

The Church of St. John the Divine

The 1st Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 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.



Dürer, Albrecht, 1471-1528. Christ as a Twelve-Year-Old in the Temple, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58754> [retrieved December 23, 2021]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Albrecht_D%C3%BCrer_020.jpg.

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

Greeter: Sherrie Allen

Crucifer: Penny Holt

Reader: Margaret Walker

Gospel: The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Intercessor: Lorraine Gates

Verger: Chuck Neilson

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

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

Opening Hymn (CP 123)

IRBY

1. **Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**
2. **He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**
3. **Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round.**

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895).

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.

Gloria (CP 365)

DARWALL

1. **Glory to God on high,**
and peace to all on earth.
We worship you, we give you thanks,
our heavenly King.
We give you praise,
almighty God and Father blessed
in glory bright.
2. **Our Saviour, Jesus Christ,**
the Father's only Son,
the sacrificial Lamb,
who saves the world from sin,
have mercy Lord.
Beside the Father's hand enthroned,
now hear our prayer.
3. **You only are the Lord.**
You only are most high.
You only are the holy one,
Lord Jesus Christ.
And now you reign
with Father and with Spirit one
in glorious light.

Text: *Gloria*, para. Paul Gibson (1932-) ©.
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The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

O God, you have known us
from our mother's womb.
You call us to follow you through all our days
and seek us even when we wander.
Clothe us with your love,
so that we may grow in grace
and find favour in your sight;
through Jesus Christ.

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

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, ‘May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord’; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.
Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created.
He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not
pass away.
Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will;

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;
Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
Young men and maidens, old and young together.
Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven.
He has raised us strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

The Epistle

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

Before the Gospel

Cantor: Alleluia.

All: Alleluia.

Cantor: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Colossians 3:15, 16

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.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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 135)

IRIS

1. Shepherds in the field abiding,
 tell us, when the seraph bright
greeted you with wondrous tiding,
 what you saw and heard that night.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. We beheld (it is no fable),
 God incarnate, king of bliss,
swathed and cradled in a stable,
 and the angel strain was this:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3. Choristers on high were singing
 Jesus and his virgin birth,
heavenly bells the while a-ringing,
 “Peace, good will to all on earth.”
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

4. Thanks, good shepherds, true your story;
 let us go to Bethlehem.
Angels hymn the king of glory;
 carol we with you and them.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Text: French trad.; tr. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934), alt.

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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 light,
in the birth of your Son we see your glory.
May we who share in this mystery
grow daily in your love.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the 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

Eucharistic Prayer II an Incarnation

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff has 'Priest:' above it. The second staff has 'All:' above it. The third staff has 'Priest:' above it. The fourth staff has 'All:' above it. The lyrics are written below each staff: 'The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' and 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

Worship and praise belong to you, God our creator.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Day and night celebrate your glory, till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your Word became flesh,
and was born of Mary.

He emptied himself, taking our human form,
That through his incarnation and passion
we might come to share in his divine nature.

Filled with the Spirit, who at the first Creation
moved over the face of the waters,
and visited Mary at Nazareth,
we await with joy the fulfilment of your new Creation.

As children of your redeeming purpose
who celebrate the birth of your Son, we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God.
In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us,
and lived for a time among us,
that we might for ever live with you.
In the manger at Bethlehem, in his flight to Egypt,
and as the carpenter's son, the Only-begotten bent low to meet us.

Hearing your call, he accepted death on the cross.
When you exalted him on the third day,
and bestowed on him the name above all names,
he opened the gate of glory
that we might be your children and share in your Peace.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
and at supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying: “Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.”

We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of your reign.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.
Hear us, most merciful God,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire
of your love and renewed for the service of your reign.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all peoples, living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you,
God of all ages, world without end.

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

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All: **God here among us,**
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

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.

Following the Communion there will be a pause for silence.

The Commissioning of the Community

Prayer after Communion

Please stand.

Source of truth and joy,
may we who have received the gift of divine life
always follow the way of your Son.
This we ask in the name of Jesus 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.**

Blessing

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go in peace to love and serve our living God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

- 1. Angels, from the realms of glory,**
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 2. Shepherds in the field abiding,**
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 3. Sages, leave your contemplations;**
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4. Saints before the altar bending,**
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 5. Though an infant now we view him,**
he shall fill the eternal throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery (1771-1854) alt.
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Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.

Readings for January 2nd – 2nd Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 We think of prophets as fierce and fiery denouncers of injustice. They are surely that, but we often forget that they also proclaim tender and joyous words of divine consolation as in this beautiful passage in which the prophet heralds Israel's return after exile.

Psalm 147:13-21 In a strange and wondrous song, the Psalmist in one and the same breath speaks of God sending forth snow, hail *and* his statutes and ordinances to Israel. The God who orders the natural world also orders the moral world toward justice, and that is what the Psalmist finds most remarkable.

Ephesians 1:3-14 An exuberant passage that celebrates the blessings made possible for those who are in Christ Jesus. In the middle, a stray phrase occurs: "to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth." Not some things, but *all* things are gathered up in Christ. A possible hint at universal salvation? Certainly what some Christian theologians happily affirm.

John 1:1-18 The glorious prologue to the Gospel of John which deliberately echoes Genesis 1 and proclaims that what has become flesh in Jesus is the Word (*Logos*) which was in the beginning with God and was God. What we often miss about this passage is that the Word doesn't just pop in for one historical visit but is life itself "and the life was the light of all people." Note again "the all."

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
Eric	Sarah	Keelee
	Geoffrey	



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

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Erin Kelly, Miles Motture, Wendy Suddaby

Synod Delegates

Karen Coverett, Joel Hefty, Bill Huzar, Joan Huzar

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

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Family Ministry Coordinator: Ruth MacIntosh
Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger

Honorary Assistant

The Rev'd Canon Andrew Gates

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