

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Season of Creation

September 5, 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.



Juan, de Flandes, approximately 1465-1519. The Canaanite Woman asks for healing for her daughter, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55921> [retrieved September 1, 2021].
Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Juan_de_Flandes_-_Christ_and_the_Canaanite_Woman_-_WGA12050.jpg.

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 careful protocols in place for our limited gatherings on a Sunday – the plans are available to download on the Website, and for those unable to attend in person our services are also livestreamed there: <https://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/>

We will continue to meet on Sundays at 10am for our Parish Eucharist and at 5:30 pm for a service of Evensong. Please check details on the website as to how to book for each service and the information needed to comply with Provincial requirements.

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 Venerable Alastair McCollum

Greeters: Louise Langman, Ann McLaren

Reader: Christine Scott

Gospel: Kieran Wilson

Musician: David Stratkauskas

Intercessor: Kieran Wilson

Sermon: Dr. John Thatamanil

Streaming Technicians: Karen Coverett, Ryan Qu

Cantor: Soile Stratkauskas

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 381)

PRAISE, MY SOUL

- 1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.**
- 2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to our forebears in distress;
praise him, still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless;
alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.**

3. **Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.**
4. **Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
alleluia, alleluia,
praise the high eternal one.**
5. **Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise us the God of grace.**

Text: Ps. 103; para. Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), alt.

Gathering

From wherever we are, near or far, we gather in the name of God.
We gather in God's love.
There is no distance greater than God, no intimacy closer than God,
there is no separation possible from the love of God.
We gather with God our Loving Creator.
We gather with Jesus our brother and redeemer.
We gather with God. Spirit of Love.

All: Amen.

God of Creation, the earth and skies sing your glory.

All: Beloved God be with us.

God of Life, we strive to care for our fellow creatures,
in fields and mountains, prairies and forests, waters and sky.

All: Beloved God be with us.

God of Care, you prepare the rain for the earth
and we watch our gardens grow.

All: Beloved God be with us.

God of Presence, you share with us the beauty
of the lands, rivers, lakes and sea.

All: Beloved God be with us.

God of Challenge, you call us to steward the earth's gifts,
the forests, and nature's bounty.
To care for and nurture the earth in climate crisis.

All: Beloved God be with us.

God of Wonder, inspire us by the world around us,
and your creative life within us.

All: Beloved God be with us.

Gloria

John Merbecke (1510-1585), adapted



Glo - ry be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will to-wards all.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glo - ri - fy you,



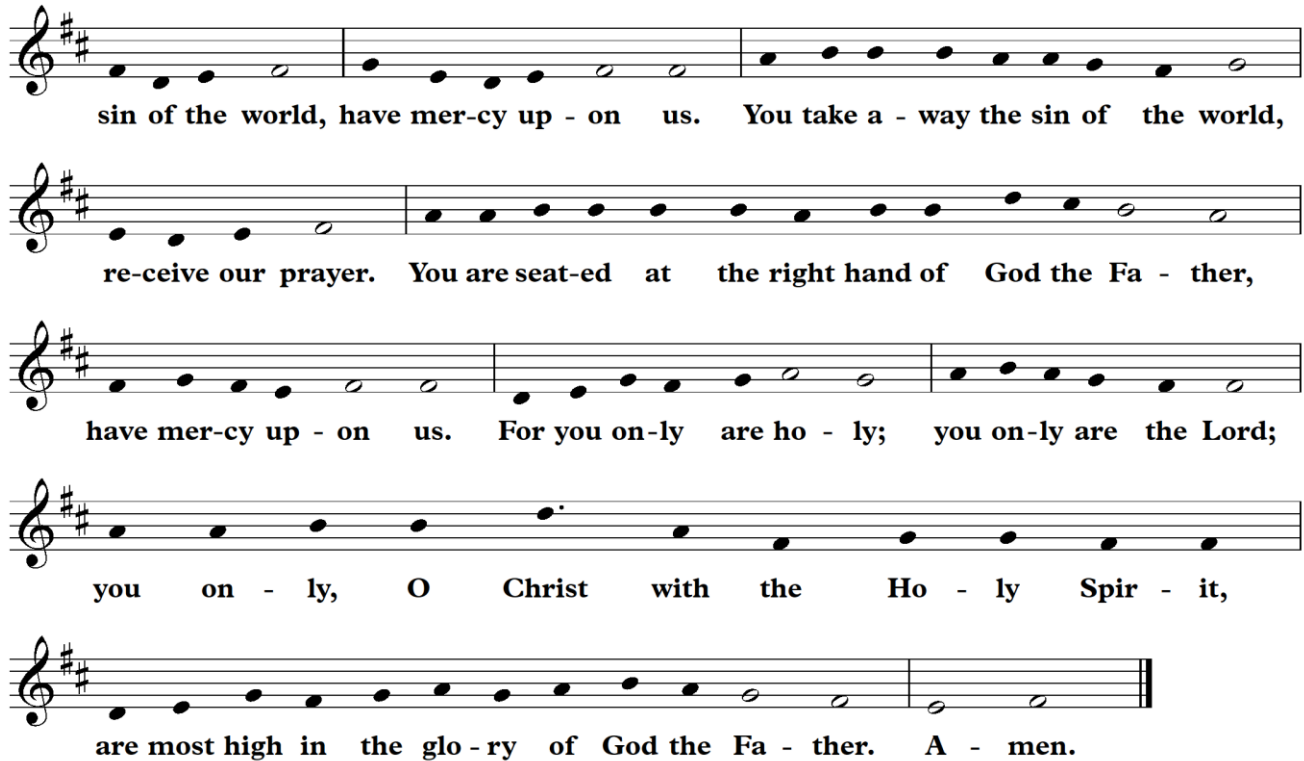
we give thanks to you for your great glo- ry, O Lord god, heav-en - ly King,



God the Fa-ther al-migh - ty. O Lord the on - ly be-got ten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the



sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. You take a - way the sin of the world,
re-ceive our prayer. You are seat-ed at the right hand of God the Fa - ther,
have mer-cy up - on us. For you on-ly are ho - ly; you on-ly are the Lord;
you on - ly, O Christ with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
are most high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

God of power and compassion,
in Christ you reveal your will to heal and to save.
Open our ears to your redeeming word
and move our hearts by the strength of your love,
so that our every word and work
may proclaim Jesus as Messiah,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayers (1997) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

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

The First Reading

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

125

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

The hills stand about Jerusalem; so does the Lord stand round about his people, from this time forth for evermore.

The sceptre of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.

Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good and to those who are true of heart.

As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers; but peace be upon Israel.

The Gospel
Before the Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

Cantor: Alleluia. Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom and healed every infirmity among the people. Alleluia.

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.**

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Sermon

Following the address there will be a pause for silence.

1. **I believe in God almighty,
Author of all things that be,
maker of the earth and heavens,
keeper of the sky and sea.
I believe in God's Son, Jesus,
now for us both Lord and Christ,
of the Spirit and of Mary
born to bring abundant life.**
2. **I believe that Jesus suffered,
scourged and scorned and crucified;
taken from the cross, was buried—
true life there had truly died.
I believe that on the third day
Christ was raised up from the grave,
then ascended to God's right hand.
He will come to judge and save.**
3. **I believe in God's own Spirit,
bonding all the saints within
one church, catholic, and holy,
where forgiveness frees from sin;
in the body's resurrection,
for the breaking of death's chain
gives the life that's everlasting:
this the faith that I have claimed.**

Text: *The Apostles' Creed*; para. Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993).
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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 Hymn (CP 508)

KINGSFOLD

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).

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 of all creation,
all you have made is good,
and your love endures forever.
You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.
Nourish us with these gifts,
so that we might for the world
be signs of your gracious presence
in 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

Liturgy of the Islands, Prayer A

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff has four measures, each with a vocal direction above it: *Priest:*, *All:*, *Priest:*, and *All:*. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al-so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The second staff has two measures with vocal directions *Priest:* and *All:* above them. The lyrics are: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise."

Great Creator, with wit and wisdom you formed the universe.
In expectation, your Spirit brooded over all: the midwife of transformation.
At your Word, the skies, the seas, the lands and all life came to be.
In you, all created things shared life with one another.
In ceremony and song, dance and art, these relationships were portrayed
and honoured by the first peoples of these Islands and Inlets.
The plants, the cedars, the creatures of forest, sea and air
revealed your wonder and majesty.
When we turned from you, connections were broken and creation suffered.
Still, you continued to bring light from night,
freedom from slavery, and life from death.
Therefore, together with our ancestors in faith
and with your beloved creation we sing:

Sanctus (CP 719)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.*

We praise you, Source of all, for the living Word: Jesus.
 Born in poverty; a child refugee, a worker with his hands.
 He gathered disciples and taught and healed the people.
 He freely shared our sorrow, joy, and pain.
 In vulnerability, he showed power over sin triumphed over death.
 On the night before Jesus died, he feasted with his companions.
 He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying,
 "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this to remember me."
 After supper he took the cup and when he had given thanks,
 he gave it to his companions saying,
 "Drink this, all of you; this is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and the world for the forgiveness of sins.
 Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.

Entering into the mystery of faith we call:

All: Come Source of life. Come, transforming Word. Come, Creator Spirit.

With his sacred presence unbounded by space and time,
 we offer to you this bread and cup.
 Send your Breath of Life, like wind, blowing where it will,
 north, east, south and west.
 May your Spirit brood over these gifts and all who feast at this table
 offering a foretaste of the eternal feast to come.
 May all who share your abundant gifts
 be incorporated as one body and one holy people,
 joined in the offering of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection
 for the reconciliation of all things.
 Reveal the unity of your Church and the mystery of our communion
 with our holy forebears and those yet to be born,
 that we may be guided in faith and walk gently on the earth.
 Glory and honour to you Triune God,
 dynamic of love, complete and perfect unity,
 now, and in all ages.



All: A men A - men A - men.

The Disciple's Prayer

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__

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The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All: We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei (CP 745)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

Following the Communion there will be a pause for silence.

The Commissioning of the Community

Prayer after Communion

Father,
your word and sacrament give us food and life.
May we who have shared in holy things
bear fruit to your honour and glory,
in the name of Jesus Christ the 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

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

"Let All Things Their Creator Bless": Liturgy for use during the Seasons of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, pp. 38-3

Final Hymn (CP 306)

RICHMOND

- 1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.**
- 2. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.**
- 3. He speaks, and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.**
- 4. Hear him, ye deaf, ye voiceless ones,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Saviour come,
and leap, ye lame, for joy!**

5. **My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth
abroad the honours of thy name.**

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).

Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.

Readings for September 12th – The 16th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Peter 2:1-5, 9-10

Psalm 84

Matthew 21:12-16

EVENSONG

5:30 pm 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 is offered to a small in-person congregation (drop-in and limited to 40) and will continue to 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.

Anne
Cathy

Anthony
Lorena
Barry

Heather
Sylvia

R.I.P. – Jessie Mantle

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,
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 Bill Tarter (on sabbatical)
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

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