The Church of St. John the Divine

Christmas Day ***December 25, 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.

Hofheinz-Döring, Margret, 1910-. Holy Family, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56749 [retrieved December 23, 2024]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stern_von_Bethlehem,_Margret_Hofheinz-D%C3%B6ring,_Aquarell1973_(WV-Nr.5834).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 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

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.

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

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

Presider: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum
Greeter: Lorraine Gates, Susan Fraser
Sacristan: Terry Needham
Reader: Michael Zenger
Gospel: Lorraine Gates
Intercessor: Jamie Lawson
Sermon: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Fraser, Nancy Baal
Lorraine Gates

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett
Music: David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

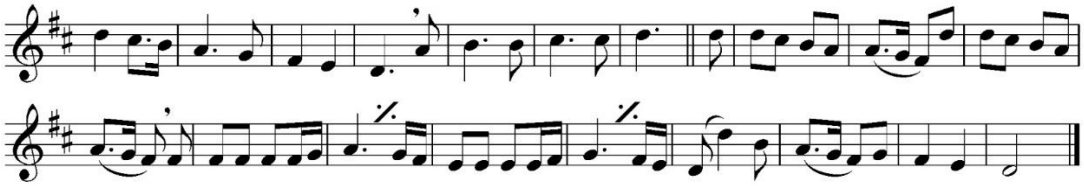
The Gathering of the Community

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.

Prelude

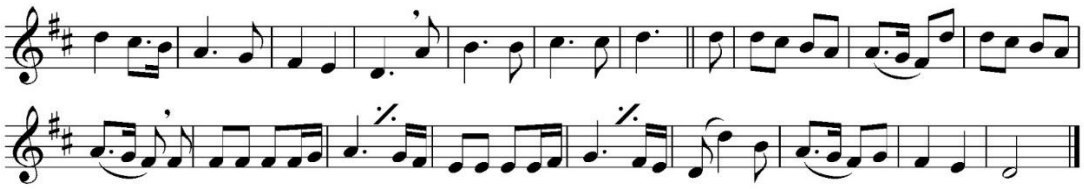
Land Acknowledgement and Welcome

Processional Hymn (CP 154)

ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found.

please turn the page for v. 4

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
and glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
Music: Melody – George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. William Holford, *Voce de Melodia*, 1835.

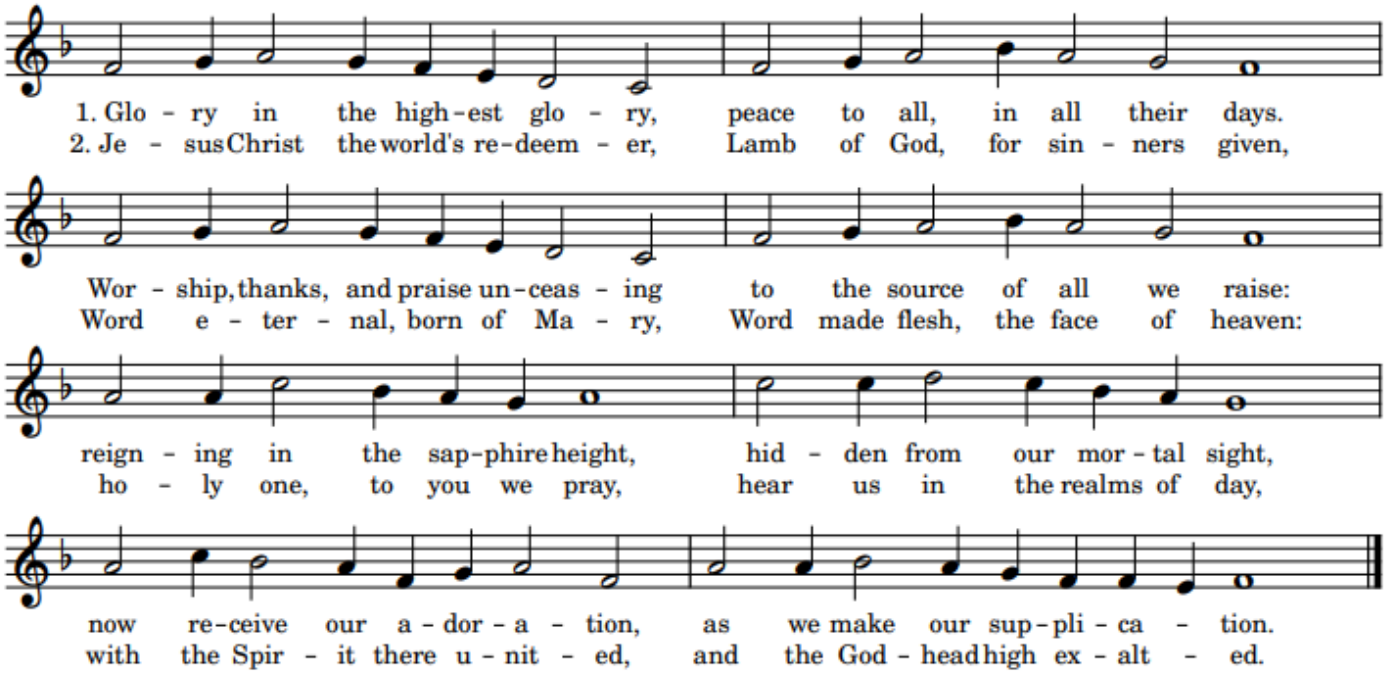
Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

Gloria (CP 366)

PSALM 42



Text: *Glory to God (Gloria in excelsis*, Greek Hymn, 200?); para. Paul Gibson (1932-) ©.
Music: Melody – Geneva, 1551.
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The Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
as we prepare with joy
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,
embrace the earth with your glory
and be for us a living hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Commonn Worship: Additional Collects 2004

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have laboured;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,
'See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.'
They shall be called, 'The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD';
and you shall be called, 'Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 97

God is Ruler; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about God, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.

A fire goes before God and burns up their enemies on every side.

God's lightnings light up the world; the earth sees it and is afraid.

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of God, at the presence of the Sovereign One of the whole earth.

The heavens declare God's righteousness, and all the peoples see God's glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before God, all you gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O God.

For you are God, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

God loves those who hate evil; God preserves the lives of the saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light has sprung up for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

Rejoice in God, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy Name.

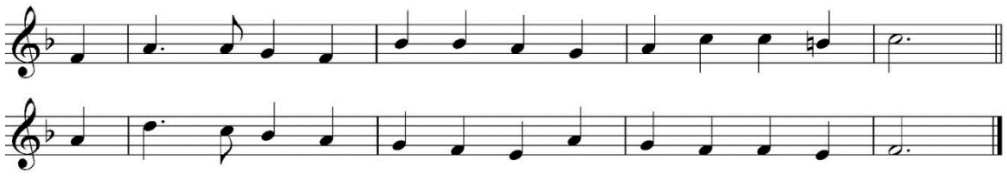
Inclusive Language Psalter: A New Gender-Inclusive Adaption of the Book of Psalms,
Based on the 1979 Book of Common Prayer Test (Version for Congregational Use)
Edited and adapted by Adam Waddell, Hannah Bowman,
the Rev. K.D. Jouce, and the Rev. Bailey Pickens

The Epistle — Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn (CP 136) — WINCHESTER OLD

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 Gospel Luke 2:8-20

Before the Gospel

God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Hear the Good News of Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Sermon

Following the Address there will be a pause for silence.

Affirmation of Faith — The Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

All: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through whom all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and Mary,
and was made human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
Who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified.
Who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

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

The Peace

Please stand.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

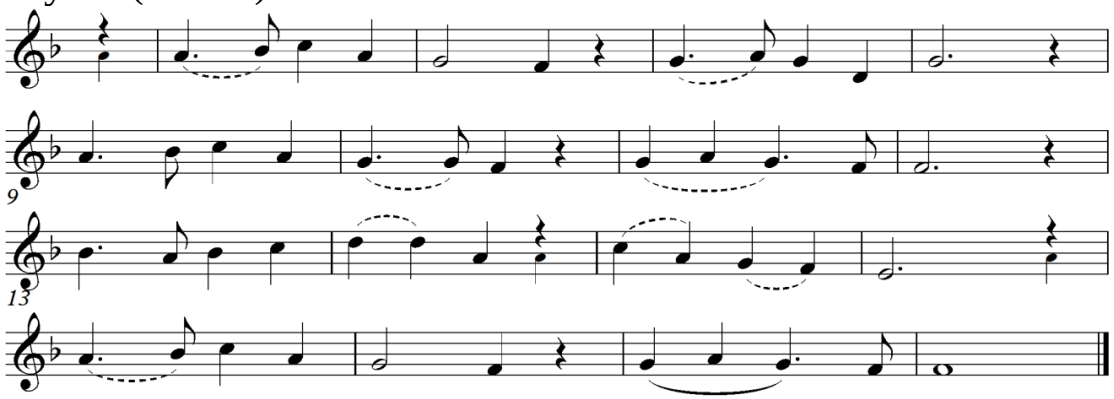
All: **And also with you.**

All may offer their neighbour a contactless sign of peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn (CP 122)

CRANHAM



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 belovèd 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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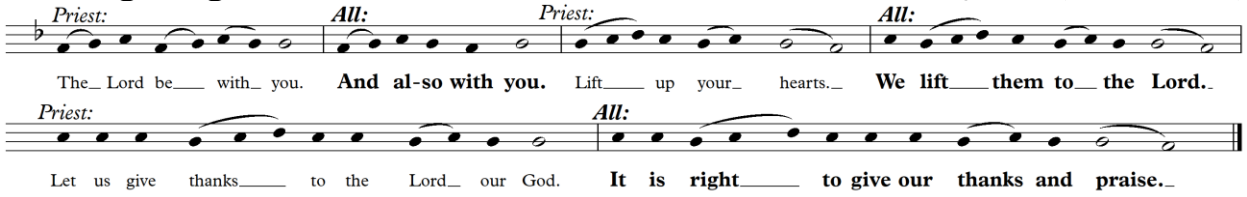
The Prayer over the Gifts

Generous Creator,
in faith and joy
we celebrate the birth of your Son.
Increase our understanding and our love
of the riches you have revealed in him,
who is Lord now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Book of Alternative Services

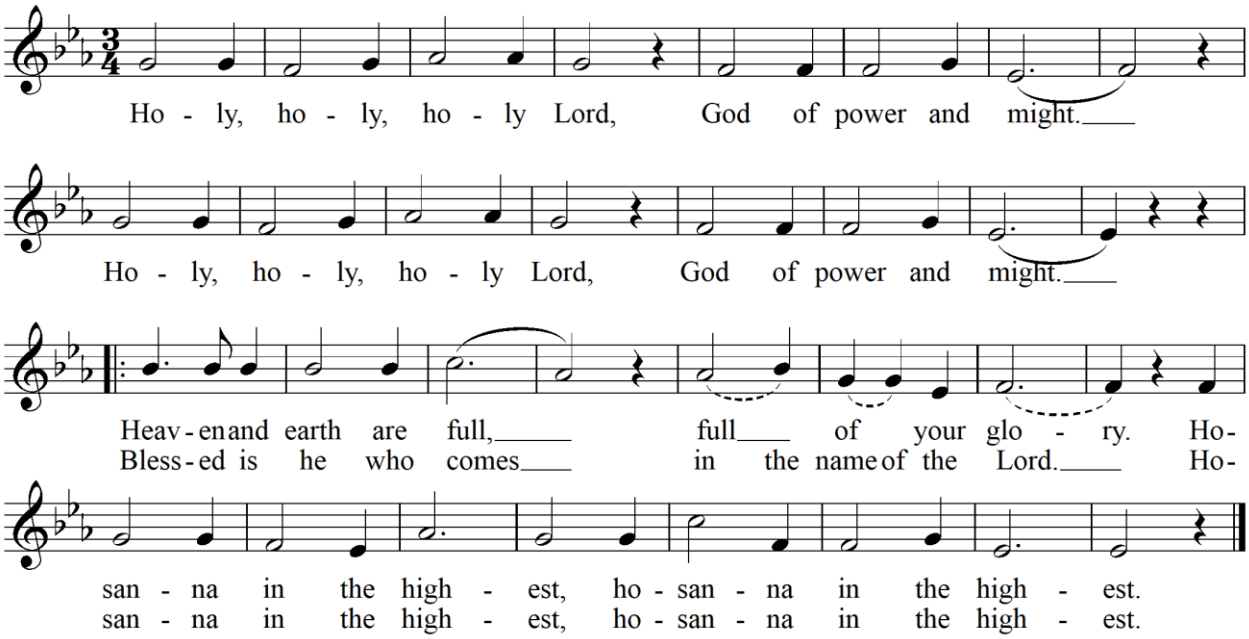
The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer II (Incarnation)

Worship and praise belong to you, God our creator.
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 Word became flesh,
and on this day was born of Mary.
He emptied himself, taking our human form,
That through his incarnation and passion
we might come to share in his divine nature.

Filled with the Spirit, who at the first Creation
moved over the face of the waters,
and visited Mary at Nazareth,
we await with joy the fulfilment of your new Creation.

As children of your redeeming purpose
who celebrate the birth of your Son, 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,
and lived for a time among us,
that we might for ever live with you.
In the manger at Bethlehem, in his flight to Egypt,
and as the carpenter's son, the Only-begotten bent low to meet us.

Hearing your call, he accepted death on the cross.
When you exalted him on the third day,
and bestowed on him the name above all names,
he opened the gate of glory
that we might be your children and share in your Peace.

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 your reign.

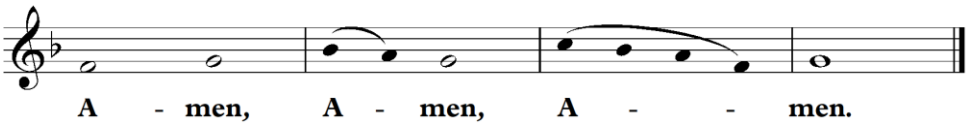
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful God,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and 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 the Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all peoples, living and departed.

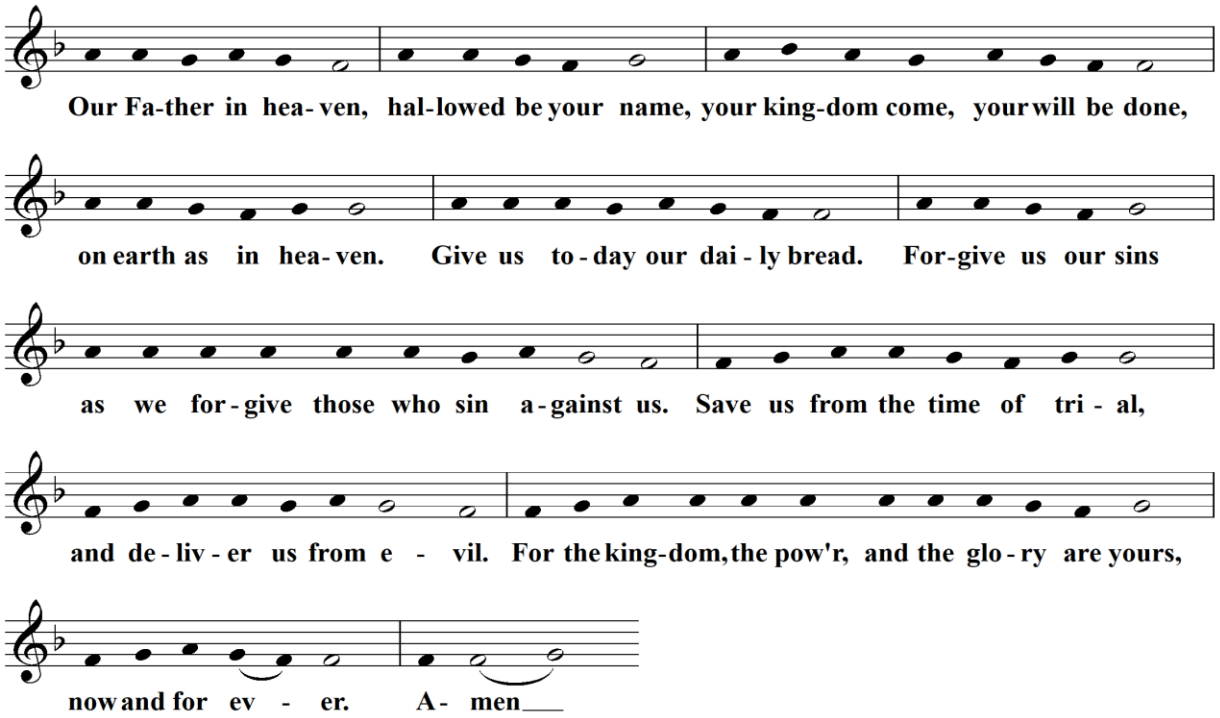
Through Jesus Christ, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you,
God of all ages, world without end.

All:



The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we 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 here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

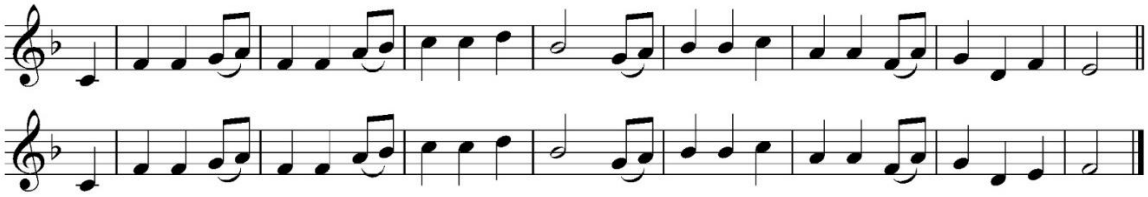
The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

All are welcome to receive communion. If you are sitting on the left hand side of the church (the North side) please go to the back of the Church. If you are seated on the right hand side OR require gluten free wafers please come to the front of the Church. You are welcome to receive bread and wine or just bread, both are full communion, as you are comfortable.

Hymn during Communion (CP 126)

CRADLE SONG

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 you, Lord Jesus—look down from on high
   and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay**
   close by me forever 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 Commissioning of the Community

Prayer after Communion

Source of truth and joy,
may we who have received the gift of divine life
always follow the way of your Son.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Book of Alternative Services

The Blessing

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing…

***All*:** **Amen.**

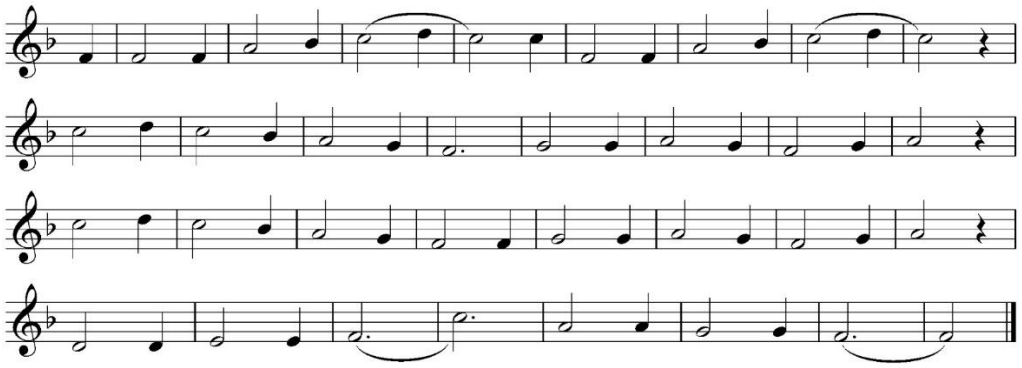
Dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve our living God!

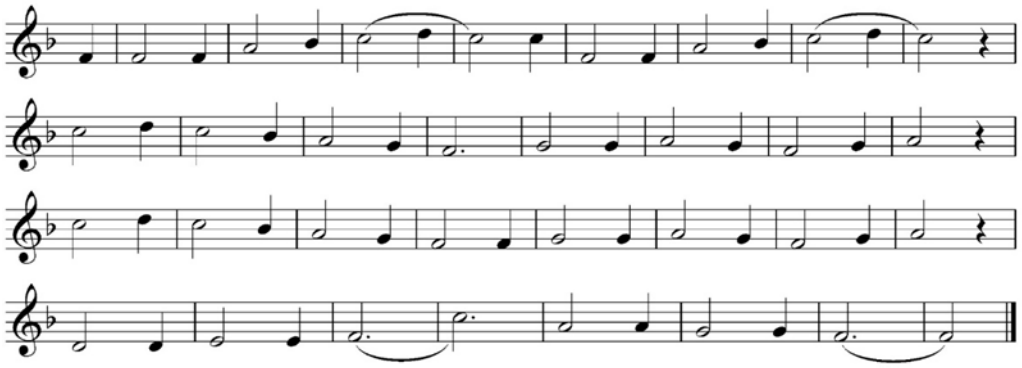
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn (CP 153)

IN DULCI JUBILO



1. **Good Christians all, rejoice**
   with heart and soul and voice!
   Listen now to what we say:
   Jesus Christ is born today;
   ox and ass before him bow
   and he is in the manger now!
   Christ is born today;
   Christ is born today!

2. **Good Christians all, rejoice**
   with heart and soul and voice!
   Hear the news of endless bliss:
   Jesus Christ was born for this;
   he has opened heaven's door
   and we are blessed for evermore!
   Christ was born for this;
   Christ was born for this.

3. **Good Christians all, rejoice**
with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save:
come at his most gracious call
to find salvation, one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save!

Text: German-Latin carol (14th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.
Music: Melody Geistliche Lieder, Wittenberg, 1533.

Voluntary

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.

Christmas Services

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

The 1st Sunday after Christmas

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

Christmas Office Hours

Closed: December 25th thru 29th
The office will be open Dec. 30th and 31st if you have donations for 2024 to drop off.
Normal office hours resume Tuesday, January 2nd
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Regular Sunday Services at St. John the Divine

8:00 a.m. ❖ Holy Communion (BCP)
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)
(currently on hiatus - returning January 5, 2025)
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 **(not Jan. 1st)**
12:30 p.m. ❖ Meditative Eucharist – Thursdays **(not Dec. 26th)**
12 Noon ❖ Mid-day Prayers – Monday-Friday via livestream

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: Jamie Lawson
jlawson@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Associate Warden: Carol Anne Harper
charper@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Treasurer: David Buckman
treasurer@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

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

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