

The Church of St. John the Divine

Ascension Sunday

May 16, 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.



The Ascension of Jesus, by John Singleton Copley, 1775.

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 and the services are also Live-streamed. Please check our website on how to attend: 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

Intercessor: Kit Pearson

Reader: Al Lehmann

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Gospel: Michael King

Music: Consort of Choristers of St. John the Divine

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair McCollum

Setting: Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni (1657–1743)

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Welcome to all who are gathering online.

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.

Opening Hymn (CP 374)

HYFRYDOL

1. **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!**
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
hath redeemed us by his blood.
2. **Alleluia! Not as orphans**
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
“I am with you evermore”?

3. **Alleluia! Bread of heaven,**
 thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia! here the sinful
 flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
 earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
 sweep across the crystal sea.
4. **Alleluia! King eternal,**
 thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia! born of Mary,
 earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne.
Thou within the veil hast entered,
 robed in flesh, our great high priest;
thou on earth both priest and victim
 in the eucharistic feast.
5. **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!**
 His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia! his the triumph,
 his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
 thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation
 hath redeemed us by his blood.

Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1887).

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed, alleluia.

May Christ's grace and peace be with you.

All: May God fill our hearts with joy.

Gloria



Cantor:

Glo - ry be to God on high

Choir:

And on earth peace, good will towards all.



All:

We praise you

Choir:

We bless you.



All:

We wor - ship you.

Choir:

We glorify you.



All:

We give thanks to you for your great glo - ry.

Choir:

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.



All:

O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ.

Choir:

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.



All:

You take a way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

Choir:

You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.



All:

You are seat - ed at the right hand of God the Fa - ther,



have mer - cy up - on us.

Choir:

For you only are holy.



All:

You on - ly are the Lord.

Choir: You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father.



All: A - - - men. —

Translation: Book of Common Prayer, modernised. / Music: Missa viii, 'De Angelis'.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord.

Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of his peace, and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Book of Alternative Services

The Proclamation of the Word

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

The First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a cry of joy.
 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; he is the great king over all the earth.
 He subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet.
 He chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
 God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.
 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.
 For God is king of all the earth; sing praises for all your skill.
 God reigns over the nations; God sits upon his holy throne.
 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together with the people of the God of
 Abraham.
 The rulers of the earth belong to God, and he is highly exalted.

The Gospel

Luke 24:46-53

Before the Gospel

Cantor: Alleluia. I will not leave you desolate, says the Lord; I will come to you.
 Alleluia.

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Hear the Good news of Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the address there will be a pause for silence.

Affirmation of Faith

1. We be - lieve in God the Fa - ther, God al - migh - ty, by whose plan
2. Christ, who on the cross for - sa - ken, like a lamb to slaugh - ter led,
3. We be - lieve in God the Spi - rit; in one Church, be - low, a - bove:

earth and heav - en sprang to be - ing, all cre - at - ed things be - gan.
suf - fered un - der Pon tius Pi - late, he de - scend - ed to the dead.
saints of God in one com - mu - nion, one in ho - li - ness and love.

We be - lieve in Christ the Sa - viour, Son of God in hu - man frame,
We be - lieve in Je - sus ri - sen, hea ven's king to rule and reign,
So by faith, our sins for - giv - en, Christ our Sa - viour, Lord and friend,

vir - gin born, the child of Ma - ry up - on whom the Spi - rit came.
to the Fa - ther's side as - cend - ed till as judge he comes a - gain.
we shall rise with him in glo - ry, to the life that knows no end.

Text: T. Dudley-Smith © 1993 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-719605.

Music: NETTLETON, trad. American.

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

Offertory Motet

Above all praise – F. Mendelssohn

Above all praise and all majesty, Lord thou reignest evermore, Alleluia.

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:

Blessed are you, O God,
ruler of heaven and earth.

Day by day you shower us with blessings.

As you have raised us to new life in Christ,
give us glad and generous hearts,

ready to praise you and to respond to those in need
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

All: Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

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.

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

Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 2

Priest: The Lord be with you. *All:* And al-so with you. *Priest:* Lift up your hearts. *All:* We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *All:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who after his glorious resurrection
appeared to his disciples,
and in their sight ascended into heaven
to prepare a place for us;
that where he is, there we might also be,
and reign with him in glory.
Therefore we praise you with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
who for ever sing this hymn
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, *Holy, holy, holy*
Dominus Deus Sabaoth. *Lord God of power and might.*
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. *Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*
Osanna in excelsis. *Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit *Blessed is he who comes*
in nomine Domini. *in the name of the Lord.*
Osanna in excelsis. *Hosanna in the highest.*

Blessed are you, O Holy One:
when Hagar was driven into the wilderness
you followed her and gave her hope.
When Joseph was sold into bondage,
you turned malice to your people's good.
When you called Israel out of slavery,
you brought them through the wilderness
into the promised land.

When your people were taken into exile
you wept with them by the river of Babylon
and carried them home.

All: Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

At the right time you sent your Anointed One
to stand with the poor,
the outcast, and the oppressed.
Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them.
He accepted water from a woman of Samaria
and offered her the water of new life.
Christ knew the desolation of the cross
and opened the way for all humanity
into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread,
gave it to them, and said, "Take and 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 all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."
Loving and Holy One,
recalling Christ's death and resurrection,
we offer you these gifts,
longing for the bread of tomorrow
and the wine of the age to come.

Therefore we proclaim our hope.
**All: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
that through them you may sustain us
in our hunger for your peace.

We hold before you
 all whose lives are marked by suffering,
 our sisters and brothers.
 When we are broken and cast aside,
 embrace us in your love.

All: Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honour and glory are yours,
 O Source of all life,
 now and for ever.



All: **A men A - men A - men.**

The Disciple's Prayer

Ambrosian Chant

Priest: As our saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray:



Our Fa-ther in hea-ven, hal-lowed be your name, your king-dom come, your will be done,



on earth as in hea-ven. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins



as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al,



and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r, and the glo-ry are yours,



now and for ev-er. A-men__

Music © 1985, Church Publishing Inc. / All rights reserved. Reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-719605.

The Breaking of the Bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All: Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

All: Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*
miserere nobis. *have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*
dona nobis pacem. *grant us peace.*

Following the Communion there will be a pause for silence.

The Commissioning of the Community

Prayer after Communion

Eternal Giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom.

Confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Book of Alternative Services

One body are we.

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

Blessing

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

1. **O Lord most high, eternal king,
by thee redeemed thy praise we sing.
The bonds of death are burst by thee,
and grace has won the victory.**
2. **Ascending to the sapphire throne,
thou claim'st the kingdom as thine own;
and angels wonder when they see
how changed is our humanity.**
3. **Be thou our joy, O mighty Lord,
as thou wilt be our great reward;
let all our glory be in thee
both now and through eternity.**
4. **O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to thee let earth accord,
who art, while endless ages run,
with Father and with Spirit, one.
Alleluia!**

Text: Latin (*Aeterne Rex altissime*, 10th cent.?); st. 1-3, tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), and others;
Rev. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), alt.; st. 4, tr. Attrib. Laurence Housman (1865-1959).
St. 1-3 rev. © 1982 *The Church Pension Fund*.
All rights reserved. Reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-719605.

Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.



Readings for May 23rd – Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 For the disciples on that first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, this feast takes on the new significance of celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church.

Psalms 104:25-35, 37b God's Spirit, as the breath of all creatures, fills the creation.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Ezekiel's vision is of a dispirited people finding life, hope and courage breathed back into them by God's Spirit.

John 15:26-26; 16:4b-15 The departure of Christ is relieved in its pain and fulfilled in its joy by the coming of the Holy Spirit.

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

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

Rhoda

Patrick

Helen

Gary

Deborah

Cathy

Linda

Edna

Anne

Carolyn

Elsie

Anthony

Lorraine

Marion

John

Bill

Alan

Philip & Lisa

Nicholas

Derek

David & Pat

Richard

Blanche

Asher

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 Bangrove, Carol Denton, Marguerite Heppell,
Erin Kelly, Miles Motture, Wendy Suddaby

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

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 250-516-9565
www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca facebook.com/St.JohnVicBC
twitter.com/StJohnVicBC e-mail: admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
