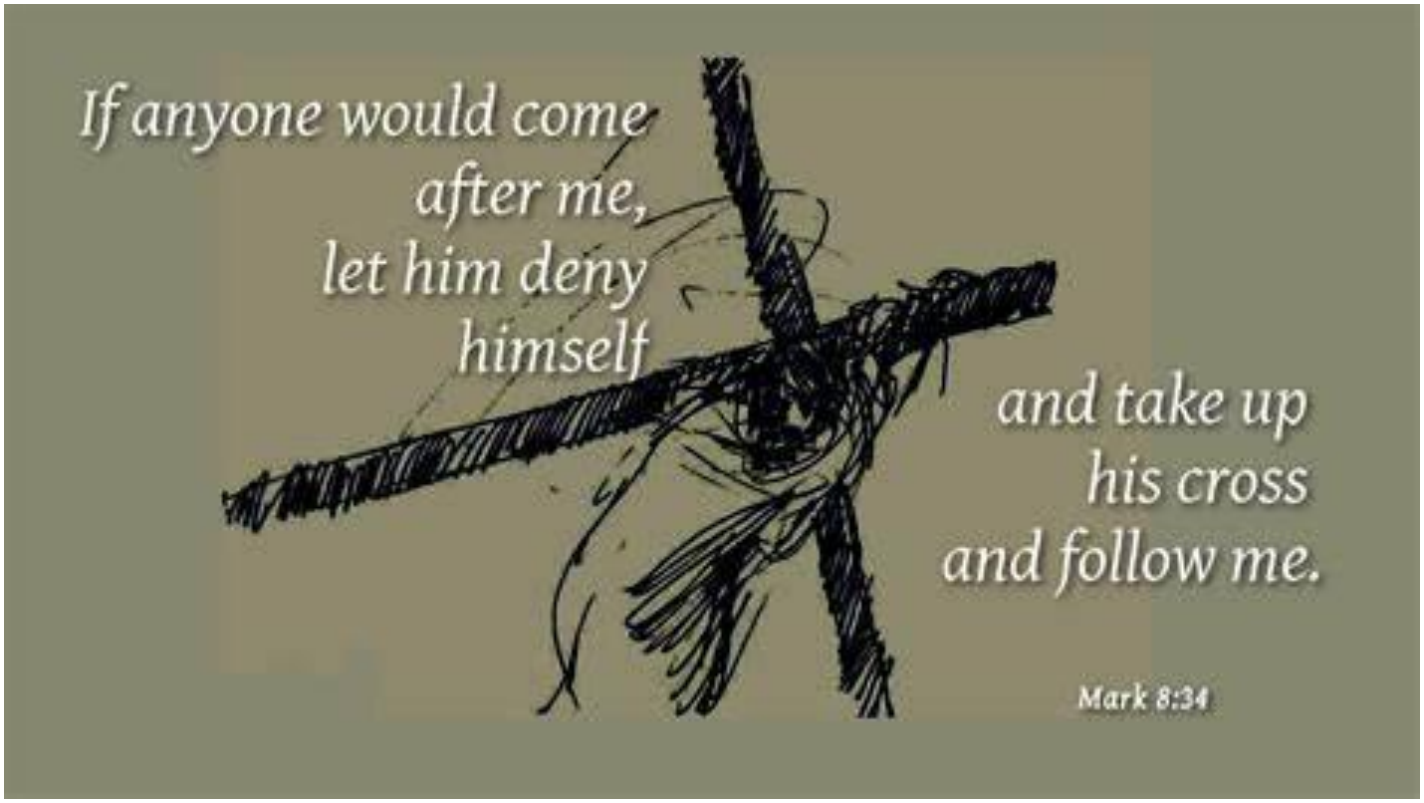
The Church of St. John the Divine

The 2nd Sunday of Lent ***February 28, 2021***

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.

Worship in a time of COVID-19 : In these times when we must be careful in any gathering we have, appropriate protocols are in place. For the time being due to the instructions from the Provincial Health Officer we will be meeting virtually on Zoom. Please check our website on how to attend: https://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/ or contact admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

We will continue to livestream the weekly service of Evensong.

We continue to share daily prayer online with a link on our website daily.

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 responses and prayers marked in bold print.

Presider: The Reverend Bill Tarter
Reader: Al Lehmann
Gospel: Stephanie Wood
Sermon: The Venerable Alastair McCollum
Intercessor: Kit Pearson
Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett
Music: Members of the St. John's Choristers

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Welcome to all who are gathering online.

Opening Hymn (CP 347) LEONI

1. The God of Abraham praise
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting Days, and God of love;
Jehovah, great I AM!
by earth and heaven confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

2. The great I AM has sworn;
I on this oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heaven ascend.
I shall behold God's face;
I shall God's power adore,
and sing the wonders of God's grace for evermore.

3. The goodly land I see
with peace and plenty blest;
a land of sacred liberty, and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow,
and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grown with mercy crowned.

4. Triumphant hosts on high
give thanks eternally
and "Holy, holy, holy" cry, "great Trinity!"
Hail Abraham's God and ours!
One mighty hymn we raise:
all power and majesty be yours and endless praise!

Text: The Yigdal of Daniel ben Judah (1400?); st. 1-3, para. Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt; st. 4 rev.
Hymns for Today's Church. st. 4 © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.
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The Church Family Prayer

Loving God,

All: **you have called us to be your family and to celebrate our life together in worship. We pray now, for all members of our family as we gather in our church buildings, our homes, and online. Through your spirit keep us united in love. Bless each of us with your beloved friendship. Teach us, gracious God, how to be your church in these times. Help us to know that we are your people, that we are your Family, always. Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Confession and Absolution

Christ calls us to be reconciled
to our loving Creator, one another, and within ourselves.
Let us open ourselves to God's call for our healing and wholeness.
Let us remember God's kindness, mercy, and love.

Silence is kept.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison.	*Lord have mercy.*
Christe eleison.	*Christ have mercy.*
Kyrie eleison.	*Lord have mercy.*

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

God of Sarah and Abraham,
long ago you embraced your people in covenant
and promised them your blessing,
strengthen us in faith,
so that, with your followers in every age,
we may proclaim our deliverance in Jesus Christ
to generations yet unborn.

All: **Amen.**

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

Let us listen for the Word of God in Holy Scripture.

The First Reading

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:22-30

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; but when they cry to him he hears them.

My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

The Gospel Mark 8:31-38

Before the Gospel

Cantor: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of eternal Glory.
I do not glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of eternal Glory.

God is with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Hear the Good news of Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, '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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Following the address there will be a pause for silence.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare the faith of the Church as we say,

All: **Hear, O Israel;**
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.

This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

Prayers of the People

Those who have asked for our prayers are listed at the end of the leaflet.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

All may offer their neighbour a sign of peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Music during the Offertory

Ave verum Corpus,	Hail, true body,
Natum ex Maria Virgine,	born of the Virgin Mary,
Vere passum, immolatum	who truly suffered, sacrificed
In cruce pro homine,	on the cross for humankind,
Cujus latus perforatum	whose pierced side
Unda fluxit sanguine:	flowed with water and blood;
Esto nobis praegustatum	be unto us the foretaste
In mortis examine.	in the trial of death.
O dulcis, O pie!	O gentle, O holy one!
O Jesu Fili Mariae. Amen.	O Jesu, Son of Mary. Amen

Text: Edward Elgar (1857-1934).

The Prayer over the Gifts

In the name of all of us gathered, near and far, we present these our gifts to God.

Let us pray:

God our provider,
you have not fed us with bread alone,
but with words of grace and life.
Bless us and these your gifts,
which we receive from your bounty,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006)

As we prepare to celebrate this Eucharist, we remember that we are the people of God. Near or far we are gathered together by the love of Christ. We remember that we are incorporated into the body of Christ. We join together in this celebration of our union in Christ.

Let us pray.

Thanks be to you,

All: **Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given us, and all that you have borne for us. In our sharing in this Eucharist, in Church or at home, 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. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Prayer 1, Book of Alternative Services

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God,
for you created all things.
You formed us in your own image.
When we turned away from you in sin,
You did not cease to care for us
but opened a path of salvation for all people.
You made a covenant with Israel,
and through your servants Abraham and Sarah
gave the promise of a blessing to all nations.
Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom;
through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation.
Therefore, with them, and with all your saints
who have served you in every age,
we give thanks and raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise.
In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ,
to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.
He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners;
he opened the eyes of the blind
and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom
to the poor and to those in need.
In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,
'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,
'Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.'

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice
destroys the power of sin and death;
by raising him to life you give us life for evermore.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection,
and looking for his coming again in glory,
we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,
that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people,
a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

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 Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread,

All: **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Let your Church be the wheat
which bears its fruit in dying.

All: **If we have died with him,**
we shall live with him;
if we hold firm,
we shall reign with him.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

Following the Communion there will be a pause for silence.

The Commissioning of the Community

One body are we.

All: **For, though we are in many places, we spiritually share one bread.**

Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage;
may our fasting be hunger for justice;
our alms, a making of peace;
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

Blessing

Dismissal

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

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Final Hymn (CP 431) BRESLAU

1. Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if you would my disciple be;
deny yourself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

2. Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still;
your Lord for you endured to die
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

4. Take up your cross, then, in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave:
'twill guide you to a better home
and lead to victory o'er the grave.

5. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Text: Charles William Everest (1814-1877).

Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.

Readings for March 7th – The 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 The Ten Commandments create a basis for healthy, non-exploitative relationships.
Psalm 19 Searching creation and meditating on God's law are ways of seeking God's wisdom.
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Paul teaches that God upset conventional values by revealing in Jesus God's power and wisdom.
John 2:13-22 The story of Jesus in the Temple, found in all four gospels, is key to understanding the opposition religious and political authorities had to Jesus.

EVENSONG
Every Sunday – sung by a small ensemble of Choral Scholars
Evensong is a contemplative, musical and prayerful liturgy, ideally suited to the end of the week and the close of day, and to this current time when we have been asked to avoid congregational singing, but still long for the depth and beauty of a choral liturgy.

Evensong will be livestreamed on the church Facebook page and available via the website www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

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

Hagos, Tsigay & family	Anne	Philip & Lisa	Rhoda
Carolyn	Nicholas	Patrick	Elsie
Derek	Linda	Helen	Anthony
David & Pat	Gary	Lorraine	Richard
Deborah	Marion	Blanche	Cathy
John	Bill	Jessie	

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: Michael King
Associate Warden: Karen Coverett
Treasurer: David Buckman

Parish Council

Susan Bansgrove, Carol Denton, Marguerite Heppell,
Penny Holt, Erin Kelly

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
Vocational Intern: Dr. John Thatamanil

Honorary Assistants

The Rev'd Derek Dunwoody / The Rev'd Canon Andrew Gates
The Rev'd Jane Reid

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