

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 4th Sunday of Advent

December 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.



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: Sherrie Allen, Judith Reid

Crucifer: Susanna Peterson

Advent Wreath: Family Ministry

Readers: Joel Durkovic

Family Ministry

Gospel: The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Intercessor: Kit Pearson

Safety Officer: Judith Reid

Verger: Chuck Neilson

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: The Community Choir 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 faithful bearer of Christ, Mary, whose strength and grace inspires us all, who declared the mighty cast down, and the humble raised up, and who nurtured and guided Jesus, the Christ. 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 89)

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

3. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

4. O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust your mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

5. O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

Refrain

6. O come, O Dayspring from on high
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our bitter conflict cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace.

Refrain

Text: Latin (9th cent.?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

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 promise,
you look with favour on the lowly,
you scatter the proud and you fill the hungry.
May we, like Mary, respond to your call
and be obedient to your will;
through Jesus Christ who is to come.

All: Amen.

FWM Proposed Prayers (2004) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

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

The First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.
Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 18

Luke 1:46-55

Refrain

The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations
will call me blessed; **R**
the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name. He has mercy on
those who fear him, from generation to generation. **R**

He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. **R**

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has
come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy. The
promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

The Epistle

Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings
you have taken no pleasure.'

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and
offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the

law), then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

Before the Gospel

Cantor: Alleluia.

All: **Alleluia.**

Cantor: Alleluia. A maiden shall conceive and bear a son: and his name shall be called Emmanuel, God is with us. Alleluia.

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 those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

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 Hymn (CP 267)

O AMOR QUAM ECSTATICUS

1. **The God whom earth and sea and sky
adore and laud and magnify,
whose might they own, whose praise they swell,
in Mary's womb vouchsafed to dwell.**
2. **The Lord whom sun and moon obey,
whom all things serve from day to day,
was borne upon a maiden's breast
who fullest heavenly grace possessed.**
3. **How blest that mother, in whose shrine
the world's Creator, Lord divine,
whose hand contains the earth and sky,
vouchsafed, as in his ark, to lie;**
4. **blest in the message Gabriel brought,
blest by the work the Spirit wrought;
from whom the great Desire of earth
took human flesh and human birth.**
5. **O Lord, the virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom in the Godhead we adore
forever and for evermore.**

Text: Attrib. Venantius Fortunatus (540?-600?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

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 begins with a bassoon solo, followed by a choir entry. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The bottom staff continues the music, with the lyrics: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise..". The music is in common time, with various dynamics and vocal entries.

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.

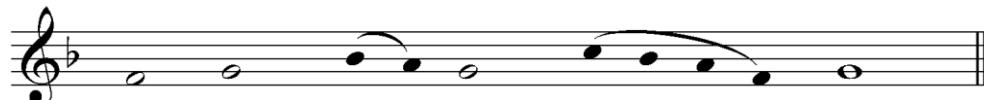
Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
that through them you may sustain us
in our hunger for your peace.

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!

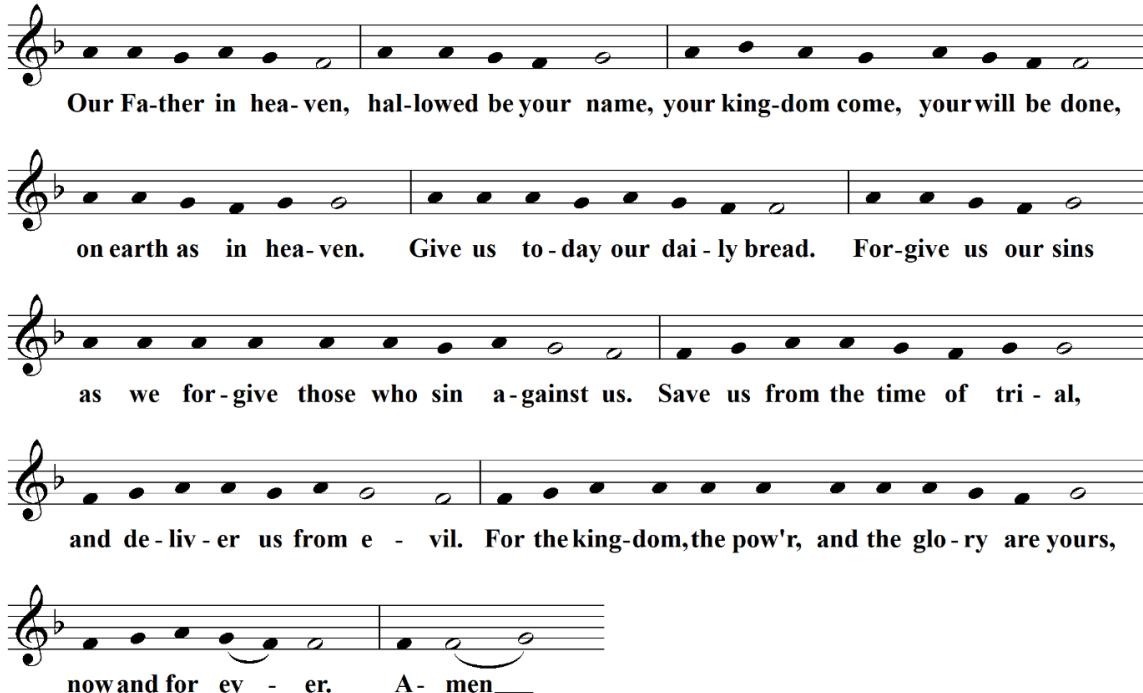
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O Source of all life,
now and for ever.



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.

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

Ave Maria (J. Arcadelt)

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum;
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

Translation:

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

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 362)

WOODLANDS

1. **Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!**
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. **Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!**
Make known his might, the deed his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name—the Lord, the mighty one.
3. **Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!**
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. **Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!**
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Text: *Song of Mary* (Luke 1:46-56); para. Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-).
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Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.

Flowers

In loving memory of Herb and Ruth Zenger, who both died December 19, 10 years apart (Herb in 2005 and Ruth in 2015), from Michael and Carol-Ann Zenger.

Readings for December 26th – 1st Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 From the Hebrew Scriptures we learn of a family that went to the temple each year, and to find their son there.

Psalm 148 All peoples, all creation, are called to praise the Lord.

Colossians 3:12-17 While the 1 Samuel reading tells how young Samuel was clothed, here we learn how Christians are to be clothed.

Luke 2:41-52 A story we have of Jesus' youth tells of a visit he makes with his parents to the temple in Jerusalem when he is twelve years old.

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Sunday, December 19 - 5:30 p.m.

The traditional service of lessons and carols for Christmas,
as popularized by King's College Cambridge:
carols new and old sung by the Choristers of St. John the Divine,
and favourites for everyone to sing.

Christmas Eve – Friday, December 24

4:00 p.m.

All-Age celebration of the Christmas Story

Bring the whole family and rejoice at the birth of Christ.
Children, especially, are invited to participate in the telling
of the Christmas story in word and song.

10:30 p.m.

Midnight Mass

The festive Christmas service, with Holy Communion,
traditional carols and candlelight.

With the Choristers of St. John the Divine and the
Sermon by The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil.

Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 25

Christmas morning service of Holy Communion,
with sermon, congregational carols.

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
Eric

Cathy
John
Jonah
Bob & Donna
Sarah

Heather
Daryl
Keeley
Daniel
Keelee

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
Assistant Curate: The Rev'd Stephanie Wood
Volunteer Curate: The Rev'd Dr. John Thatamanil

Director of Music: David Stratkauskas
Family Ministry Coordinator: Ruth MacIntosh
Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger

Honorary Assistant

The Rev'd Canon Andrew Gates

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