

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 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.



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: Ann McLaren, Sherrie Allen

Crucifer: Penny Holt

Readers: Christine Scott

Madeline Green, Oliver & Arthur

Gospel: Lorraine Gates

Sermon: The Reverend Bill Tarter

Intercessor: Jamie Lawson

Vergers: David Pupak

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: The Choristers of St. John the Divine

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.

Minister: 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 the forerunner of the Christ, of John, known as the baptizer, who declared your promises and called people to repentance and transformation. 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.

1. **Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet one who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.**

Refrain

**Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.**

2. **He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.**

Refrain

3. **Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Saviour's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.**

Refrain

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. Composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). ©
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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 (sung by the choir)

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

God of timeless grace,
you fill us with joyful expectation:
make us ready for the message that prepares the way,
so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy
we may eagerly await the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for 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

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.
For God will give you evermore the name,
'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the
everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 19 (CP 12)

ST. VENANTIUS

1. **We bless you, God of Israel;
you come to set your people free.
In Jesus, born of David's line,
salvation springs for all to see.**
2. **You promised through the prophets' word
to save your people from their foes;
in freedom they will worship you,
fearless, delivered from their woes.**
3. **This child will go before the Lord,
the vanguard of Messiah's way,
preaching forgiveness full and free—
the prelude to God's perfect day.**
4. **Your tender love, like early dawn,
heralds the day of endless peace;
the darkness of death's shadow fades;
your justice reigns, and will not cease.**

Text: *Song of Zechariah* (Luke 1:68-79); para. Paul Gibson (1932-) ©
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The Epistle

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

Before the Gospel

Cantor: Alleluia.

All: Alleluia.

Cantor: Prepare the way of the Lord make his paths straight : and all flesh shall see the salvation of our Lord.

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.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

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.

*(from *Creating Uncommon Worship* by Richard Giles, altd.)*

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 Anthem

A TENDER SHOOT has started up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted, from Jesse's holy race,
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us from Jesse's root should spring
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing
Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us
Thus turning darkness into light.

Text: German, 15th century, versified by Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907); translated Wm. Bartholomew (1793-1867).
Music: Kerensa Briggs (b. 1991).

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

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 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 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

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.

Music during Communion

THIS is the record of John,
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,
Who art thou?
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,
I am not the Christ.
And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?
And he said, I am not.
Art thou the prophet?
And he answered, No.
Then said they unto him,
What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.
What sayest thou of thyself?
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Make straight the way of the Lord.

Text: John 1.19-23. Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

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 106)

ASCENSION

- 1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted;
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!**
- 2. O Zion, give voice to good tidings;
ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish,
like flowers they shall decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.**

3. **But your word, O God, is faithful,
your arm, O Lord, is strong;
you stand in the midst of nations,
and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,
and fold the lambs to your breast;
in pastures of peace you'll lead them,
and give to the weary rest.**
4. **There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!**

Text: Is. 40:3-11; para. James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt.
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Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.

Readings for December 12th – Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 “Rejoice,” says the prophet to a people in exile. “God will bring you home.” **Canticle 3 (Isaiah 12:2-6)** “Rejoice” says the prophet. “God can be trusted.” **Philippians 4:4-7** “Rejoice” says Paul to his friends in Philippi, the appropriate deep, abiding response always for God’s people in Christ. **Luke 3:7-18** John calls his listeners to express deep joy in a different way as they prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

5:30 pm Every Sunday – sung by our Choral Scholars and Choristers

Evensong is a contemplative, musical and prayerful service, ideally suited to the end of the week and the close of day.

Each service includes liturgy and choral music sung by the choir, a pair of congregational hymns, readings related to the morning's lectionary, and prayers plus a short sermon offered by the clergy.

Evensong is offered to a small in-person congregation (no pre-registration required; limited to 70) and will continue to be livestreamed on the church Facebook page and available via the website www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

Flowers

In loving memory of Cheryl Hanson to mark her 60th birthday,
from Mark Hanson & Daryl Hardin.

The following people have asked for our prayers.

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

Mark
Liz & Mark
Kerry
Derrick

Cathy
John
Jonah
Bob & Donna
Sarah

Heather
Daryl
Keeley
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 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

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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