

# The Church of St. John the Divine

*The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
*Season of Creation*

*September 19, 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.

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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.

***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](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.

# 10:00 am Parish Eucharist

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*The congregation is invited to join in the responses and prayers marked in bold print.*

**Presider:** The Venerable Alastair McCollum

**Greeters:** Sherrie Allen, Louise Langman

**Reader:** Margaret Walker – via Zoom

**Gospel:** The Rev. Dr. John Thatamanil

**Sermon:** The Reverend Stephanie Wood

**Intercessor:** Sarah Kell

**Verger:** Chuck Neilson

**Streaming Technicians:** Karen Coverett, Ryan Qu

**Musicians:** Emily Markwart, Sutton Organ Scholar

**Cantor:** Avy Erzinger

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## 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 500)

SERVANT SONG

- 1. Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.**
- 2. We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.**
- 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.**

4. **I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.**
5. **When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've know together  
of Christ's love and agony.**
6. **Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.**

Text: Richard Gillard (1953- ). © 1977 *Scripture in Song* (a div. of Integrity Music, Inc).  
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## 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.**

## The Collect of the Day

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth,  
and ourselves in your image.  
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

The Book of Alternative Services

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## The Proclamation of the Word

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

### The First Reading

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have,

because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.  
Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

## The Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

### Before the Gospel

*Cantor:* Alleluia.

**All: Alleluia.**

*Cantor:* God has called us through the gospel, so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: 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.**

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

The Gospel of Christ.

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

## Sermon

*Following the sermon there will be a pause for silence.*

Affirmation of Faith (CP 44)

BEACH SPRING

- 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.**

## 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.*

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## The Celebration of the Eucharist

### Offertory

There will be a short anthem or voluntary during the Offertory.

### 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 power,  
the glory of your works fills us with wonder and awe.  
Accept our offering this day,  
and help us to live in peace and harmony  
with all your creation,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

The Book of Alternative Services

*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, alternating between '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, both labeled 'All:'. 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.*

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# The Commissioning of the Community

## Prayer after Communion

*Please stand.*

Ruler of the universe,  
all creation yearns for its fulfilment in your Son.  
May we who have shared in holy things  
grow into maturity in him.  
This we ask in the name of the same 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.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Final Hymn (CP 430)

KELVINGROVE

- 1. Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?**
- 2. Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?**

3. **Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?**
4. **Will you love the “you” you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.**

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Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.

## **Flowers are Given to the Glory of God**

In loving memory of my father, Sandy Pearson, who would have turned 100 this month, from Kit Pearson.

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## Readings for September 26<sup>th</sup> – The 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Remembering Truth and Reconciliation, Orange Shirt Day, Season of Creation*

### **Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22**

At the end of the myth of Esther, the ‘villain’ gets his reward for seeking to destroy the people of Israel in exile. Haman is hung on the gallows he built – a story that seeks to offer reassurance to a persecuted and exiled people in simple, and graphic, terms.

### **Psalm 124**

The people of Israel are reminded that God is with them, even in times of danger.

### **James 5:13–20**

A reminder of the importance and power of prayer, and that bringing prayer to the community is a powerful and important thing to do – as we share, honestly, our brokenness and need for healing, God is able to work in us, together, as we support and encourage one another.

### **Mark 9:38–50**

Jesus chastises his followers for not being expansive enough in their understanding of where God works – that those who are doing the work of the Divine are beyond their immediate group. Instead Jesus reminds his followers to focus on their own discipleship, their own need for discipline, their own need to examine themselves and seek Divine transformation.

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## **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](http://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.

Anne  
Cathy  
Patrick  
Elizabeth

Anthony  
Lorena  
Barry  
David, Merle, Althea

Heather  
Sylvia  
Mary  
Sadie

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# 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 Banskrove, 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: The Rev'd Stephanie Wood

Director of Music: David Stratkauskas  
Family Ministry Coordinator: Ruth MacIntosh  
Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger  
Vocational Intern: The Rev'd Dr. John Thatamanil

## Honorary Assistants

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

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