



December 5th 2021

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

CHORAL EVENSONG

Church of St. John the Divine

St. John's acknowledges these ancestral lands of the Lekwungen speaking people.

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.

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.

Worship in a time of COVID-19

In these times of COVID-19, appropriate protocols are in place. We continue to require masks and physical distance for any in-person gatherings and ask all to observe careful hand hygiene.

The Sunday morning service takes place in-person, is also live streamed and is accessible on Zoom.

Sunday Evensong also takes place in person, and livestreamed on the church website and Facebook pages

There is no need to pre-register to attend either service.

Daily prayer online is shared daily with a link on our website either live or via recording.

Contacting Us: The church office is now open Monday-Friday, 9am-12 Noon. 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.

Assisting with tonight's Liturgy

Officiant: The Ven. Alastair Singh-McCollum

Reader: Diana MacDonald

Music: The MacRae Choral Scholars, Emily Markwart, Sutton Organ Scholar,
David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

Videographer: Karen Coverett

A note about language

In our worship, we use language which is poetic and filled with metaphor and wonder – realising that any language about God is limited. We use some ancient words which may seem odd, or may seem to refer to God as male, or in terms which elsewhere we might not choose to use. The poetry and the metaphor are there not to restrict or define our understanding of God, but to remind us that our words are never enough to talk about the Divine: instead we use the beauty of the words and music in our worship to help us glimpse just a little of the God beyond all words.

Listed music is subject to substitution in the event of changes of personnel or situation.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ prelude

Introit

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore.
Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,
Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise.
Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes:
Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!

Music and words: Thomas Campion (1567-1620)

Please stand at the entrance of the clergy. The officiant gives a short welcome.

The Responses

Music: Joanna Forbes l'Etrange (b. 1971)

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Cantor: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord. (The Lord's name be praised.)

Please be seated for the singing of the psalm, overleaf.

- 1 Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks *
yea, unto thee do we give thanks.
- 2 Thy Name also is so nigh *
and that do thy wondrous works declare.
- 3 When I receive the congregation *
I shall judge according unto right.
- 4 The earth is weak, and all the inhabitants thereof *
I bear up the pillars of it.
- 5 I said unto the fools, Deal not so madly *
and to the ungodly, Set not up your horn.
- 6 Set not up your horn on high *
and speak not with a stiff neck.
- 7 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west *
nor yet from the south.
- 8 And why? God is the Judge *
he putteth down one, and setteth up another.
- 9 For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red *
it is full mixed, and he poureth out of the same.
- 10 As for the dregs thereof *
all the ungodly of the earth shall drink them, and suck them out.
- 11 But I will talk of the God of Jacob *
and praise him for ever.
- 12 All the horns of the ungodly also will I break *
and the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

Please stand for the Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son *
and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be *
world without end. Amen.

Please be seated.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Please stand.

Magnificat

Text: Lk. 1:46-55 Music: Michael Finnissy (b. 1946).

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and the meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Please be seated.

Second Lesson

Text: Luke 1:1-25

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand

in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32. Music: Finnissy

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

All: I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Responses, Lord's Prayer, and Collects

Cantor: The Lord be with you;

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Cantor: Let us pray.

Please remain standing, kneel, or be seated as is your preference for prayer.

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Cantor: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor: O Lord, save the Queen;

Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor: O Lord, save thy people;

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Cantor: O God, make clean our hearts within us;

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

First Collect, of the day:

A.C.C.

MERCIFUL GOD, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Second Collect, for Peace:

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Third Collect, for Aid Against All Perils:

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please be seated.

Anthem

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen
aus einer Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen,
von Jesse kam die Art
und hat ein Blümlein bracht
mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu der halben Nacht.

Das Röslein, das ich meine,
davon Jesaia sagt,
ist Maria die reine,
die uns das Blümlein bracht'.
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat
hat sie ein Kind geboren
und blieb ein reine Magd.

Das Blümelein so kleine,
das duftet uns so süß,
mit seinem hellen Scheine
vertreibt's die Finsternis:
Wahr' Mensch und wahrer Gott,
hilft uns aus allem Leide,
rettet von Sünd und Tod.

*A rose has sprung up,
From a tender root.
As the old ones sang to us,
Its lineage was from Jesse.
And it has brought forth a floweret
In the middle of the cold winter
Well at half the night.*

*The rosebud that I mean,
Of which Isaiah told
Is Mary, the pure,
Who brought us the floweret.
At God's immortal word,
She has borne a child
Remaining a pure maid.*

*The floweret, so small
That smells so sweet to us
With its clear light
Dispels the darkness.
True human and true God"
He helps us from all trouble,
Saves us from sin and death.*

Text: unknown, pre-17th century. Music: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Please remain seated, kneel, or stand as is your preference for prayer.

Intercessions

Please stand to sing the hymn.

**Creator of the stars of night,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesus, redeemer of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.**

**Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst save our lost and guilty race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.**

**When earth was near its evening hour,
thou didst in love's redeeming power,
like bridegroom from his chamber, come
forth from a maiden mother's womb.**

**At thy great name, exalted now,
all knees in lowly homage bow;
all things in heaven and earth adore,
and own thee King for evermore.**

**To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three-in-One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.**

Text: Latin (6th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, Sarum plainsong, Mode 4.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand to sing the hymn, overleaf.

Comfort, comfort ye my people;
 speak ye peace: thus says your God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
 bowed beneath oppression's load;
 speak ye to Jerusalem
 of the peace that waits for them:
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

Hark! The herald's voice is calling
 in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
 since the reign of God is here.
 Oh, the warning call obey!
 Now prepare for Christ a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked;
 make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble
 as befits Messiah's reign.
 For the glory of the Lord
 now o'er earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's Word is never broken.

*Text: Is. 40:1-5; para. Johannes G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt.
Music: PSALM 42, Geneva, 1551.*

The Blessing or Grace

Organ Voluntary

*The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine
(Diocese of British Columbia / Anglican Church of Canada)*

1611 Quadra Street Victoria BC V8W 2L5 250.383.7169
stjohnthedivine.bc.ca facebook.com/musicSJD
