The Church of St. John the Divine

Christmas Eve *4pm*, December 24, 2024

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 speaking 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.

A Family *Posada* Service for Christmas Eve 2024

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 worship at **8:00 am (Holy Communion – said service), 10:00 am (Holy Eucharist), 4:30 pm (BCP Evensong- returning on January 5, 2025)** 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.

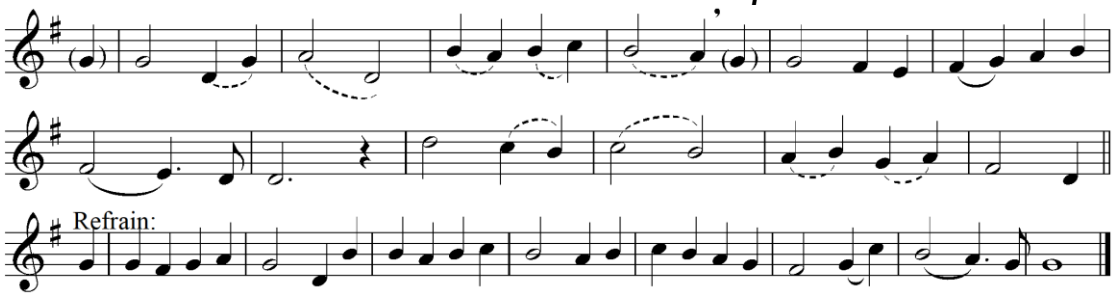
Please take time to visit the Christmas crèche scene .
Our thanks to Sara Chu and Claire Munn for the crèche.

Posada is Spanish for inn.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Blessing of the Crèche *(all stand, as you are able)*

O Almighty God, who by the birth of your child Jesus has given us a great light to dawn upon our darkness: bless this crèche which we are now preparing to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith, and receive the fullness of life Jesus came to bring; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful* Adeste Fideles (CP 118)

1. **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,**
   O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
   come and behold him, born the king of angels;
   O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. **God of God, Light of Light,**
   lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
   very God, begotten not created:
   O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**
   sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
   glory to God in the highest:
   O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

4. **See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,**
   leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
   we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
   O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: St. 1, 2, 3 – John Francis Wade (1711-1786); st. 4, Etienne-Jean-Francois Borderies 1822
Music: Melody – attrib. John Francis Wade (1711-1786), alt.

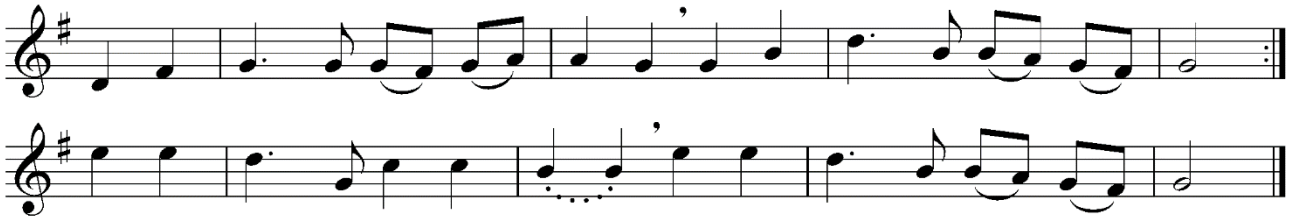
Collect for Christmas

God of grace and wonder,
on this night we, like the shepherds, are amazed. We hear again the message of the angels proclaiming peace on earth, and we recall the ageless story of a baby born in a manger. You love us more than we can ever know, through him who is Christ the Lord, and lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Scripture *Isaiah 9:2, 6–7*

Hymn *Once in Royal David's City* Irby (CP 123)



1. **Once in royal David's city**
   stood a lowly cattle shed,
   where a mother laid her baby
   in a manger for his bed.
   Mary was that mother mild,
   Jesus Christ her little child.

2. **He came down to earth from heaven**
   who is God and Lord of all,
   and his shelter was a stable,
   and his cradle was a stall.
   With the poor and mean and lowly
   lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love,
for that Child so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. / Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876).

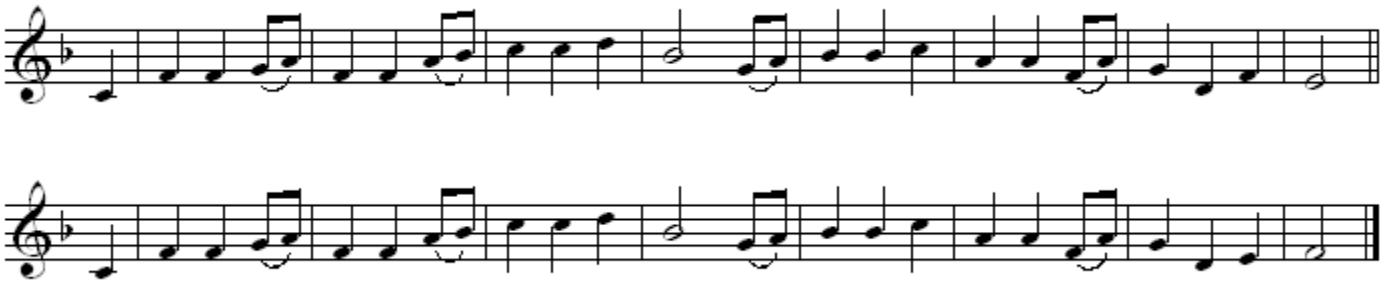
The congregation is seated.

The Story of Jesus' Birth

Mary and Joseph come to the stable—no room at the inn!

Scripture *Luke 2:4-7*

During the carol the figures of Mary and Joseph come to the stable.

Hymn *Away in a Manger* Cradle Song (CP 126)

1. Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus
no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus—
Look down from on high,
and stay by my side
until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever,
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven
to live with you there.

Text: American (19th cent.). / Music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921), adapt.

The congregation is seated.

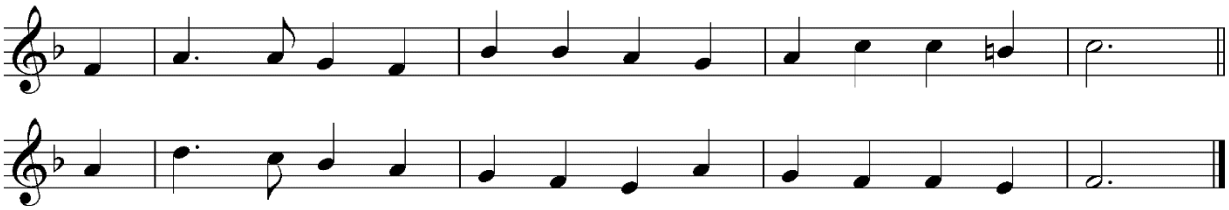
The Shepherds are told of Jesus's birth and go to Bethlehem

Scripture *Luke 2:8-16*

During the carol the shepherds are taken to the stable.

Hymn *While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night*

Winchester Old (CP 136)



1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.

3. To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4. the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands
and in a manger laid."

5. Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6. "All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin, and never cease."

Text: Luke 2:8-14; para. Nahum Tate (1652-1715), alt.
Music: Melody – Whole Book of Psalmes, 1592

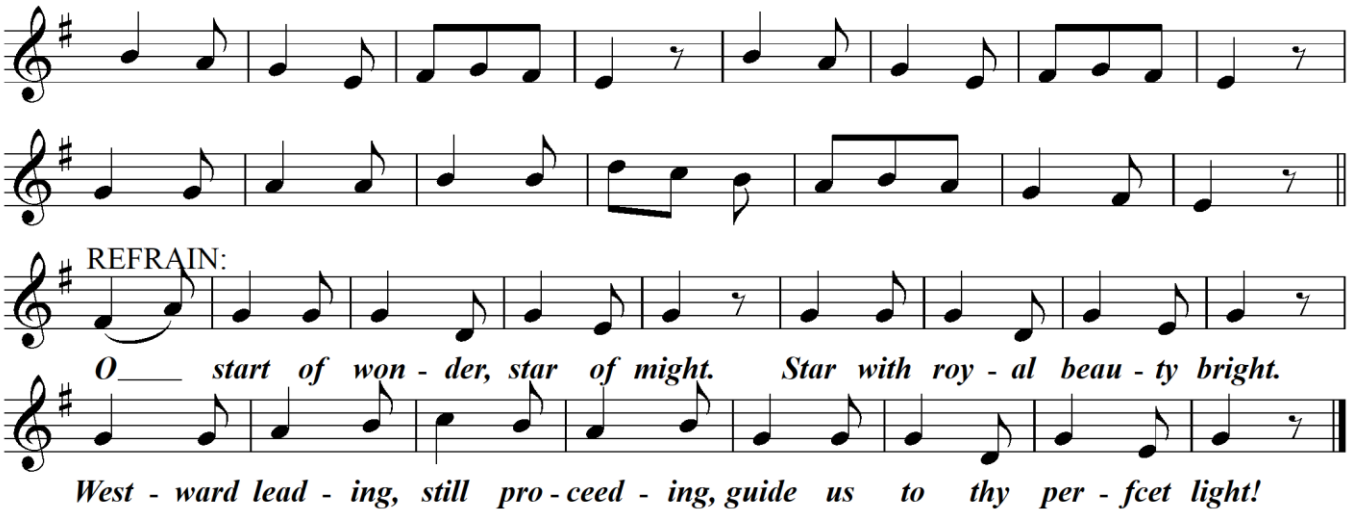
The congregation is seated.

The Wise Men follow the star to Bethlehem

Scripture *Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12*

During this song the Magi are brought to the stable.

Hymn *We Three Kings of Orient are…*



1. **We three kings of Orient are,**
   bearing gifts we traverse afar,
   field and fountain,
   moor and mountain,
   following yonder star.

   O star of wonder, star of night,
   star with royal beauty bright;
   westward leading, still proceeding,
   guide us to thy perfect light!

2. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings
alleluia; alleluia
the earth replies.
O star of wonder…

Text and Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891).

Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader: God our Father,
for us the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.

All: Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.

The congregation is seated.

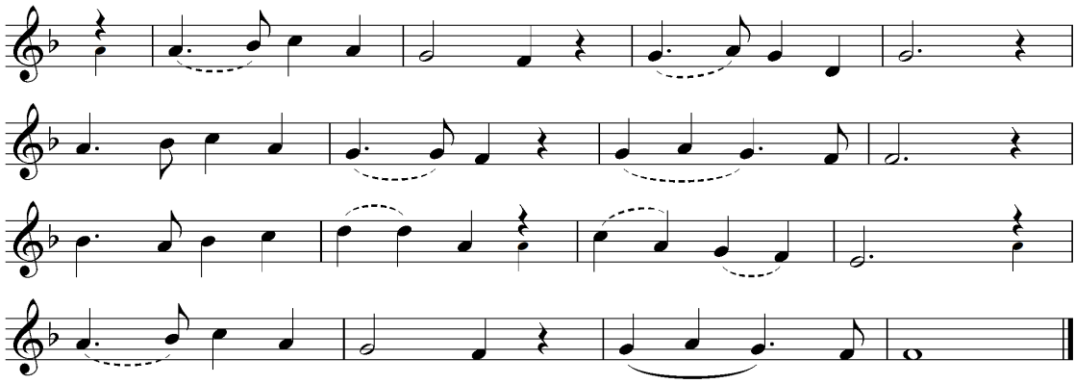
A Thought for Christmas

Prayers

The congregation stands.

During the hymn, people bring their knitted sheep forward to the stable.

Hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter* Cranham (CP 122)



1. **In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,**
   earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
   snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
   in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
2. **Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;**
   heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
   In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
   the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
3. **Angels and archangels may have gathered there,**
   cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
   but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
   worshipped the beloved with a kiss.
4. **What can I give him, poor as I am?**
   If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
   if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
   yet what I can, I give him: Give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894).
Music: Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934). © Oxford University Press.
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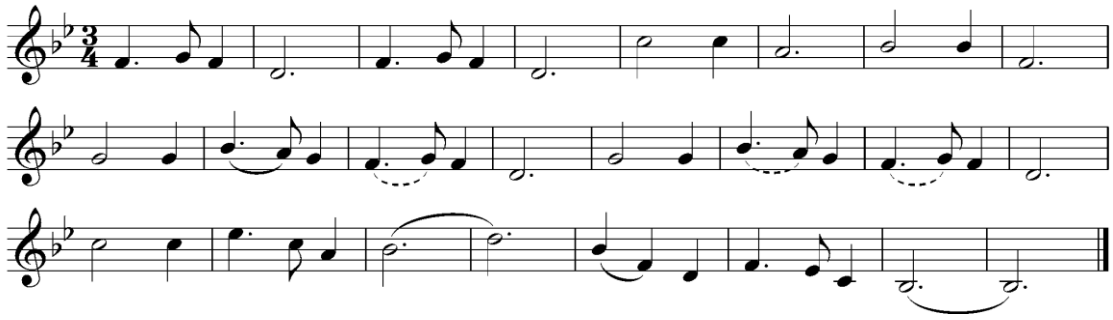
Hymn *Silent Night* Stille Nacht (CP 119)

1. **Silent night! Holy night!**
   All is calm, all is bright
   round yon virgin mother and child.
   Holy infant so tender and mild,
   sleep in heavenly peace.
2. **Silent night! Holy night!**
   Shepherds quake at the sight:
   glories stream from heaven afar,
   heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
   Christ the Saviour is born.
3. **Silent night! Holy night!**
   Son of God, love's pure light
   radiant beams from thy holy face,
   with the dawn of redeeming grace,
   Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885).
Music: Melody – Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863), alt.

Closing prayer

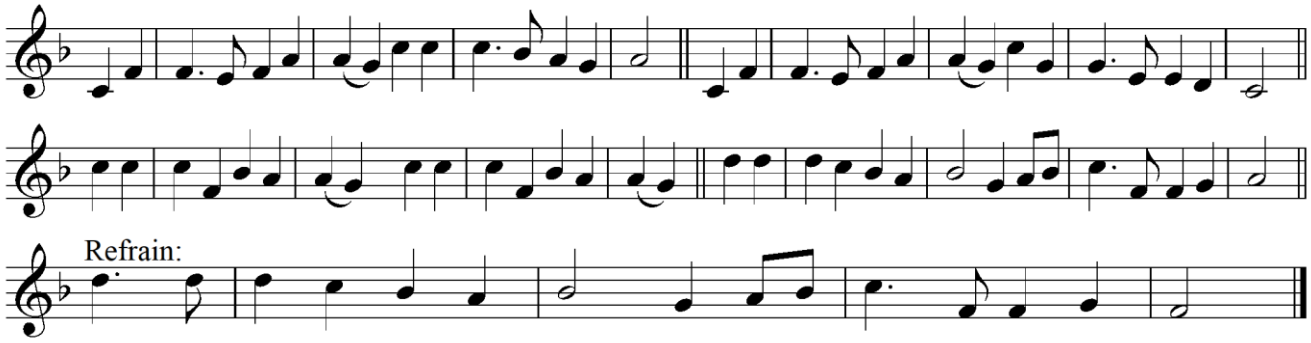
Here is a place for you, Lord Jesus.

Just as our hands have made it ready,
so make our hearts ready
to love and to welcome you.

Be born again,
not in a manger,
but in us.

Make us your Bethlehem,
where God is personal
and all things and all people
are made new.
AMEN.

The Blessing

Hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn (CP 138)

1. **Hark! The herald angels sing,**
"Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and Sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise.
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

2. **Christ, by highest heaven adored;**
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate diety,
pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

3. **Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!**
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child on earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Text: Charles Wesley (1701-1788), alt.
Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847); adapt. William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915).

Christmas Service

December 25 10:00 am Holy Communion for Christmas Day (BAS)

The 1st Sunday after Christmas

December 29 8:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Parish Eucharist (BAS)

Christmas Office Hours

Closed: December 25th thru January 1st
Normal office hours resume Thursday, January 2nd 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Regular Sunday Services at St. John the Divine

10:00 a.m. ❖ Parish Eucharist (in person, via Zoom and live streamed)
The main weekly service, with sermon, congregational singing, choral music, and Communion.

4:30 p.m. ❖ Choral Evensong (in person and live streamed)
The ancient evening service of the Anglican Church, with readings, chant, prayer, and choral music.

Please contact the office (admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca) to receive the Zoom and live stream links.

Regular Mid-Week Services are:

8:00 a.m. ❖ Holy Communion – Wednesdays

12:30 p.m. ❖ Meditative Eucharist – Thursdays

12 Noon ❖ Mid-day Prayers – Monday-Friday via livestream

Flowers are given to the glory of God

in loving memory of Daniel Harper from Carol Anne and Geoffrey.

in memory of dear friends, Alan and Pat Ormerod from Bruce and Gerry Melville.

Poinsettias – Given to the Glory of God

In loving memory of Helene Nadeau, from Daniel, Ruth, Luc, Paul & Camryn.

In memory of my parents, Jim & Olga Reid, from Judith.

In loving memory of Chris Eve, from The Zengers.

In loving memory of Alan & Pat Ormerod, from Michael & Carol-Ann Zenger.

In loving memory of my parents, from Dorothy Chuhran.

In memory of Barry and Susan, from Barbara Jenks.

To Jack, 100 years after his birth, from Alastair Singh-McCollum.

In memory of Happy Christmases with May and Jimmy, from Bill Williamson.

In memory of my beloved mother-in-law who would have been 102 this week, from Bill Williamson.

In appreciation of this wonderful, welcoming, inclusive congregation, from Bill Williamson.

Remembering far away family and friends, from Christine Scott.

With thanksgiving for the loving care and support given me by family and friends, from Margaret Walker.

In honour of Nancy Peterson, from Nancy Baal.

In memory of my parents, Bryan and Peggy, from Nancy Baal.

The McKay family, and the Riches family, from David & Joan McKay.

In celebrate our children and grandchildren, from John Bergbusch and Pauline Majcher.

In memory of Jennifer Legg, from Ann Barry.

In memory of Kathleen and Kenneth Gibb, from Virginia Miller.

In memory of Helga and Tom Miller, from Virginia.

In loving memory of Margurite & Harold Henrickson and Betty & Thomas Melville, from Bruce and Gerry.

WE
WISH YOU
A
Merry
CHRISTMAS
AND
Happy New Year

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Stewards

People's Warden: Jim Harlick
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Incumbent's Warden: Jamie Lawson
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Associate Warden: Carol Anne Harper
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Treasurer: David Buckman
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Parish Council

David Buckman, Murray Harris, Ann McLaren
Pam Plummer, Ruth Swinton, Cornelia van Voorst, Merle Wall

Synod Delegates

Jim Harlick, Penny Holt, Jamie Lawson

Staff Supporting the Ministry of St. John's

Incumbent: The Ven. Alastair Singh-McCollum
incumbent@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Volunteer Priest Associate: The Rev. Dr. John Thatamanil
jthatamanil@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Pam Worthington
Please contact the office for email.

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