The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

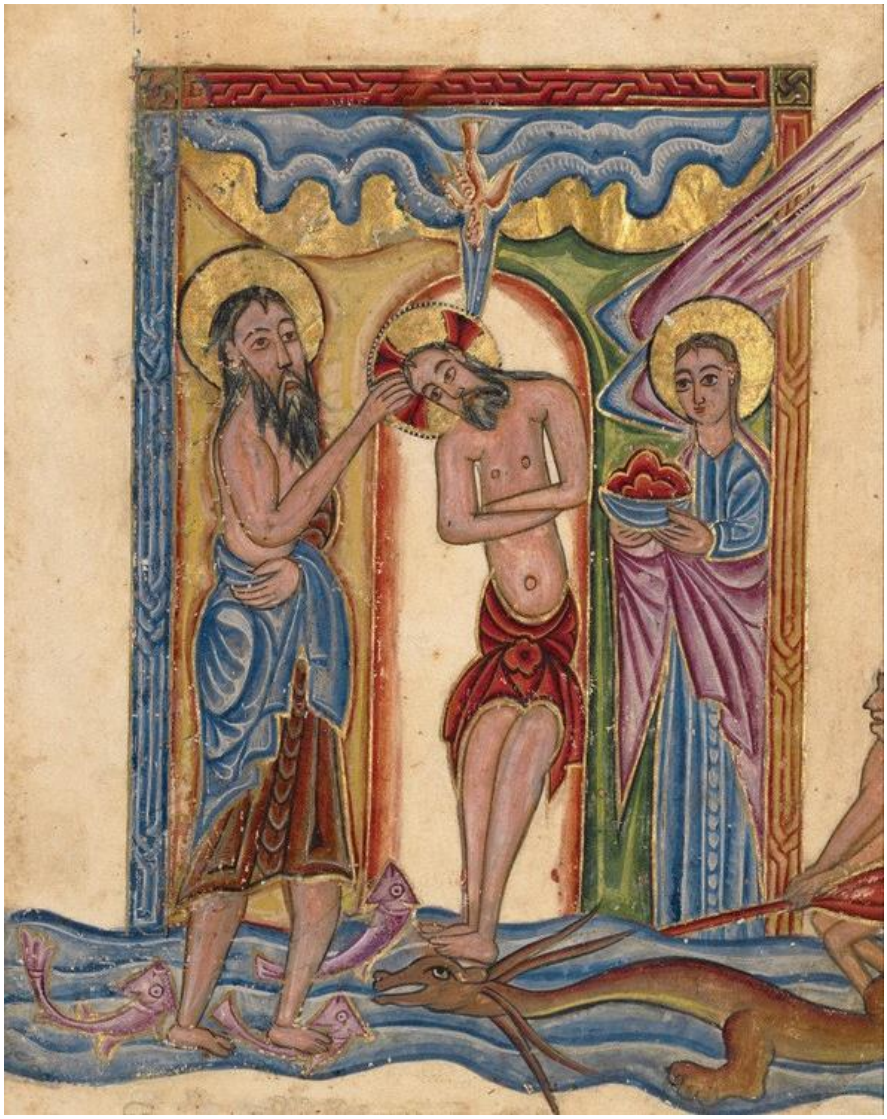
The Baptism of the Lord ***January 7, 2024***

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

As people of God, we celebrate Christ in the heart of Victoria through joyful worship, building inclusive community, and putting faith into action.

St. John's acknowledges these ancestral lands of the Lekwungen people.

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.



Mesrop of Khizan, active 1605-1651. Baptism of Christ, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56064 [retrieved December 27, 2023]. Original source: https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mesrop_of_Khizan_(Armenian,_active_1605_-_1651)_-_The_Baptism_of_Christ_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg.

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.

St. John's is open for in-person worship at **10:00am (Holy Eucharist), 4:30pm (BCP Evensong)** and **6:00pm (Soul Space - last Sunday of the month)** on Sundays as well as mid-week services (please see our website for times). If you can't attend in person we invite you to join us via Zoom (email admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca for the link) or through the livestream on the Website: www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

We continue to share daily prayer online with a link on our website.

Contacting Us: Please email us at admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca or call 250-383-7169. 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.

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 and will be presented as the Communion is prepared. 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.

8:00 am Holy Communion

The order of service is found on page 67 in the Book of Common Prayer

Presider: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

*The congregation is invited to join in the hymns, responses and prayers marked in **bold** print.*

Presider: The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil
Greeters: Marilyn Moody, Louise Langman
Crucifer: Penny Holt
Sacristan: Terry Needham
Readers: Sarah Kell, Iris Elsdon
Gospel: Murray Harris
Intercessor: David Buckman
Sermon: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum
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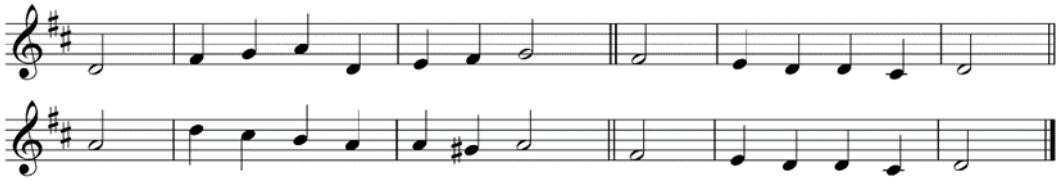
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Graeme Brown, Barbara Jenks, Gerry Melville
Verger: Douwe Bosma
Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett
Music: David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

This service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending this service, you acknowledge and consent to the fact that video images of you may appear there.

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome

Announcements

Processional Hymn (CP 156)

DUNDEE

1. The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the Light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.

2. To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.

3. For thou their burden dost remove,
and break the tyrant's rod,
as in the day when Midian fell
before the sword of God.

4. For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.

5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.

6. Lord Jesus, reign in us we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit one.

Text: John Morison (1750-1798).
Music: Scottish Psalter, 1615.

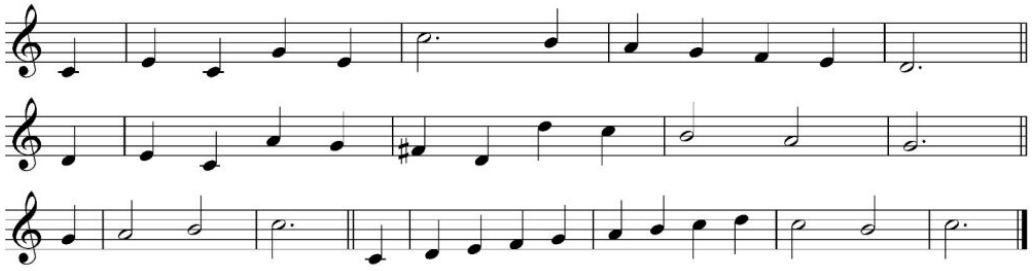
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Almighty God,

All: **to you all hearts are open,**
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gloria (CP 365)

DARWALL

1. Glory to God on high,
and peace to all on earth.
We worship you, we give you thanks,
our heavenly King.
We give you praise,
almighty God and Father blessed
in glory bright.

2. Our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
the Father's only Son,
the sacrificial Lamb,
who saves the world from sin,
have mercy Lord.
Beside the Father's hand enthroned,
now hear our prayers.

3. You only are the Lord.
You only are most high.
You only are the holy one,
Lord Jesus Christ.
And now you reign
with Father and with Spirit one
in glorious light.

Text. Glory to God (Gloria in excelsis, Greek humn, 200?); para. Paul Gibson (1932-). ©
Music: John Darwall (1731-1789).
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The Collect of the Day

God of the heavens, whose holiness is unveiled
by one who is submerged in all the pain and sin of the earth:
give us faith to follow him who goes to the heart of darkness
bearing only the Spirit of gentle, insistent peace;
through Jesus Christ, the promised one.

All: **Amen.** Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

Let us listen to the Word of God in Holy Scripture.

The First Reading Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light:" and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

After the Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29

Ascribe to God, you gods, ascribe to God glory and strength.

Ascribe to God the glory due God's Name; worship God in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of God is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; God is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of God is a powerful voice; the voice of God is a voice of splendour.

The voice of God breaks the cedar trees; God breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

God makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of God splits the flames of fire; the voice of God shakes the wilderness; God shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of God makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of God all are crying, "Glory!"

God sits enthroned above the flood; God sits enthroned as Ruler for evermore.

God shall give strength to God's people; God shall give God's people the blessing of peace.

The Epistle — Acts 19:1-7

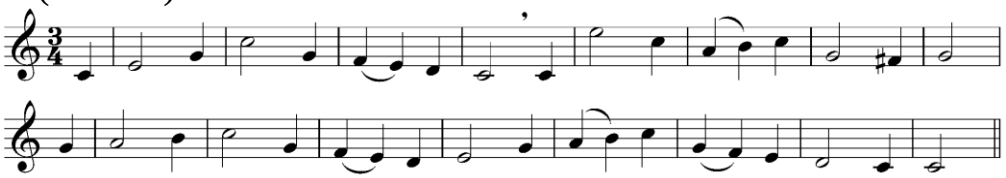
While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied - altogether there were about twelve of them.

After the Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn (SPR 30)

DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

1. **The sinless one to Jordan came**
   to share our fallen nature's blame;
   God's righteousness he thus fulfilled
   and chose the path his Father willed.
2. **Uprising from the waters there,**
   the voice from heaven did witness bear
   that he, the Son of God, had come
   to lead his scattered people home.
3. **Above him see the heavenly Dove,**
   the sign of God the Father's love,
   now by the Holy Spirit shed
   upon the Son's anointed head.
4. **How bless'd that mission then begun**
   to heal and save a race undone;
   straight to the wilderness he goes
   to wrestle with his people's foes.
5. **Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin**
   go forth with you, a world to win;
   and send the Holy Spirit's power
   to shield them in temptation's hour.
6. **On you shall all your people feed**
   and know you are the Bread indeed,
   who gives eternal life to those
   that with you died, and with you rose.

Music: *Antiphoner*, Grenoble, 1753. Words: George B. Timms (1910-97)
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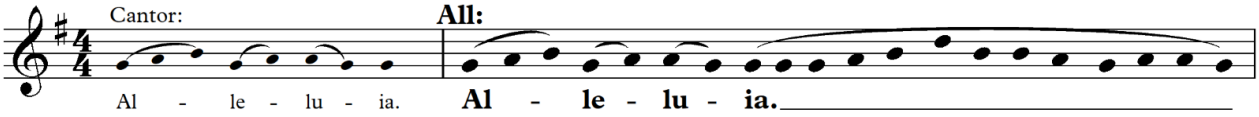
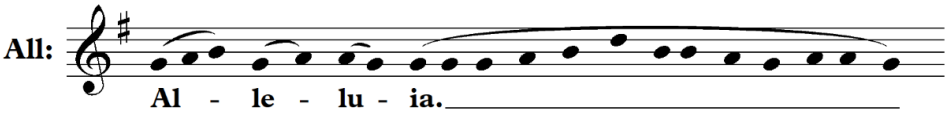
The Gospel Mark 1:4-11

Before the Gospel

Cantor: This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.



God is with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Hear the Good news of Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

All: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith (CP 44)

We believe and trust in God the Creator.
We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, incarnate Word.
We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.
We believe and trust in the Three in One.

(from *Creating Uncommon Worship by Richard Giles, alt.)*

Prayers of the People

Those who have asked for our prayers are listed at the end of the leaflet.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

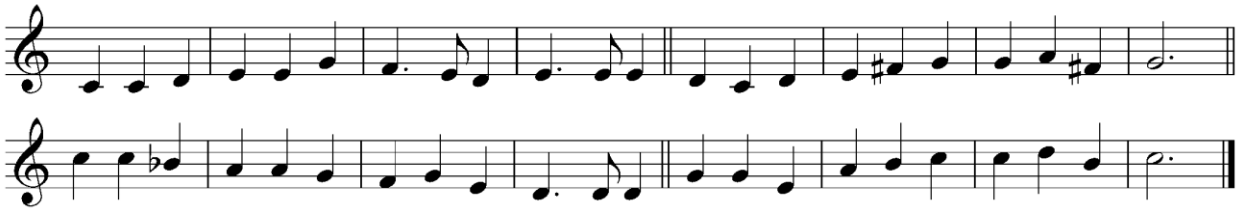
All: **And also with you.**

All may offer their neighbour a sign of peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

We don't pass an offertory plate at St. John's, but we are grateful for your support of our ministry in the centre of Victoria. If you would like to contribute financially, there are a few ways you can do so - there is a QR code on page 2 of the leaflet which takes you to our Canada Helps page, and there is a donation box by the Garden door. Also, there is a collection plate at each entrance for people to leave their offering or blue envelope in. Envelopes for regular giving are available from the office.

Offertory Hymn (CP 385)

WAS LEBET

1. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness
bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name!

2. Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness;
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

3. Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou canst reckon as thine;
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

4. These though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear,
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

5. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness
bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name!

Text: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875).
Music: Melody – *Choral-buch vor Johann Heinrich Rheinhardt*, Üttingen, 1754.

Prayer over the Gifts

God of life and freedom,
we celebrate the revelation of Jesus
as the Christ who makes all creation new.
Accept all we offer you this day
and make us new in him,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

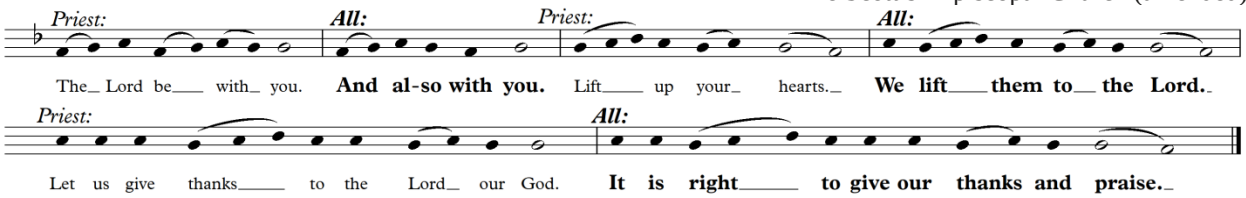
All: **Amen.**

The Book of Alternative Services

As we prepare to celebrate this Eucharist, we remember that we are the people of God. Near or far we are gathered together by the love of Christ. We remember that we are incorporated into the body of Christ. We join together in this celebration of our union in Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer II b (The Incarnation)
The Scottish Episcopal Church (amended)



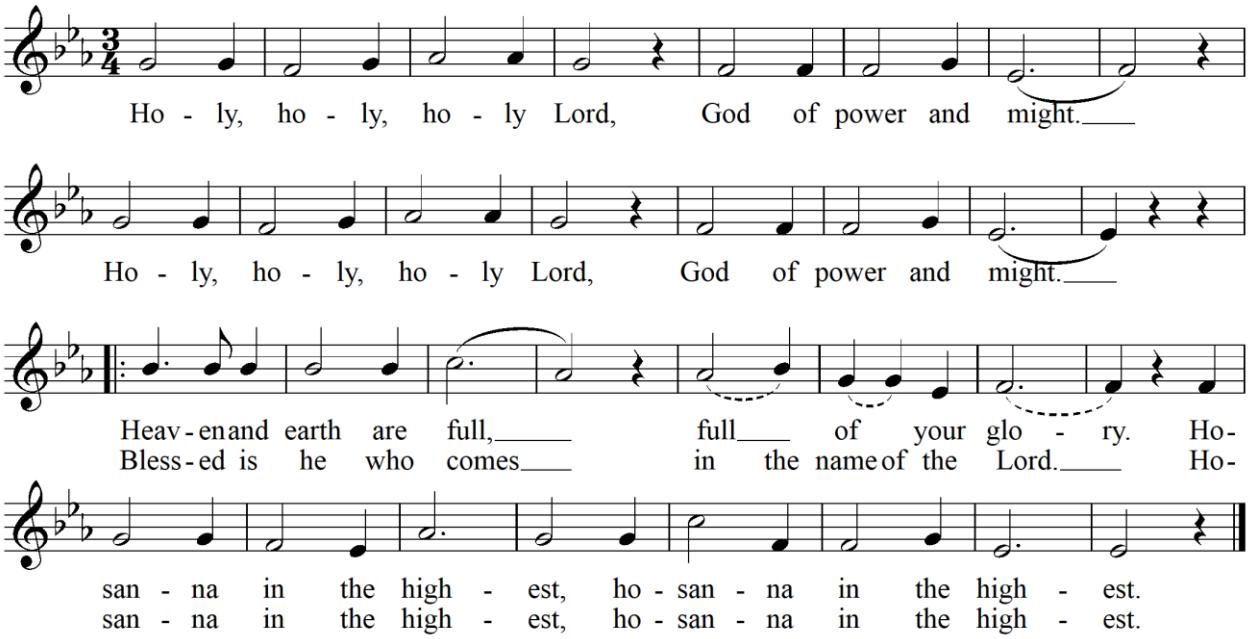
Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.
Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.
Day and night celebrate your glory, till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your only-begotten Son, you have revealed yourself to the world.
By the guiding of a star, you made him known to the nations
as the son of David and king of Israel; that in following him,
we might be led from darkness and into marvellous light.

Filled with the Spirit,
who descended upon your Son at his Baptism in the Jordan,
we who are baptized strive for God's reign,
in whose radiance we are transfigured
and the earth is transformed.

As children by your loving hand
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Sanctus (CP 735) SCHUBERT



Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God.
In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us.
Our hope, in whom you are well pleased.
Having been shown to the world as your beloved Son,
he proclaimed the good news of your coming.
The blind received their sight, the lame walked,
the lepers were cleansed, and the captives set free.
At his word, water became wine, the hungry were filled with bread,
and the dead were raised.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
and at supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying: “Take, eat.
This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying: “Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.”

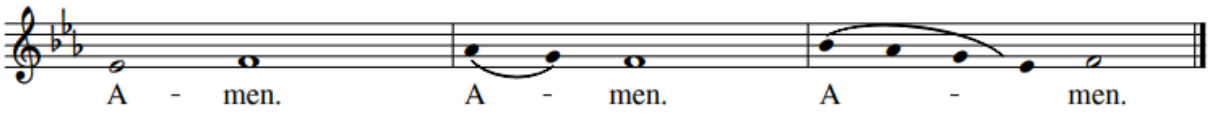
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of God’s reign.
Made one with God, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your reign.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage in the company of Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all peoples, living and departed.

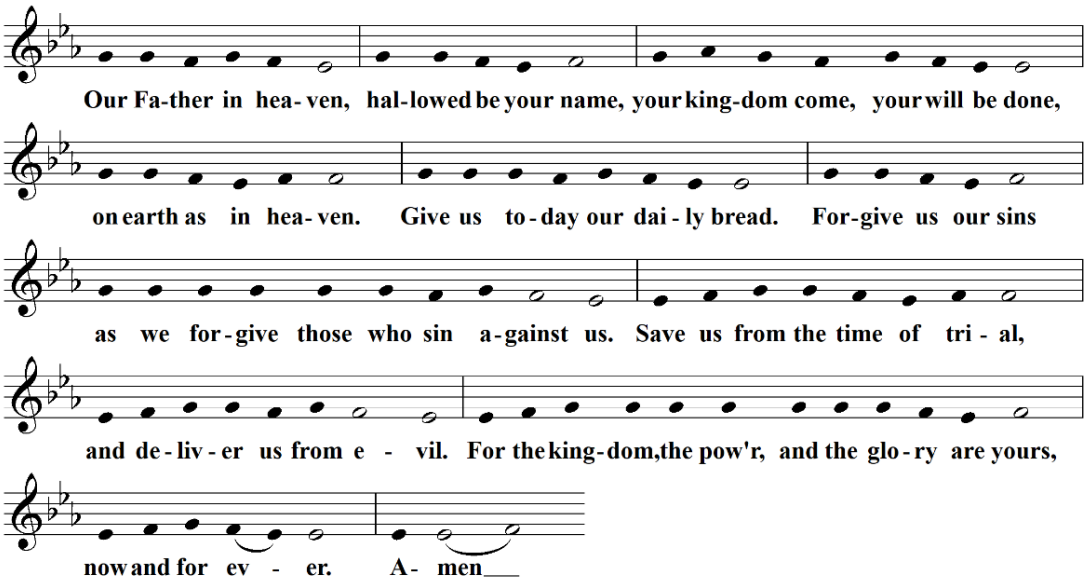
Through Jesus Christ, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you,
God of all ages, world without end.

All:



The Disciple's Prayer

Priest: As our saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray:



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The Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All: **God is here among us,**
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

All are invited to receive communion. Receiving bread or wine is considered full communion. As it is considered unsafe, it is the practice of the ACC not to dip the bread into the wine. Any not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing, and to indicate that by holding their arms crossed on their chest.

If you are unable to come to a communion station please make this known to the Greeters and we will bring communion to you.

Gluten-free wafers for communion are available. Please request them from the person who is distributing the bread.

The Commissioning of the Community

One body are we.

All: **For, though we are in many places,**
spiritually we share one bread.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, lover of all,
by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son,
one in the sharing of his body and blood,
one in the communion of his Spirit.
Help us to grow in love for one another
and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ.
We ask this in his name.

All: **Amen.**

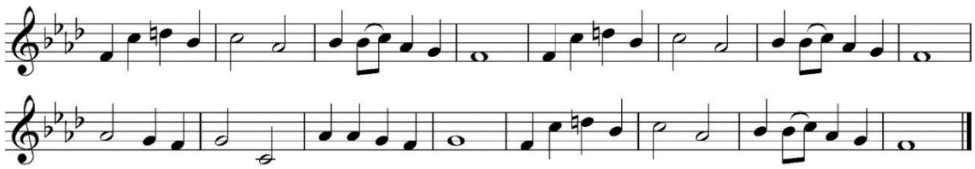
The Book of Alternative Services

Blessing

Dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn (Here at Jordan's River) NOEL NOUVELET

1. Here at Jordan's river all is washed away.
As God's reign draws nearer, nothing is the same.
Gone are class and status; gone, degrees and fame.
Grace alone can save us on God's judgment day.

2. We at Jordan's river meet on level ground.
Valleys are uplifted; mountains fall to earth.
None dare trust their lineage; none need doubt their worth.
Still the prophet asks us, "Will you turn around?"

3. God, reform, renew us; turn us toward your will.
Till our hearts for learning; root us in your word.
May the fruits of action grow from all we've heard.
As we lose our old lives, God, be with us still.

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Voluntary

Please join us on Zoom or at the back of the church for refreshments.

Choral Evensong
today at 4:30pm

Readings: Psalm 46; Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-14
Officiating and preaching: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum
Music: The Choristers of St. John the Divine & Organist
Canticles: June Nixon, Fauxbourbons; Responses: Thomas Ebdon
Anthem: Peter Hallock, The Baptism of Christ

Flowers

To the Glory of God, and with love and gratitude for the life of Michael,
loving and much loved son, brother and uncle.
Teller of tales and giver of hugs, from Lorraine and Andrew Gates.

Readings for January 14 – The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-20 Samuel becomes God's agent for change, but first he must learn to recognize God's voice.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 God intimately knows us.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Christians in Corinth struggle with the meaning of their new freedom in Christ.

John 1:43-51 Philip invites Nathanael to "come and see" what Jesus is about, and in responding Nathanael experiences the presence of God.

The following people have asked for our prayers.

Please keep them in your heart and mind as you go through your week.

Robert G.	Joe & family	Teresa
Heather	Andy	Gary
Lisa	Jane	Andrew
Chris	Sid	Geoffrey
Edward	Lorraine M.	Samantha
Bill	Paul	Al
Nancy	Deb	Kate
Doug & Val	Anthony	Jill and family
	Rae	

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Stewards

People's Warden: Jim Harlick
jharlick@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Associate Warden: Lorraine Gates
lgates@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Givings Coordinator: Jim Harlick
givings@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

Incumbent's Warden: Karen Coverett
kcoverett@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Associate Warden: Carol Anne Harper
charper@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Treasurer: David Buckman
treasurer@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

Parish Council

David Buckman, Daniel Fraikin, Murray Harris
Erin Kelly, Al Lehmann, Terry Needham, Merle Wall

Synod Delegates

Karen Coverett, Bill Huzar, Joan Huzar

Staff Supporting the Ministry of St. John's

Incumbent: The Ven. Alastair Singh-McCollum
incumbent@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Volunteer Priest Associate: The Revd Dr. John Thatamanil
jthatamanil@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger
admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

Director of Music: David Stratkauskas
sjdchoirs@gmail.com
Family Ministry Coordinator: Ruth MacIntosh
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