



September 25, 2022

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost

CHORAL EVENSONG

The Anglican 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. Although no longer mandatory, masks are still encouraged in all public areas, and we 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, 9:30am-12:30pm. 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 Reverend Stephanie Wood

Reader: Bob MacDonald

Safety Officer: Joel Hefty

Music: Alana Hayes, Cantor; Jennifer Mitchell, Organist

Videographer: Vanessa Whyte

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.

Cover Picture: Artist: Andy Everson, K'ómoks First Nation in B.C.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

The Responses

Music: Margaret Woodley

Cantor: O Lord, open thou our lips.

All: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

All: 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.

Psalm

135:1-14

- 1 O praise the Lord, laud ye the Name of the Lord * praise it, O ye servants of the Lord;
- 2 Ye that stand in the house of the Lord * in the courts of the house of our God.
- 3 O praise the Lord, for the Lord is gracious * O sing praises unto his Name, for it is lovely.
- 4 For why? the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself * and Israel for his own possession.
- 5 For I know that the Lord is great * and that our Lord is above all gods.
- 6 Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth * and in the sea, and in all deep places.
- 7 He bringeth forth the clouds from the ends of the world * and sendeth forth lightnings with the rain, bringing the winds out of his treasures.
- 8 He smote the first-born of Egypt * both of man and beast.
- 9 He hath sent tokens and wonders into the midst of thee, O thou land of Egypt * upon Pharaoh, and all his servants.
- 10 He smote divers nations * and slew mighty kings;
- 11 Sehon king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Basan * and all the kingdoms of Canaan;
- 12 And gave their land to be an heritage * even an heritage unto Israel his people.
- 13 Thy Name, O Lord, endureth for ever * so doth thy memorial, O Lord, from one generation to another.
- 14 For the Lord will avenge his people * and be gracious unto his servants.

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.

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served to him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. So the king said to me, 'Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart.' Then I was very much afraid. I said to the king, 'May the king live for ever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?' Then the king said to me, 'What do you request?' So I prayed to the God of heaven. Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favour with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it.' The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), 'How long will you be gone, and when will you return?' So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date. Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may grant me passage until I arrive in Judah; and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, directing him to give me timber to make beams for the gates of the temple fortress, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.' And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me.

Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent officers of the army and cavalry with me. When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

So I came to Jerusalem and was there for three days. Then I got up during the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. The only animal I took was the animal I rode. I went out by night by the Valley Gate past the Dragon's Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool; but there was no place for the animal I was riding to continue. So I went up by way of the valley by night and inspected the wall. Then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest that were to do the work.

Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burnt. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace.' I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me, and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, 'Let us start building!' So they committed themselves to the common good. But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they mocked and ridiculed us, saying, 'What is this that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?' Then I replied to them, 'The God of heaven is the one who will give us success, and we his servants are going to start building; but you have no share or claim or historic right in Jerusalem.'

Please stand.

Magnificat

Text: Lk. 1:46-55 Music: Willan Fauxbourdons

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

John 8:31-38, 48-end

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free"?'

Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.'

The Jews answered him, 'Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?' Jesus answered, 'I do not have a demon; but I honour my Father, and you dishonour me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the judge. Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.' The Jews said to him, 'Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, "Whoever keeps my word will never taste death." Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?' Jesus answered, 'If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, "He is our God", though you do not know him. But I know him; if I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.' Then the Jews said to him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.' So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32. Music: Willan Fauxbourdons

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;

All: And with thy spirit.

Cantor: Let us pray.

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

All: 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;

All: And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor: O Lord, save the King;

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

Cantor: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

All: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor: O Lord, save thy people;

All: And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

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

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

All: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

1st Collect, of the day:

T.E.C.

O God, who declares thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running to obtain thy promises, may be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

2nd 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.

3rd 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.

Anthem

The choir sings an anthem.

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

Intercessions

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn

 (CP 621)

Text and Music: John L. Bell (1949-).

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Tune: INCARNATION



"I am for you."

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| <p>1. Before the world began,
one Word was there;
grounded in God he was,
rooted in care;
by him all things were made,
in him was love displayed,
through him God spoke, and said,
"I AM FOR YOU."</p> | <p>2. Life found in him its source,
death found its end;
light found in him its course,
darkness its friend.
For neither death nor doubt
nor darkness can put out
the glow of God, the shout,
"I AM FOR YOU."</p> |
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please turn page for vs. 3-4



3. The Word was in the world
 which from him came;
 unrecognised he was,
 unknown by name;
 one with all humankind,
 with the unloved aligned,
 convincing sight and mind,
 "I AM FOR YOU."

4. All who received the Word
 by God were blessed;
 sisters and brothers, they
 of earth's fond guest.
 So did the Word of grace
 proclaim in time and space
 and with a human face,
 "I AM FOR YOU."

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn (CP 508)

Text: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889).

Music: KINGSFOLD, Melody English trad.; coll. Lucy Broadwood (1858-1929); adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).



1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Come unto me and rest;
 lay down, thou weary one, lay down
 thy head upon my breast."
 I came to Jesus as I was,
 so weary, worn, and sad;
 I found in him a resting place,
 and he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Behold, I freely give
 the living water; thirsty one,
 stoop down and drink and live."
 I came to Jesus and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
 my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "I am this dark world's light;
 look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
 and all thy day be bright."
 I looked to Jesus and I found
 in him my star my sun;
 and in that light of life I'll walk
 till travelling days are done.

The Blessing or Grace