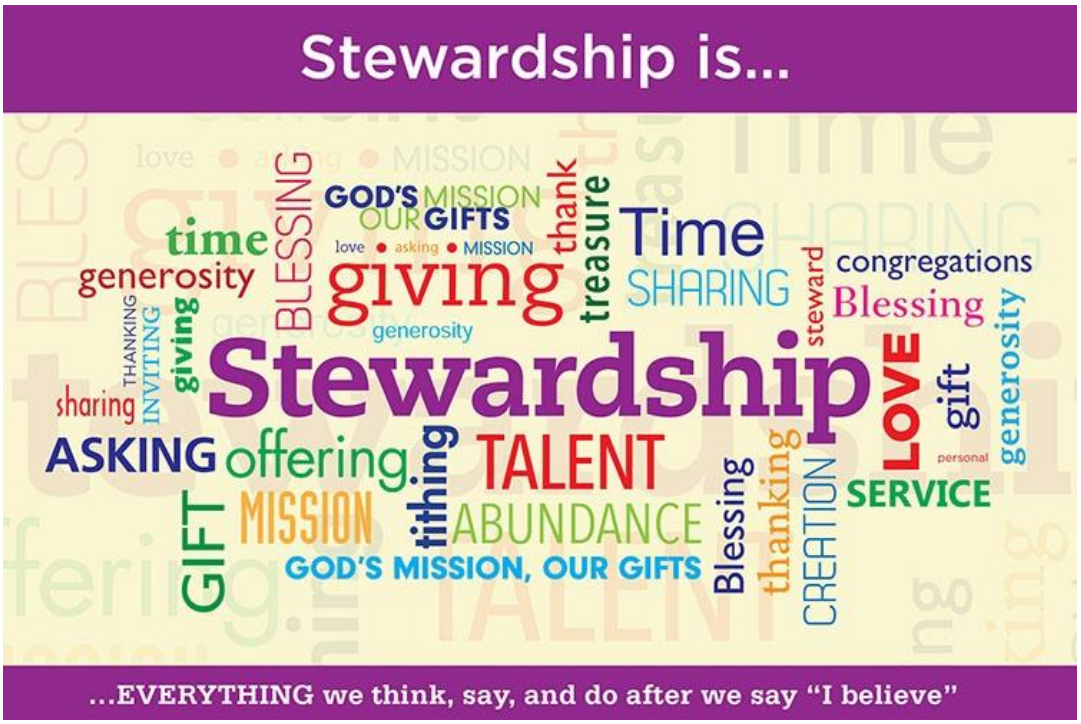


October 29, 2023

The 22nd 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

Music: Cantor and Organist
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.

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

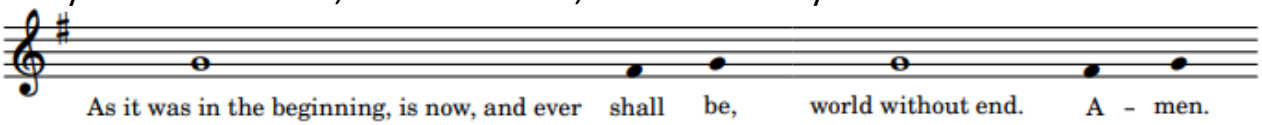
Officiant: O Lord, open thou our lips.

All:

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

All:

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

All: 

Officiant: Praise ye the Lord.

All:

Please be seated for the singing of the psalm.

Psalm

119:89-104

89 O Lord, thy word * endureth for ever in heaven.
90 Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another * thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.
91 They continue this day according to thine ordinance * for all things serve thee.
92 If my delight had not been in thy law * I should have perished in my trouble.
93 I will never forget thy commandments * for with them thou hast quickened me.
94 I am thine, O save me * for I have sought thy commandments.
95 The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me * but I will consider thy testimonies.
96 I see that all things come to an end * but thy commandment is exceeding broad.
97 Lord, what love have I unto thy law * all the day long is my study in it.
98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies * for they are ever with me.
99 I have more understanding than my teachers * for thy testimonies are my study.
100 I am wiser than the aged * because I keep thy commandments.
101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way * that I may keep thy word.
102 I have not shrunk from thy judgements * for thou teachest me.

103 O how sweet are thy words unto my throat * yea, sweeter than honey unto my mouth.
104 Through thy commandments I get understanding * therefore I hate all evil ways.

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

Ecclesiastes 11, 12

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: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Plainsong

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

Mark 12.28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Plainsong

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.

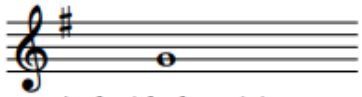
GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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

Officiant: The Lord be with you;

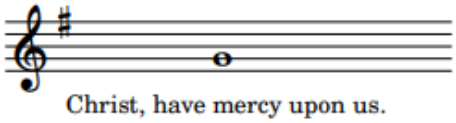


All:

Officiant: Let us pray.

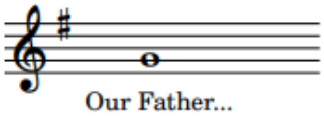
Please remain standing, kneel, or be seated as is your preference for prayer.

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.



***All*:**

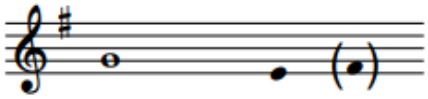
Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.



All:

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.

Officiant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;



All: **And grant us thy salvation.**

Officiant: O Lord, save the King;

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

Officiant: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

All: **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Officiant: O Lord, save thy people;

All: **And bless thine inheritance.**

Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

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

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

All: **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

1st Collect, of the day:

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

Please be seated for the anthem.

God be in my head and in my understanding,
God be in mine eyes and in my looking,
God be in my mouth and in my speaking,
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at mine end and at my departing.

Text: The Book of Hours, 1514. Music: Jeff Enns (b. 1972)

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

Intercessions

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.

please turn page for vs. 3-4

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.* Reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-719605.
Music: **PASSION CHORALE**, Melody – Welsh trad.; *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn (CP 26)

1. **To you before the close of day,**
Creator of all things, we pray
that, in your saving constancy,
our guard and keeper you would be.

2. **Save us from troubled, restless sleep;**
from all ill dreams your children keep.
So calm our minds that fears may cease
and rested bodies wake in peace.

3. **A healthy life we ask of you:**
the fire of love in us renew,
and when the dawn new light will bring,
your praise and glory we shall sing.

4. **Almighty Father, hear our cry**
through Jesus Christ, our Lord most high
whom with the Spirit we adore
forever and for evermore.

Text: Latin (6th cent.); st. 1-3, *The Hymnal* 1982, alt. St. 1-3 © *The Church Pension Fund*.
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The Blessing or Grace

Organ Voluntary