

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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.



**Who
do you
say that
I am?**

W	L	A	R	U	Y	V	R	E	O	A	R	L	A	G
K	E	I	F	G	I	F	D	E	V	S	T	P	X	V
D	L	P	V	X	C	T	U	R	V	K	A	F	U	Q
Q	I	H	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	A	N	S
Y	J	T	S	V	N	N	S	T	X	D	A	H	Z	G
H	A	B	B	O	D	G	A	U	R	O	O	L	D	D
N	H	Q	K	V	R	L	Y	Z	A	J	J	E	E	V
D	E	J	Q	C	H	R	I	S	T	J	S	R	V	D
P	R	O	P	H	E	T	S	V	F	S	E	B	T	H
J	E	R	E	M	I	A	H	J	E	W	E	A	R	R
J	A	Z	L	I	R	P	G	L	S	L	I	O	E	K
J	F	A	T	H	E	R	B	N	P	M	V	T	M	U
O	W	V	L	O	D	M	A	O	M	W	E	B	K	G
W	M	G	D	D	M	X	E	G	P	P	X	R	J	O
N	P	I	E	V	R	P	H	X	X	X	W	A	O	D



**Christ,
the Son
of the
living
God!**

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 Canon Andrew Gates

Reader: Merle Wall, David Buckman

Gospel: Chris Eve

Sermon: The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt

Intercessor: Susan Bansgrove

Zoom Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas (musician)

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn (CP 330)

LAUDATE DOMINUM

1. **O praise ye the Lord! Give praise in the height;
rejoice in God's Word, ye angels of light;
ye heavens, adore him by whom ye were made,
and worship before him in brightness arrayed.**
2. **O praise ye the Lord! Give praise upon earth;
in tuneful accord, give thanks for new birth;
praise God who hath brought you all grace from above.
praise God who hath taught you the pathways of love.**
3. **O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, God's glory proclaim in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story of what God hath done.**
4. **O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
be ever outpoured all ages along;
for love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!**

Text: Ps. 150; para. Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.

Gathering

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Come Creator God, show us your peace.

All: Come, God, come.

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

All: Come, God, come.

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

All: Come, 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.

Almighty God,
we are taught by your word
that all our doings without love are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtue;
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 1:8—2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

If the Lord had not been on our side, let Israel now say;
If the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us;
Then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us;
Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us;
Then would the raging waters have gone right over us.
Blessed be the Lord! He has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and
we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

The Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 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

Jesus said, "Peace I leave you, my own peace I give to you,
Not as the world gives do I give you,
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Let us go from our prayers 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.

**1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest:
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad:
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.**

**2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.**

**3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.**

Text: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889).

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



Readings for The 13th Sunday after Pentecost – August 30th

Exodus 3:1-15 Having escaped Egypt and now living as a shepherd, Moses encounters God in a burning bush on Mt. Horeb.

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c With grateful recollection the story of God's deeds are retold.

Romans 12:9-21 Paul lists selfless behaviours that are expected of Christ's followers.

Matthew 16:21-28 Jesus clarifies what it means to be a disciple: it can mean suffering and willingness to die.

The Special Blue Envelope for August is for Refugees.

This envelope is designated for the support of refugee families assisted by the Church of St. John the Divine.

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	

R.I.P. Peter Scriven

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 Bangsrove, 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

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