



Jan 31, 2021

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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**CHORAL EVENSONG**

Church of St. John the Divine

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## St. John's acknowledges these ancestral lands of the Lekwungen speaking people.

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### 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.

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.

### Worship in a time of COVID-19

In these times of COVID-19, appropriate protocols are in place. For the time being due to the instructions from the Provincial Health Officer in-person attendance at services is not possible.

**The Sunday morning service** will be held virtually on Zoom. Please check our website on how to attend: <https://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca> or contact [admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca)

**Sunday Evensong** will continue livestreamed weekly on the church website and Facebook pages.

**Daily prayer online** is shared daily with a link on our website.

**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](mailto: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.

### Assisting with tonight's Liturgy

**Officiant:** The Ven. Alastair Singh-McCollum

**Music:** Choral and Organ Scholars of the Church of St. John the Divine

**Videographer:** Karen Coverett

### A note about language

*In our worship, we use language which is poetic and filled with metaphor and wonder – realising that any language about God is limited. We use some ancient words which may seem odd, or may seem to refer to God as male, or in terms which elsewhere we might not choose to use. The poetry and the metaphor are there not to restrict or define our understanding of God, but to remind us that our words are never enough to talk about the Divine: instead we use the beauty of the words and music in our worship to help us glimpse just a little of the God beyond all words.*

*Listed music is subject to substitution in the event of changes of personnel or situation.*

**COVER IMAGE:** Abbey of St. Walburga. Presentation in the Temple, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54192> [retrieved January 30, 2021]. Original source: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/edithosb/204407845/..](http://www.flickr.com/photos/edithosb/204407845/)

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# ORDER OF SERVICE

## Organ prelude

## The Responses

*Music: Sarah Cattley (b. 1995)*

*Cantor:* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Choir:* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Cantor:* O God, make speed to save us.

*Choir:* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Cantor:* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*Choir:* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Cantor:* Praise ye the Lord.

*Choir:* The Lord's name be praised.

## Psalm

*Psalm 24*

The earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is \*  
the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

2 For he hath founded it upon the seas \*  
and prepared it upon the floods.

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord \*  
or who shall rise up in his holy place?

4 Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart \*  
and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his  
neighbour.

5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord \*  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation of them that seek him \*  
even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.

7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors \*  
and the King of glory shall come in.

8 Who is the King of glory \*  
it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors \*  
and the King of glory shall come in.

10 Who is the King of glory \*  
even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son \* and to the Holy Ghost,

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be \* world without end. Amen.

## First Lesson

*Malachi 3.1-5*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

## Magnificat

*Text: Lk. 1:46-55 Music: William Byrd (1543-1623).*

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and the meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Second Lesson

*Text: Luke 2.22-40*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

## Nunc Dimittis

*Text: Luke 2:29-32. Music: Byrd*

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Apostles' Creed

**All: I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

## Responses, Lord's Prayer, and Collects

*Cantor:* The Lord be with you;

*Choir:* And with thy spirit.

*Cantor:* Let us pray.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

*Cantor:* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

*Choir:* And grant us thy salvation.

*Cantor:* O Lord, save the Queen;

*Choir:* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Cantor:* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

*Choir:* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Cantor:* O Lord, save thy people;

*Choir:* And bless thine inheritance.

*Cantor:* Give peace in our time, O Lord;

*Choir:* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Cantor:* O God, make clean our hearts within us;

*Choir:* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*First Collect, of the day:*

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Second Collect, for Peace:*

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*Third Collect, for Aid Against All Perils:*

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Anthem**

*Text: Magnificat Antiphon for Candlemas. Music: L. Marenzio (1556-1599)*

Hodie beata Virgo Maria  
puerum Jesum presentavit in templo,  
Et Simeon, repletus Spiritu Sancto,  
accepit eum in ulnas suas,  
et benedixit Deum in aeternum.

*Today the Blessed Virgin Mary  
presented the child Jesus in the temple  
and Simeon, full of the Holy Spirit,  
took Him in his arms,  
and blessed God for evermore.*

**Intercessions**

**Response to the Prayers**

*Text: Wm. Blake (1757-1827). Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)*

*Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?  
Gave thee life and bid thee feed  
By the stream and o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing, woolly bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice?  
Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?*

*Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,  
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:  
He is called by thy name,  
For he calls himself a Lamb,  
He is meek, and he is mild;  
He became a little child.  
I a child, and thou a lamb,  
We are called by his name.  
Little Lamb, God bless thee!  
Little Lamb, God bless thee!*

**Sermon**

## Final Hymn (CP 619)

*Text: Múnster Gesangbuch, 1677. Tr. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850, alt.  
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, melody from Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842.*

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| <p>1. Fairest Lord Jesus,<br/>ruler of all nature,<br/>O thou the Godhead's human son:<br/>thee will I cherish,<br/>thee will I honour,<br/>thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.</p> <p>2. Fair are the meadows,<br/>fairer still the woodlands,<br/>robed in the blooming garb of spring;<br/>Jesus is fairer,<br/>Jesus is purer,<br/>who makes the troubled heart to sing.</p> | <p>3. Fair is the sunshine,<br/>fairer still the moonlight,<br/>and fair the twinkling, starry host;<br/>Jesus shines brighter,<br/>Jesus shines purer<br/>than all the angels heaven can boast.</p> <p>4. All fairest beauty,<br/>Heavenly and earthly,<br/>wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;<br/>none can be nearer,<br/>fairer, or dearer<br/>than thou, my Saviour, art to me.</p> |
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## The Blessing or Grace

## Organ Voluntary

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***The Anglican Church of St John the Divine  
(Diocese of British Columbia / Anglican Church of Canada)***

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