

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 1st Sunday of Advent

November 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 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 hymns, responses and prayers marked in **bold print**.*

Presider: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Greeters: Joan Huzar, Sherrie Allen

Crucifer: Susanna Peterson

Readers: Muriel Ryan (via Zoom)

Jacqueline Gillespie & Becca

Gospel: The Reverend Stephanie Wood

Sermon: The Reverend Stephanie Wood

Intercessor: The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil

Verger: Chuck Neilson

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: The Community Choir

Emily Markwart, Sutton Organ Scholar

David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Welcome to all who are gathering in the church building and online.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Minister: Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe,

All: **For you have made all things, and love your creation.**

Family: Gracious God, you have made light and dark, day and night, we give thanks for the wholeness of your life. We remember that in light things are clearer, and in darkness we may learn to trust in you and celebrate your mystery,

All: **For darkness and light are the same to you**

As these Advent lights remind us of the light brought to us from our history, and our welcome into your Church in baptism, we pray that we too may be people of light and life,

You are God through all time – God of our forebears in faith, Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam – Patriarchs and Matriarchs of old upon whom our story is founded. May we know you in this time and in this place as the God of now and of always, God of promise, and God of hope.

Minister: Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe,

All: **For you have made all things, and love your creation.**

Opening Hymn (CP 110)

WACHET AUF

1. “Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us;
the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”
Midnight’s peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:
“The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light;
the bridegroom is in sight.
Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
that you the wedding feast may share.”
2. Zion hears the watchmen signing.
Her heart with joyful hope is springing;
she wakes and hurries through the night.
Forth he comes, her bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord,
God’s Son, incarnate Word,
alleluia!
We follow all and heed your call
to come into the banquet hall.
3. Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city’s portals:
through them we stream to join the immortals
as we with joy their throne surround.
No eye has known the sight;
no ear heard such delight:
alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet our King;
forever let our praises ring.

Text: Philipp Nicolai (1566-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1944-). Tr. © 1982 Hope Publishing Co
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Gathering

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.

Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie (CP 687)

All: Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

God of justice and peace,
from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness.
Raise our heads in expectation,
so that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord
and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Refrain

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame,
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated. **Refrain**

Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long. **Refrain**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.

Refrain

Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.
He will guide the humble in doing right and teach us way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. **Refrain**

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Before the Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

Cantor: Alleluia.

All: Alleluia.

Cantor: Show us your mercy O Lord : and grant us your salvation.

All: 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.

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the sermon there will be a pause for silence.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe and trust in God the Creator.

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, incarnate Word.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

We believe and trust in the Three in One.

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 92)

BELLWOODS

- 1. O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power;
come with thy timeless judgement now,
to match our present hour.**
- 2. Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.**
- 3. Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.**
- 4. Bring to our world of strife
thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more
and desolation cease.**
- 5. O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth;
let there be light again, and set
thy judgements in the earth.**

Text: R.B.Y. Scott (1899-1987). © 1988 Emmanuel College, Toronto
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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 abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.

Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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

The musical score for the Sanctus consists of two staves of music. The top staff features four vocal parts: Priest, All, Priest, and All, each with a unique melodic line. The lyrics for the Sanctus are integrated into the vocal parts. The bottom staff shows a continuous line of music for the congregation, starting with 'Let us give thanks' and ending with 'to give our thanks and praise.' The music is set in common time with a key signature of one flat.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh,
and opened to us the way of salvation.
Now we watch for the day when he will come again
in power and great triumph to judge this world,
that we, without shame or fear,
may rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices 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 (CP 689)

All: **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.

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 many
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

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-against 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

God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**All: Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.**

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

The deacon will have gluten-free wafers available to those who wish them.

After receiving communion, please move to your right to go back to your seat.

Agnus Dei (CP 690)

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

Music during Communion

Zion, at thy shining gates
Lo, the King of Glory waits,
Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet,
Strew thy palms before his feet.

Christ, for thee their triple light,
Faith and hope and love unite;
This the beacon we display
To proclaim thine advent day.

Come and give us peace within,
Loose us from the bands of sin,
Take away the galling weight
Laid on us by Satan's hate.

Give us grace thy yoke to wear,
Gave us strength thy cross to bear,
Make us thine in deed and word,
Thine in heart and life, O Lord.

So, when thou shalt come again,
Judge of angels and of men.
We with all thy saints singing
Alleluias to our King.

Text: B. H. Kennedy (1804-1889). Music: Melody from Bohm Bruder (1566). Arranged by George Guest.

Following the Communion there will be a pause for silence.

The Commissioning of the Community

Prayer after Communion

Please stand.

God for whom we wait,
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life.
Keep us ever watchful,
that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man.
We ask this in the name of 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.

Acclamation for Advent

- In the life of our Church
All: Come, Lord Jesus!
- With love and compassion
All: Come, Lord Jesus!
- In grace and mercy
All: Come, Lord Jesus!
- Through love and service
All: Come, Lord Jesus!
- In wisdom and growth
All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Dismissal

- Let us go in peace to love and serve our living God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Final Hymn (CP 88)

STUTTGART

1. **Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.**
2. **Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**
3. **Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever:
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**
4. **By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
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Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.

Readings for December 5th – Second Sunday of Advent

- Baruch 5:1-9** A prophet inspires his people to look beyond the limitations they are facing.
- Canticle 19 (Luke 1:68-79)** Zechariah is filled with joy at the birth of his first son, who will be known as John the Baptist.
- Philippians 1:3-11** Paul yearns for the fellowship in a favourite church and prays for its members.
- Luke 3:1-6** John the Baptist preaches a powerful message of repentance and preparation.
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This Sunday, November 28 at 5:30pm

The Advent Sequence

A transfixing sequence of readings, hymns, and choral music, exploring the themes of Advent –

light and darkness, endings and beginnings, hope and justice.

Sung by the Choristers of St John the Divine

No preregistration required. Also live-streamed (stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/live)

The following people have asked for our prayers.

Please keep them in your heart and mind as you go through your week.

Mark	Cathy	Heather
Liz & Mark	John	Daryl
Kerry	Jonah	Keeley
Derrick	Bob & Donna	Daniel

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

Incumbent: The Ven. Alastair Singh-McCollum
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Bill Tarter (on sabbatical)
Assistant Curate: The Rev'd Stephanie Wood

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

Honorary Assistants

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

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