



**March 21, 2021 | The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

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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:** Stephanie Wood, Assistant Curate

**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:** Giotto di Bondone (d. 1337), from *Scenes from the Life of Christ*.

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# ORDER OF SERVICE

## Organ prelude

## The Responses

*Music: Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)*

*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.  
Praise ye the Lord.

## Psalm

*Psalm 34.1-10*

1 I will alway give thanks unto the Lord \*  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord \*  
the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

3 O praise the Lord with me \*  
and let us magnify his Name together.

4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me \*  
yea, he delivered me out of all my fear.

5 They had an eye unto him, and were lightened \*  
and their faces were not ashamed.

6 Lo, the poor crieth, and the Lord heareth him \*  
yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord tarrieth round about them that fear him \*  
and delivereth them.

8 O taste, and see, how gracious the Lord is \*  
blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

9 O fear the Lord, ye that are his saints \*  
for they that fear him lack nothing.

10 The lions do lack, and suffer hunger \*  
but they who seek the Lord shall want no manner of thing that is good.

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.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “When Pharaoh says to you, “Perform a wonder”, then you shall say to Aaron, “Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, and it will become a snake.” ’ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the Lord had commanded; Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers; and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same by their secret arts. Each one threw down his staff, and they became snakes; but Aaron’s staff swallowed up theirs. Still Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Pharaoh’s heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water; stand by at the river bank to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that was turned into a snake. Say to him, “The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you to say, ‘Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness.’ But until now you have not listened. Thus says the Lord, ‘By this you shall know that I am the Lord.’ See, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall be turned to blood. The fish in the river shall die, the river itself shall stink, and the Egyptians shall be unable to drink water from the Nile.” ’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘Say to Aaron, “Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over its rivers, its canals, and its ponds, and all its pools of water—so that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the whole land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.” ’

Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and of his officials he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the river, and all the water in the river was turned into blood, and the fish in the river died. The river stank so that the Egyptians could not drink its water, and there was blood throughout the whole land of Egypt. But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts; so Pharaoh’s heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart. And all the Egyptians had to dig along the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink the water of the river.

## Magnificat

*Text: Lk. 1:46-55 Music: Michael Finnissy (b. 1946)*

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 22.1-13*

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it.' They asked him, 'Where do you want us to make preparations for it?' 'Listen,' he said to them, 'when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, "The teacher asks you, 'Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' " He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.' So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

## Nunc Dimittis

*Text: Luke 2:29-32. Music: M. Finnissy*

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:*

WE beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through 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: Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650) Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

Drop, drop, slow tears,  
And bathe those beauteous feet  
Which brought from Heaven  
The news and Prince of Peace:  
Cease not, wet eyes,  
His mercy to entreat;  
To cry for vengeance  
Sin doth never cease.  
In your deep floods  
Drown all my faults and fears;  
Nor let His eye  
See sin, but through my tears.

## **Intercessions**

### **Response to the Prayers**

*Music: Henry Purcell (1659-1695)*

Miserere mei, O Jesu.  
*Have mercy on me, O Jesu.*

## **Sermon**

*Final hymn and Blessing overleaf.*

## Final Hymn (TH1982 585)

Morning glory, starlit sky,  
Soaring music, scholar's truth,  
flight of swallows, autumn leaves,  
Memory's treasure, grace of youth;

Open are the gifts of God,  
Gifts of love to mind and sense;  
Hidden is love's agony,  
Love's endeavour, love's expense.

Love that gives gives ever more,  
Gives with zeal, with eager hands,  
Spares not, keeps not, all outpours,  
Ventures all, its all expends.

*Text: W. H. Vanstone (b. 1923). Music: SONG 13, Gibbons*

Drained is love in making full;  
Bound in setting others free;  
Poor in making many rich;  
Weak in giving power to be.

Therefore he who shows us God  
Helpless hangs upon the Tree;  
And the nails and crown of thorns  
Tell of what God's love must be.

Here is God; no monarch he,  
Throned in easy state to reign;  
Here is God, whose arms of love  
Aching, spent, the world sustain.

## 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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