



**October 12, 2025**

**Harvest Thanksgiving**

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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:** A Quartet of Singers

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. 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

*Katherine Burk Webb (b. 1990)*

*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

Psalm 148:1-6

- 1 O praise the Lord of heaven \* praise him in the height.
- 2 Praise him, all ye angels of his \* praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon \* praise him, all ye stars and light.
- 4 Praise him, all ye heavens \* and ye waters that are above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord \* for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded, and they were created.
- 6 He hath made them fast for ever and ever \* he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

*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

Deuteronomy 27:1-14

Then Moses and the elders of Israel charged all the people as follows: Keep the entire commandment that I am commanding you today. On the day that you cross over the Jordan into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall set up large stones and cover them with plaster. You shall write on them all the words of this law when you have crossed over, to enter the land that the Lord your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. So when you have crossed over the Jordan, you shall set up these stones, about which I am commanding you today,

on Mount Ebal, and you shall cover them with plaster. And you shall build an altar there to the Lord your God, an altar of stones on which you have not used an iron tool. You must build the altar of the Lord your God of unhewn stones. Then offer up burnt offerings on it to the Lord your God, make sacrifices of well-being, and eat them there, rejoicing before the Lord your God. You shall write on the stones all the words of this law very clearly.

Then Moses and the levitical priests spoke to all Israel, saying: Keep silence and hear, O Israel! This very day you have become the people of the Lord your God. Therefore obey the Lord your God, observing his commandments and his statutes that I am commanding you today.

The same day Moses charged the people as follows: When you have crossed over the Jordan, these shall stand on Mount Gerizim for the blessing of the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. And these shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

*Please stand.*

## Magnificat

*Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Healy Willan, 4<sup>th</sup> Fauxbourdons*

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

2 Corinthians 9

Now it is not necessary for me to write to you about the ministry to the saints, for I know your eagerness, which is the subject of my boasting about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year; and your zeal has stirred up most of them. But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you may not prove to have been empty in this case, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be; otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—in this undertaking. So, I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised, so that it may be ready as a voluntary gift and not as an extortion.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of

everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry, you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

*Please stand.*

## **Nunc Dimittis**

*Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Healy Willan, 4<sup>th</sup> Fauxbourdons*

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 almighty God and heavenly Father, we glorify thee that we are once more permitted to enjoy the fulfilment of thy gracious promise, that, while the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest shall not fail. Blessed be thou, who hast given us the fruits of the earth in their season. Teach us to remember that it is not by bread alone that man doth live; but grant that we may feed on him who is the true bread which cometh down from heaven, even Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour; to whom with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, 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** *(sung by the choir)*

Thou that hast giv'n so much to me,  
 Give one thing more, a grateful heart.  
 Not thankful, when it pleaseth me;  
 As if Thy blessings had spare days:  
 But such a heart, whose pulse may be  
 Thy praise.

Text: George Herbert (1593-1633).  
 Music: Mary Plumstead (1905-1980).

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

**Intercessions**

*Please stand to sing the hymn:*

## **Hymn** (CP 429)

Text: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.

Music: Dix, Melody – English trad.; adapt. Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879-1943).

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1. For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.
2. For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.
3. For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.
4. For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.
5. For each perfect gift of thine  
to our race so freely given,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven,  
Christ our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

## **Sermon**



1. Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
sing and praise your God and mine!  
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,  
might and majesty divine!  
God who framed the starry heavens  
knows and names them as they shine.
2. Praise the Lord, you people, praise him!  
Wounded souls God's comfort know;  
those who fear God find God's mercies,  
peace for pain and joy for woe;  
humble hearts are high exalted,  
human pride and power laid low.
3. Praise the Lord for times and seasons,  
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;  
spring to melt the snows of winter  
till the waters flow again;  
grass upon the mountain pastures,  
golden valleys thick with grain.
4. Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
peace and plenty crown your days;  
love God's laws, declare God's judgements,  
walk in all God's words and ways;  
God the Lord and we God's children:  
praise the Lord, all people, praise!

## The Blessing or Grace

### Organ Voluntary

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