October 15, 2023

The 20th 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

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
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. 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 Pastoral Care Team 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 Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum
Welcomer: Bill Williamson

Music: A Quartet of Choristers
David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

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**:* Poussin, Nicolas, 1594?-1665. Adoration of the Golden Calf, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58476 [retrieved October 12, 2023]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nicolas_Poussin_-_L%27Adoration_du_Veau_d%27or.jpg.

If you would like to give to support the work and ministries of St. John the Divine you can do so in the offering plate which is by the Garden door, there are also envelopes in the book stand which can make your gifts tax efficient. Alternatively, you can scan this QR code which will take you to our Canada Helps giving page. Thank you for your support.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

The Responses

Philip Radcliffe (1905-1986)

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

139:1-18

1 O Lord, thou hast searched me out, and known me * thou knowest my down-sitting, and mine up-rising; thou understandest my thoughts long before.
2 Thou art about my path, and about my bed * and spiest out all my ways.
3 For lo, there is not a word in my tongue * but thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether.
4 Thou hast fashioned me behind and before * and laid thine hand upon me.
5 Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me * I cannot attain unto it.
6 Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit * or whither shall I go then from thy presence?
7 If I climb up into heaven, thou art there * if I go down to hell, thou art there also.
8 If I take the wings of the morning * and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;
9 Even there also shall thy hand lead me * and thy right hand shall hold me.
10 If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me * then shall my night be turned to day.
11 Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day * the darkness and light to thee are both alike.
12 For my reins are thine * thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.
13 I will give thanks unto thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made * marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.
14 My bones are not hid from thee * though I be made secretly, and fashioned beneath in the earth.
15 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect * and in thy book were all my members written;
16 Which day by day were fashioned * when as yet there was none of them.
17 How dear are thy counsels unto me, O God * O how great is the sum of them!
18 If I tell them, they are more in number than the sand * when I wake up I am present with thee.

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.

First Lesson

Proverbs 3:1-18

My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you.

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favour and good repute in the sight of God and of people.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body.

Honour the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

My child, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the LORD reproves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

Please stand.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Philip Moore (b. 1943), Third 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

1 John 3:1-15

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Everyone who commits sin is a child of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not sin, because God's seed abides in them; they cannot sin, because they have been born of God. The children of God and the children of the devil are revealed in this way: all who do not do what is right are not from God, nor are those who do not love their brothers and sisters.

For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them.

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Philip Moore (b. 1943), Third 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:

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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

Please be seated for the anthem.

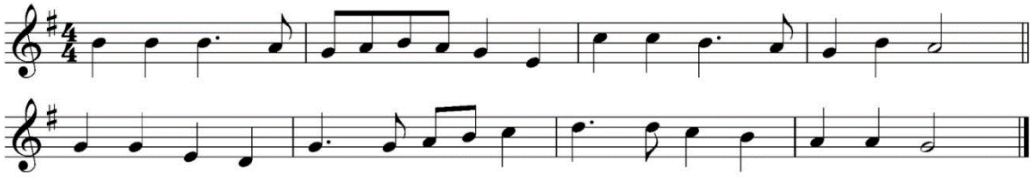
Save us, O Lord, waking, guard us sleeping,
That awake we may watch with Christ,
And asleep we may rest in peace.
Amen.

Text: Compline Prayer
Music: Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

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

Intercessions

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn (NEH 357)

1. Father, hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.

2. Not for ever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be;
But the steep and rugged pathway
May we tread rejoicingly.

3. Not for ever by still waters
Would we idly rest and stay;
But would smite the living fountains
From the rocks along our way.

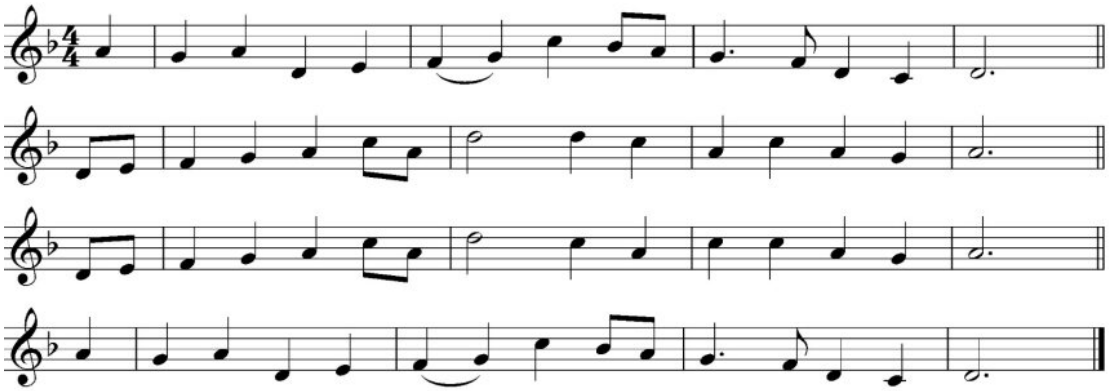
4. Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Text: Maria Willis (1824-1908)
Music: **SUSSEX**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn (CP 593)

1. O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.

2. From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.

3. Lord, strengthen all who labour
that all may find release
from fear of rattling sabre,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.

4. Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and love shall reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

Text: William Watkins Reid, Jr. (1923-2007). © *1958, renewal 1986 The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Hope Publishing Co.* Used under OneLicense.net # A-719605.
Music: **KING'S LYNN**, Melody – Welsh trad.; *Hymnau a Thonau,* 1865.

The Blessing or Grace

Voluntary Chorale — Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)