
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: Carol Denton

Safety Officer: Carol Denton

Music: The Choristers of St. John the Divine
David Stratkauskas, Director of Music
Char Hodgkins, Assisting Conductor

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: McDowall

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

119:1-16

- 1 Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way * and walk in the law of the Lord.
- 2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies * and seek him with their whole heart.
- 3 For they who do no wickedness * walk in his ways.
- 4 Thou hast charged * that we shall diligently keep thy commandments.
- 5 O that my ways were made so direct * that I might keep thy statutes!
- 6 So shall I not be confounded * while I have respect unto all thy commandments.
- 7 I will thank thee with an unfeigned heart * when I shall have learned the judgements of thy righteousness.
- 8 I will keep thy ceremonies * O forsake me not utterly.
- 9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way * even by ruling himself after thy word.
- 10 With my whole heart have I sought thee * O let me not go wrong out of thy commandments.
- 11 Thy words have I hid within my heart * that I should not sin against thee.
- 12 Blessed art thou, O Lord * O teach me thy statutes.
- 13 With my lips have I been telling * of all the judgements of thy mouth.
- 14 I have had as great delight in the way of thy testimonies * as in all manner of riches.
- 15 I will talk of thy commandments * and have respect unto thy ways.
- 16 My delight shall be in thy statutes * and I will not forget thy word.

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.

Send out your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will get it back. Divide your means seven ways, or even eight, for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth. When clouds are full, they empty rain on the earth; whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie. Whoever observes the wind will not sow; and whoever regards the clouds will not reap.

Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the mother's womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes everything.

In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hands be idle; for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

Even those who live for many years should rejoice in them all; yet let them remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Follow the inclination of your heart and the desire of your eyes, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgement.

Banish anxiety from your mind, and put away pain from your body; for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come, and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them'; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain; on the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look through the windows see dimly; when the doors on the street are shut, and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity.

Besides being wise, the Teacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs. The Teacher sought to find pleasing words, and he wrote words of truth plainly.

The sayings of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings that are given by one shepherd. Of anything beyond these, my child, beware. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone. For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Please stand.

Magnificat

Text: Lk. 1:46-55 Music: Walmisley in D

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

Matthew 22:34-end

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet'"? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32. Music: Walmisley in D

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, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; 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

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

The choir sings an anthem.

Beati quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.

*Blessed are the undefiled in the way,
who walk in the law of the Lord.*

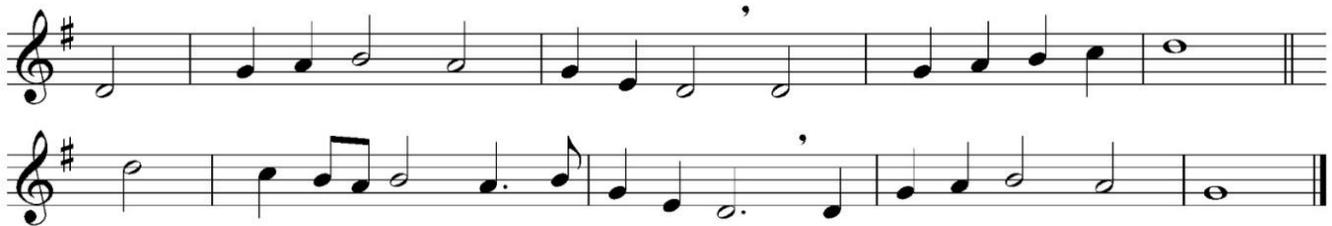
Please remain seated, kneel, or stand as is your preference for prayer.

Intercessions

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn (CP 487)

*Text: Latin (9th cent.); tr. Omer Westendorf (1916-1997).
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| <p>1. Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.</p> <p>2. With grateful joy and holy fear
his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength
now love him in return.</p> <p>3. Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.</p> | <p>4. Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.</p> <p>5. Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.</p> <p>6. Love can exclude no race or creed
if honoured be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Father is the same.</p> |
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Please be seated.

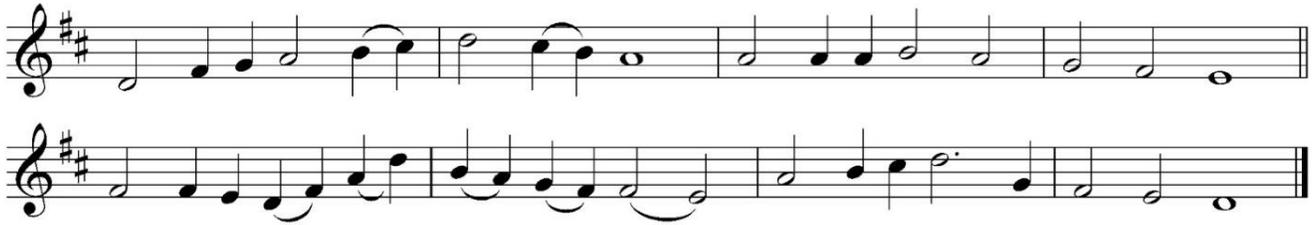
Sermon

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn (CP 503)

Text: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875).

Music: DUKE STREET, William Boyd (1847-1928).



1. **Fight the good fight with all thy might,
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right;
lay hold on life and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.**
2. **Run the straight race through God's good grace;
lift up thine eyes and seek his face.
Life with its path before us lies;
Christ is the way and Christ the prize.**
3. **Cast care aside, lean on thy guide;
his boundless mercy will provide;
trust, and the trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ is love.**
4. **Faint not, nor fear, his arms are near;
he changeth not and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.**

The Blessing or Grace

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