



**September 28, 2025**

**Eve of St. Michael and All Angels**

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**CHORAL EVENSONG**

**The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine**

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

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### 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

Service times: **8:00 am (Holy Communion – said service), 10:00 am (Holy Eucharist with choir and organ), 4:30 pm (BCP Choral Evensong)** 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](mailto:admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca) for the link) or through the livestream on the Website: [www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](http://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca)

**Daily prayer online** is shared daily with a link on our website either live or via recording.

**Contacting Us:** The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm. The main email for contact is: [admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto: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 this afternoon's Liturgy

**Officiant:** The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

**Welcomer:** Bill Williamson

**Reader:** Karen Coverett

**Music:** Members of the Choristers of St. John the Divine

David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

Char Hodgkins, Assistant Director

### 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 Image:** Artist: Andy Everson, K'ómoks First Nation in B.C.



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. You may also conveniently use our tap machine (no tax receipt) which is available at the garden door entrance, or the bank machine (tax receipt with envelope completion) available at the office. Envelopes for regular giving are available from the church office.

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

*Please stand as the clergy enter.*

### Prelude

*The choir may sing an Introit.*

*The officiant gives a short welcome.*

### The Responses

*Louise Reid*

*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

91

1 Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High \* shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my strong hold \* my God, in him will I trust.

3 For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter \* and from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers \* his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night \* nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

6 For the pestilence that walketh in darkness \* nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day.

7 A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand \* but it shall not come nigh thee.

8 Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold \* and see the reward of the ungodly.

9 For thou, Lord, art my hope \* thou hast set thine house of defence very high.

10 There shall no evil happen unto thee \* neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee \* to keep thee in all thy ways.

12 They shall bear thee in their hands \* that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.

13 Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder \* the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.

14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him \* I will set him up, because he hath known my Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will hear him \* yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy him \* and shew him my salvation.

*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

2 Kings 6:8-17

Once when the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he took counsel with his officers. He said, 'At such and such a place shall be my camp.' But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, 'Take care not to pass this place, because the Arameans are going down there.' The king of Israel sent word to the place of which the man of God spoke. More than once or twice he warned such a place so that it was on the alert.

The mind of the king of Aram was greatly perturbed because of this; he called his officers and said to them, 'Now tell me who among us sides with the king of Israel?' Then one of his officers said, 'No one, my lord king. It is Elisha, the prophet in Israel, who tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedchamber.' He said, 'Go and find where he is; I will send and seize him.' He was told, 'He is in Dothan.' So he sent horses and chariots there and a great army; they came by night, and surrounded the city.

When an attendant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. His servant said, 'Alas, master! What shall we do?' He replied, 'Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them.' Then Elisha prayed: 'O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.' So the Lord opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

*Please stand.*

## Magnificat

*Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)*

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.

## Second Lesson

Matthew 18:1-6, 10

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.

'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.<sup>[a]</sup>

*Please stand.*

## Nunc Dimittis

*Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Sarah MacDonald (b. 1968)*

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.

*1<sup>st</sup> Collect, of the day:*

O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy angels always serve and worship thee in heaven, so by thy appointment they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

*3<sup>rd</sup> 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** *(may be sung by the choir)*

*Duo seraphim clamabant alter ad alterum:  
 Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
 Plena est omnis terra gloria ejus.*

*Two seraphim cried to one another:  
 Holy is the Lord God of Sabaoth.  
 The whole earth is full of his glory.*

*Text: Isaiah 6:2-3  
 Music: Richard Dering (1580-1630)*

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

**Intercessions**



Please stand to sing the hymn:

## Hymn (CP 272)

*Text:* Attrib. Rabanus Maurus (776?-856); tr. J. Athelstan L. Riley (1858-1945), alt.

*Music:* COELITES PLAUDANT - Melody – Antiphoner, Rouen, 1728. tr. © Oxford University Press.

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1. Christ, the fair glory of the holy angels,  
maker of all things, ruler of all nations,  
grant of thy mercy unto us thy  
servants steps up to heaven.
2. Send thine archangel Michael to our succour;  
peacemaker blessèd, may he banish from us  
striving and hatred, so that for the peaceful  
all things may prosper.
3. Send thine archangel Gabriel, the mighty;  
herald of heaven, may he, from us mortals,  
drive every evil, watching o'er the temples  
where thou art worshipped.
4. Send from the heavens Raphael thine archangel,  
health-bringer blessèd, aiding every sufferer,  
that, in thy service, he may wisely guide us,  
healing and blessing.
5. May the blest mother of our God and Saviour,  
may the celestial company of angels,  
may the assembly of the saints in heaven,  
help us to praise thee.
6. Father almighty, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
God ever blessèd, hear our thankful praises;  
thine is the glory which from all creation  
ever ascendeth.

## Sermon



1. Angel-voices, ever singing,  
    round thy throne of light,  
angel-harps, forever ringing,  
    rest not day nor night;  
thousands only live to bless thee,  
    and confess thee, Lord of might!
2. Yea, we know that thou rejoices  
    o'er each work of thine;  
thou didst ears and hands and voices  
    for thy praise design;  
artist's craft and music's measure  
    for thy pleasure all combine.
3. In thy house, great God, we offer  
    of thine own to thee;  
and for thine acceptance proffer,  
    in humility,  
hearts and minds and hands and voices,  
    in our choicest psalmody.
4. Honour, glory, might, and merit,  
    thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
    blessèd Trinity!  
Of the best that thou hast given,  
    earth and heaven render thee.

## **The Blessing or Grace**

## **Organ Voluntary**

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*The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine*  
*(Diocese of British Columbia / Anglican Church of Canada)*  
1611 Quadra Street Victoria BC V8W 2L5 250.383.7169  
[stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](http://stjohnthedivine.bc.ca)    [facebook.com/musicSJD](https://facebook.com/musicSJD)

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