace, bring us your peace.

All: Come, gracious God, come.

Come Spirit of Grace, make our hearts havens of your peace.

All: Come, gracious God, come.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God
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.

All: Amen.

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 of the Day

Silence is kept.

Author and Giver of all good things,
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us in all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you":

This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.
 Sing to him, sing praises to him, and speak of all his marvellous works.
 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
 Search for the Lord and his strength; continually seek his face.
 Remember the marvels he has done, his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,
 O offspring of Abraham his servant, O children of Jacob his chosen.
 Israel came into Egypt, and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.
 The Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; he made them stronger than their enemies;
 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, and dealt unjustly with his servants.
 He sent Moses his servant, and Aaron whom he had chosen.
 Hallelujah!

The Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

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.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

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.**

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 God, we give you thanks that you are a generous, abundant,
and gracious, host.

We thank you also that you became the guest of humanity.

In the Word made flesh you became guest of the animals in a stable,
the villagers of Nazareth,

Religious Leaders in the temple, prostitutes, drunkards, and outcasts.

You let us play host, became one of us, dined at our table.

You ate the same bread, drank the same wine. You shared stories and you
shared our story.

When you left the table, you left bread and wine to remember you by.

Alternative Worship (Baker & Gay)

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.

Loving God,

May the weary find a soft place to rest.

May the searching be met by the Sacred.

May the travellers be encouraged, be fed, be clothed, be received.

May the righteous see the fruits of their labour.

May the lonely find comfort in the night.

May the privileged take extravagant actions of solidarity.

May the complicit repent.

May the apathetic come to recognize the hardness of their hearts.

May the courageous have multitudes behind them.

May the creative write, paint, sing, and dance the truths we all need to feel.

May the fearful keep showing up, keep wrestling, keep taking steps.

May the unjust powerful step-down or be torn down.

May the mourning not be rushed to heal.

May the caretakers have their cups refilled.

May the Holy One within each of us rise

All: Amen.

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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 Commissioning of the Community

The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Let us go forth to proclaim the good news.

The Blessing

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Final Hymn (NEH 408)

- 1. God is Love: let heav'n adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before him,
And exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heav'ns above,
God who breathes through all creation,
God is Love, eternal Love.**
- 2. God is Love: and she enfoldeth
All the world in one embrace;
With unfailing grasp she holdeth
Every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
Under sorrow's iron rod,
Then they find that selfsame aching
Deep within the heart of God.**
- 3. God is Love: and though with blindness
Sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal loving-kindness
Holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
O'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
O'er the universe must reign.**

Text: Timothy Rees (1874-1939).
Music: Anthony Caesar (1924-2018).

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

Readings for The 14th Sunday after Pentecost – September 6th

Exodus 12:1-14 Yahweh speaks to Moses and Aaron, instructing preparations for the coming Passover.

Psalms 149 God is praised, with a call to arms. Faithfulness sometimes requires us to engage with the enemies of God, but only to God's glory, never to our own.

Romans 13:8-14 Paul teaches that at the heart of God's laws is the command to love – love of neighbour and love of self.

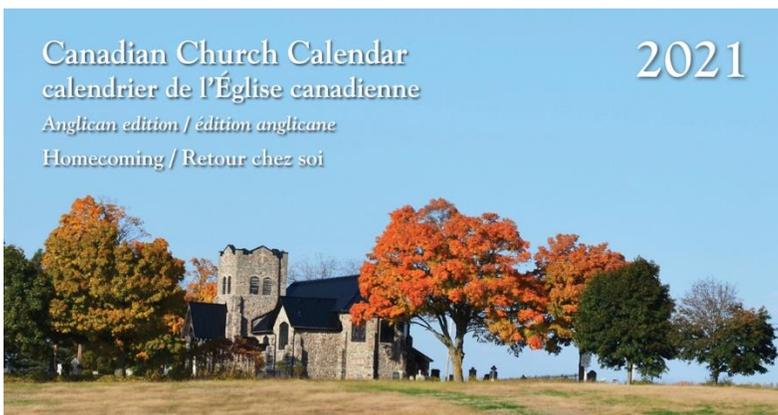
Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus discusses how broken relationships in human affairs can be handled.

The Special Blue Envelope for September is The Food Bank at St. John's

The Food Bank at St. John's provides staple food items to those in need in our community.

Call for Divine Gardeners

The church and the court are joining forces to establish a volunteer Divine Gardeners group. It is hoped such a group would come together regularly (perhaps once a week) to tend to the gardens, weed and plant the flower beds and keep the shrubs trimmed. Generally, the group would ensure our gardens are well looked after, both the Memorial Garden and the garden between the church and the court. If you are a gardener, would like to volunteer to spend time in a garden with other gardeners and contribute to our joint property, please contact Joan Huzar at 250-995-3154 or by email at jhuzar@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca



We will be putting in an order for **Church Calendars** on September 7th. Please let the office know if you would like one.

Prayer is the bedrock of our relationship with God through Christ. Individual requests for intercessory prayer (listed in the leaflet) may be made by contacting Carol-Ann at admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

Also, if you would like a name removed from the prayer list please let us know.

The following people have asked for our prayers.

Please keep them in mind as you go through your week.

Joyce	Stanley
Penny	Harriet
Nolan	Michelle
Coumba, Mady, Idriss	Richard
David	Geoffrey
Hagos, Tsigay & family	Sussex
Andrew	Bradley
Mavis	Robin
Kathy	Anthony
Alan	Pat
Kristjan and family	Carolyn
Sohaila & Fawad	Nicholas
James	Randy
Justin	Philip & Lisa
Robyn	Liz
Arnon	Rhoda
Karen	
Anne	

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: vacant
Associate Warden: Karen Coverett
Treasurer: David Buckman

Parish Council

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

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 Dr. Larry Scyner / The Rev'd Jane Reid

1611 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2L5 Tel. 250-383-7169 / Fax 250-381-3573
pastoral@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca or **for urgent calls only**, use 778-678-6873
www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca facebook.com/St.JohnVicBC
twitter.com/StJohnVicBC e-mail: admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca