

The Church of St. John the Divine

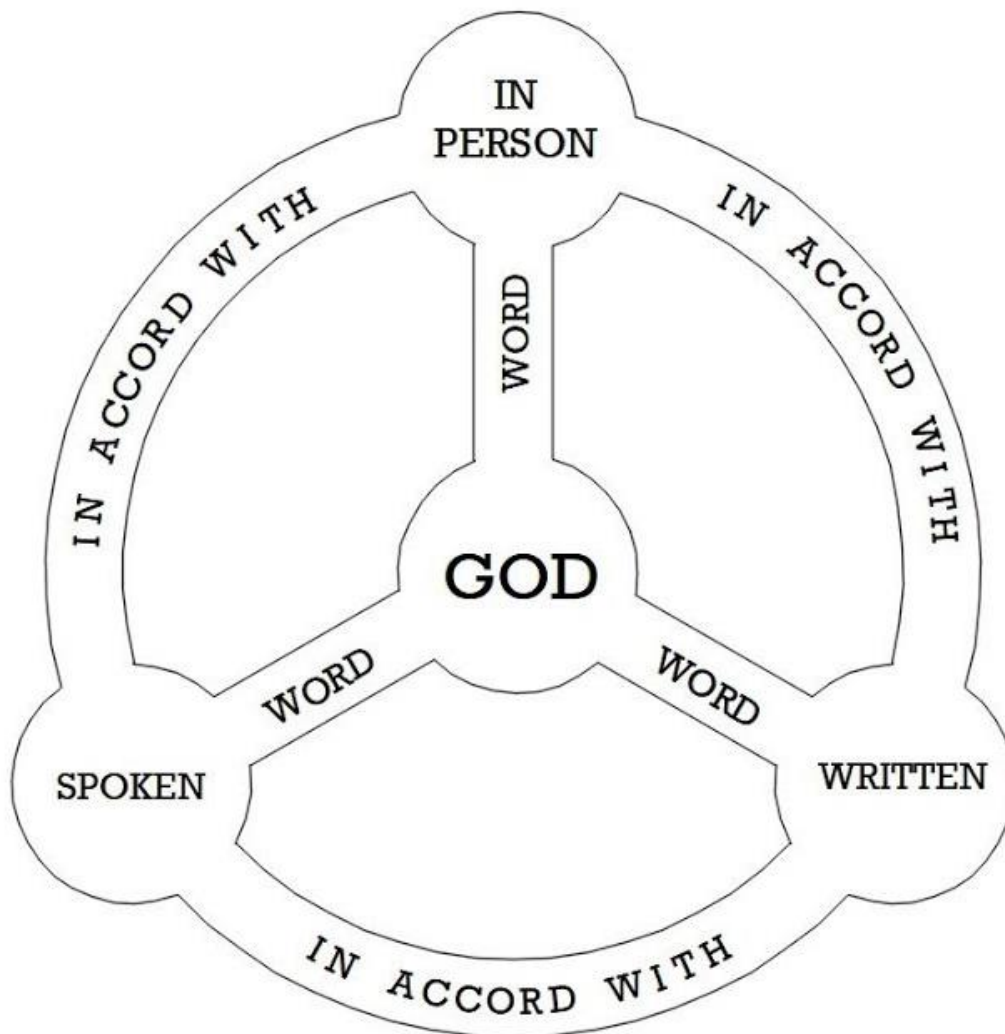
The 2nd Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022

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, Louise Langman

Crucifer: Paul Gillan

Reader: Judith Reid

Gospel: Michael King

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Intercessor: Jamie Lawson

Vergers: 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 156)

DUNDEE

- 1. The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the Light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.**
- 2. To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.**
- 3. For thou their burden dost remove,
and break the tyrant's rod,
as in the day when Midian fell
before the sword of God.**
- 4. For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.**
- 5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.**
- 6. Lord Jesus, reign in us we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit one.**

Text: John Morison (1750-1798).

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.

Gracious God,
you have redeemed us through Jesus Christ,
the first-born of all creation,
whose birth we celebrate in the child of Bethlehem.
Grant us every spiritual blessing,
so that we may live as your adopted children
and witness to your glory with praise and thanksgiving,
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

Jeremiah 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
‘Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.’
See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labour, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.
Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

147:13-21

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion;
For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children
within you.
He has established peace on your borders; he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
He sends out his command to the earth, and his word runs very swiftly.
He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
He scatters his hail like breadcrumbs; who can stand against his cold?
He sends forth his word and melts them; he blows with his wind, and the
waters flow.
He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and his judgements to Israel.
He has not done so to any other nation; to them he has not revealed his
judgements. Hallelujah!

The Epistle

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in
Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in
Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in
love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to
the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely
bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the
forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished

on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

John 1:1-18

Before the Gospel

Cantor: Alleluia.

All: Alleluia.

Cantor: Glory to Christ who is preached among the nations, and believed on in the world. Timothy 3:16

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.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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 139)

THE FIRST NOWELL

1. **The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2. **They lookèd up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.**

Nowell...

3. **And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.**

Nowell...

4. **This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.**

Nowell...

5. **Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

Nowell...

6. **Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who has made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood salvation bought.**

Nowell...

Text: English trad.

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 Lord be with you. And al-so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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:

Sanctus

**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.

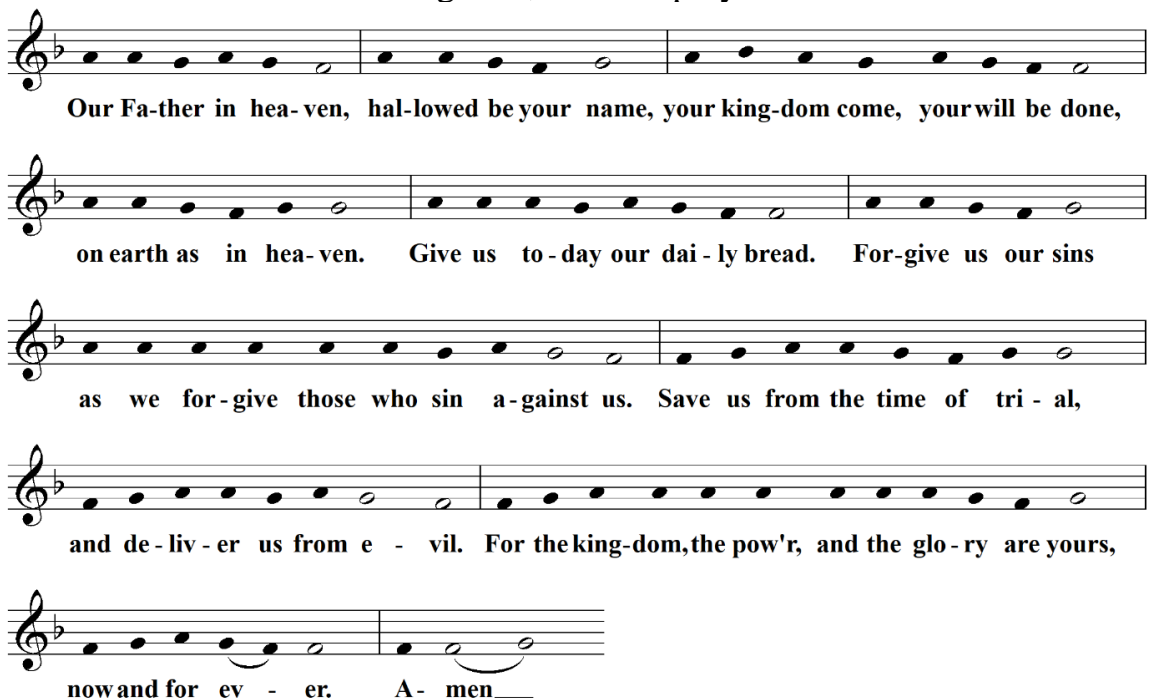
Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body
 to live and work to your praise and glory;
 may we grow together in unity and love
 until at last, in your new creation,
 we enter into our heritage
 in the company of the Mary,
 the apostles, and prophets,
 and of all peoples, living and 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-owed 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. How bright appears the morning star
with mercy beaming from afar;
the host of heaven rejoices.
O righteous Branch of Jesse's rod,
true Light of light and God of God,
we, too, will lift our voices.
Jesus, Jesus,
holy, holy,
yet most lowly,
ever near us,
great Emmanuel, swift to hear us.**
- 2. Though circled by the hosts on high,
you looked on us with pitying eye
and saved your sinful creature;
the whole creation's head and Lord,
by highest seraphim adored,
you took our very nature.
Amen, amen,
alleluia,
alleluia,
praise be given
evermore by earth and heaven.**

Text: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. And adapt. William Mercer (1811-1873), alt.

Please stay and join us for our Zoom Coffee Hour.



Readings for January 9th – The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7 The prophet affirms that Israel is "precious in [God's] sight." An astonishing claim that the creator of the cosmos loves not generically but loves a particular people whom God knows by name.

Psalms 29 A mighty Psalm which finds God's majestic presence shot through all of nature's grandeur. Classical theologians remind us that the faithful ought to read not just one book but two, the book of scripture *and* the book of nature. In this Psalm, the book of scripture teaches us how to read the book of nature.

Acts 8:14-17 The vitality and bravery of the early Jesus community came not just from vivid memory of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection but also the dramatic and vitalizing power of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 John sounds a frightening note when he promises that the Messiah to come will gather up the wheat but "burn [the chaff] with unquenchable fire." But what if both the wheat and the chaff are in us? Perhaps we ought not to fear a purifying fire that removes all that is in us that bears no fruit.

The following people have asked for our prayers.

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

Mark
John

Cathy
Daryl
Eric

Heather
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

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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