
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: Karen Coverett

Safety Officer: Joel Hefty

Music: Choral Scholar Quartet

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

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

The Responses

Music: Radcliffe

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.

Psalm

149

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a new song *
let the congregation of saints praise him.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him *
and let the children of Sion be joyful in their King.
- 3 Let them praise his Name in the dance *
let them sing praises unto him with tabret and harp.
- 4 For the Lord hath pleasure in his people *
and helpeth the meek-hearted.
- 5 Let the saints be joyful with glory *
let them rejoice in their beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be in their mouth *
and a two-edged sword in their hands;
- 7 To be avenged of the heathen *
and to rebuke the people;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron.
- 9 That they may be avenged of them, as it is written *
Such honour have all his saints.

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.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

On the second day the heads of ancestral houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to the scribe Ezra in order to study the words of the law. And they found it written in the law, which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the people of Israel should live in booths during the festival of the seventh month, and that they should publish and proclaim in all their towns and in Jerusalem as follows, 'Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.' So the people went out and brought them, and made booths for themselves, each on the roofs of their houses, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them; for from the days of Jeshua son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the book of the law of God. They kept the festival for seven days; and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the ordinance.

Please stand.

Magnificat

Text: Lk. 1:46-55 Music: Tomkins – Second Service

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 16:1-11

‘I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

‘I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32. Music: Tomkins – Second Service

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 King;
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.

1st Collect, of the day:

T.E.C.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in Christ hast revealed thy glory among the nations: Preserve the works of thy mercy, that thy Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of thy Name; through the same 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

Adrian Batten (1591-1637)

The choir sings an anthem.

O sing joyfully unto God our strength :
 make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
 Take the song, bring hither the tabret :
 the merry harp with the lute.
 Blow up the trumpet in the new-moon :
 even in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast-day.
 For this was made a statute for Israel :
 and a law of the God of Jacob.

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

Intercessions

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn (CP 538)

Text: Sarah Flower Adams (1805-1848).

Music: EXCELSIOR, Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

1. Nearer, My God, to thee,
nearer to thee!
Even though it be a cross
that raiseth me,
still all my song would be:
“Nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer to thee!”
2. Though, like the wanderer,
the sun gone down,
darkness be over me,
my rest a stone,
yet in my dreams I’d be
nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer to thee.
3. There let the way appear,
steps unto heaven;
all that thou sendest me,
in mercy given;
angels to beckon me
nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer to thee.
4. Then with my waking thoughts
bright with thy praise,
out of my stony griefs
Bethel I’ll raise,
so by my woes to be
nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer to thee.
5. Or if on joyful wing
cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot,
upwards I fly,
still all my song shall be
“Nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer, my God, to thee,
nearer to thee!”

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn (CP 31)

Text: John Ellerton (1826-1893).

Music: ELLERS, Edward John Hopkins (1818-1901).



- 1. Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise.
We stand to bless thee ere our worship cease,
then lowly kneeling, wait thy word of peace.**
- 2. Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
with thee began, with thee shall end the day.
Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon thy name.**
- 3. Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
turn thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep thy children free,
for dark and light are both alike to thee.**
- 4. Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife.
Then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.**

The Blessing or Grace

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