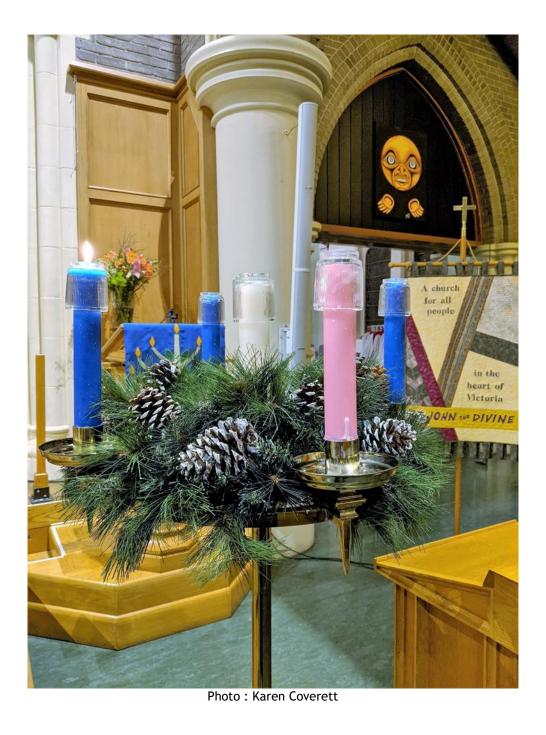
The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine The 1st Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025

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 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.



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 in 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.

Services at St. John's are: 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 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. 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. 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 Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Greeters: Ruth Swinton, Marilyn Moody

Crucifer: Penny Holt **Sacristan:** Judith Branion

Readers: Carol-Ann Zenger, Kate Newman

Gospel: Gary Moss

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Intercessor: Marilynn Mincey

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Fraser,

Virginia Miller, Graeme Brown

Verger: Chuck Neilson

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: The Community Choir

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.

The Gathering of the Community

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome

Announcements

Processional Hymn (CP 110)

WACHET AUF

Al-le-lu-ia!

1. "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us; the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:

"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!" Midnight's peace their cry has broken, their urgent summons clearly spoken:

"The time has come, O maidens wise! Rise up, and give us light;

the bridegroom is in sight.

Alleluia!

Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share."

please turn page for vs. 2-3



- 2. Zion hears the watchmen singing.

 Her heart with joyful hope is springing;
 she wakes and hurries through the night.

 Forth he comes, her bridegroom glorious in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
 her star is risen, her light grows bright.

 Now come, most worthy Lord,
 God's Son, incarnate Word,
 alleluia!

 We follow all and heed your call to come into the banquet hall.
- 3. Lamb of God, the heavens adore you; let saints and angels sing before you, as harps and cymbals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the city's portals: through them we stream to join the immortals as we with joy your throne surround. No eye has known the sight; no ear heard such delight: alleluia!

 Therefore we sing to greet our King; forever let our praises ring.

Text: Philipp Nicolai (1566-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1944-). © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Music: Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608).

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Gathering

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.

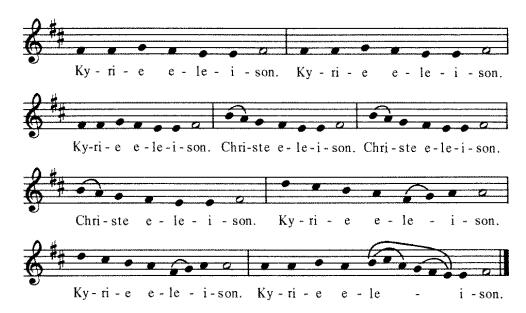
Lighting of the Advent Candle

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs and matriarchs of old, you are Father and mother to us too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make her home among us.

All: We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

From Common Worship: Times and Seasons, The Church of England, Amended

Kyrie (CP 687)



Music: New Plainsong, David Hurd (1950-). © 1981 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-719605.

The Collect of the Day *Silence is kept*.

God of peace, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; so that on the last day, when your Son Jesus shall come again to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to eternal life; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

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

The First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

After the Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122

Refrain:

I was glad when they said, 'Let us go to the house of God.'

I was glad when they said to me, * "Let us go to the house of GOD."

Now our feet are standing * within your gates, O Jerusalem. Refrain

Jerusalem is built as a city * that is at unity with itself;

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of GOD, * the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of GOD.

For there are the thrones of judgment, * the thrones of the house of David. Refrain

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: * "May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls * and quietness within your towers. Refrain

For my people and companions' sake, * I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of GOD our God, * I will seek to do you good." Refrain

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

The Epistle Romans 13:11-14

After the Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.



- Hark, a herald voice is sounding:
 "Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
 "Cast away the dreams of darkness,
 O ye children of the day!"
- 2. Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earthbound soul arise; Christ our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
- 3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us all, with deep repentance, pray that we may be forgiven.
- 4. That when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear, with his mercy he may shield us, and with words of love draw near.
- 5. Honour, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.

Text: Latin (*Vox clare*, 10th cent.); tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878), alt.

Music: William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

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The Gospel *Before the Gospel:*

Matthew 24:36-44



Cantor: Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Luke 21:28



God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Hear the Good news of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



- 1. I believe in God almighty,
 Author of all things that be,
 maker of the earth and heavens,
 keeper of the sky and sea.
 I believe in God's Son, Jesus,
 now for us both Lord and Christ,
 of the Spirit and of Mary
 born to bring abundant life.
- 2. I believe that Jesus suffered,
 scourged and scorned and crucified;
 taken from the cross, was buried—
 true life there had truly died.
 I believe that on the third day
 Christ was raised up from the grave,
 then ascended to God's right hand.
 He will come to judge and save.
- 3. I believe in God's own Spirit,
 bonding all the saints within
 one church, catholic, and holy,
 where forgiveness frees from sin;
 in the body's resurrection,
 for the breaking of death's chain
 gives the life that's everlasting:
 this the faith that I have claimed.

Text: The Apostles' Creed; para. Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993). Para. © 1991 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Melody – Welsh trad. Coll. Edward Jones (1752-1824), Musical & Poetical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, 1784, alt. All rights reserved. Used under OneLicense.net # A-719605.

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 the offertory plate at St. John's, but we are grateful for your support of our ministry and heritage building. There are several ways you can contribute financially. You may use the QR code printed on page 2 of this leaflet to contribute via Canada Helps (tax receipt included). There is a donation box by the garden door entrance and collection plates at the front and back entrances for people to leave offerings or envelopes. 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.

Offertory Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light



Text: Bernadette Farrell, b.1957 Tune: Bernadette Farrell, b.1957 © 1993, 2000, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications.

The Prayer over the Gifts

God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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

Scottish Episcopal Church 1982 (2022 revision)

Eucharistic Prayer II

Anticipation (Suitable for Advent)

The Book of Alternative Services



Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,

and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined,

sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit,

we who bear your threefold likeness

look for the City of Peace in whose

light we are transfigured

and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose

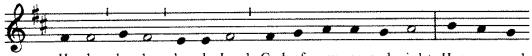
who await the coming of your Son,

we offer you our praise,

with angels and archangels

and the whole company of heaven

singing the hymn of your unending glory:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might. Heav-en and



earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is



he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Music: New Plainsong, David Hurd (1950-). © 1981 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-719605.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, He opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven. Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, 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 now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension;

a single, holy, living sacrifice.

and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts with them ourselves,

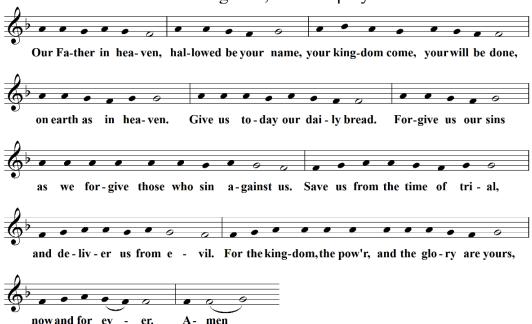
Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by your Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised 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 our brothers and sisters living and departed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.



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 this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

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. 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.

Agnus Dei (CP 690)



Lamb of God, you take a -way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant __ us peace.

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Anthem

All praise eternal Son, to thee Whose advent sets thy people free; Whom with the Father, we adore, And Spirit blest for ever more.

Thomas Tallis (1505-85), arr. Alan Bullard (b. 1947)

Following the Communion there will be a pause for silence.

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

God for whom we wait, in this meal you gave us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

All: Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

Acclamation for Advent

In the life of our Church

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

With love and compassion

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

In grace and mercy

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Through love and service

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

In wisdom and growth

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

The Blessing

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God.



- 1. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long: let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.
- 2. Christ comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before him burst; the iron fetters yield.
- 3. Christ comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and from the treasuries of grace to bless the humble poor.
- 4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim; and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751), alt. Music: Thomas Ravenscroft (1590?-1634?), Whole Book of Psalmes, 1621.

Voluntary Wachet Auf

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please join us at the back of the church for refreshments and fellowship.

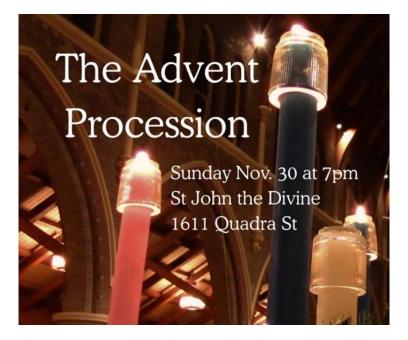


Sunday Reflections will be held in the Walking Together Chapel following coffee hour.

Flowers

Given to the Glory of God and in deep gratitude for the love and friendship of my St John's Family, from Barbara Jenks.







The Church's year starts on Sunday, November 30th, marked with this dramatic and moving liturgy of music and readings at 7pm, featuring the Choristers of St John the Divine. The service explores the themes of Advent - darkness, light, hope, endings, and beginnings - through a series of 'sequences' based around the mystery of the Eternal, the Promise of the Kingdom, John the Baptist the Forerunner of Christ, the Incarnation, and the Coming Again.

Music this year, in addition to the ancient chants of the O antiphons and congregational Advent hymns, will include:

- Third Song of Isaiah (David Stratkauskas)
- O Virtus Sapientiae (Hildegard of Bingen)
- O Radiant Dawn (James MacMillan)
- A Prayer to St John the Baptist (Cecilia McDowall)
- Bogoroditsye Dyevo (Sergei Rachmaninoff)
- Sanctus from the Mass in A minor (Imogen Holst)
- E'en so Lord Jesus, Quickly Come (Paul Manz)
- Advent O Carol (Joanna Forbes l'Estrange)

Readings for December 7th – The 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 The prophet foretells a day when a righteous one shall rule, establishing justice and peace for all the world.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18, 19 Echoing the themes of the Isaiah reading, this royal proclamation nourished the hopes for a restored Davidic dynasty.

Romans 15:4-13 Paul celebrates the inclusion of the Gentiles into God's covenant community.

Matthew 3:1-12 John the Baptist is on fire with God's dream of new life, cleaner life.

The following people have asked for our prayers.

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

Chuck	Jill & family	Charles & Frances
Carin & David	Paul C-S.	Justin
Nancy B.	Mallory	Jane
Zoe	Andrew	John & Pat
Claire	Christopher	Judy
Kate	Paula	Deb
Annabelle	Mary K.	Pete
Nancy	Joanne	Samantha
Ian	Mary	Mike
Peter D.	Vorna & family	Marion
Patricia	Mike & family	





Christmas at St. John the Divine

Christmas Blues The 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 14 4:30 p.m.

Our Christmas Blues service is an opportunity to gather during this holiday season when we might not be feeling as festive as others are.

If we're feeling a little lost, or lonely, or hurting because we have lost someone, or for any other reason we're not 'in the Christmas spirit' as we're told to be, then this simple service, with prayer, silence, ritual and music to mark our difficulties offers comfort and shared space as we approach the longest night of the year.

Christmas Carol Service The 4th Sunday of Advent, December 21 7:00 p.m.

The traditional service of lessons and carols for Christmas, as popularized by King's College Cambridge: carols new and old sung by The Choristers of St. John the Divine, and favourites for all to sing.

Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24

All-Age Celebration of the Nativity Story 4:00 p.m.

Bring the whole family and rejoice at the birth of Christ. Children, especially, are invited to participate in the telling of the Nativity Story in word and song.

Midnight Mass 10:00 p.m.

The festive Christmas service, with Holy Communion, traditional carols and candlelight, led by The Choristers of St. John the Divine. Sermon by The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

Christmas morning service of Holy Communion, sermon, congregational carols.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Victoria Baroque Presents Christmas with Octet Victoria

Saturday, Dec 6, 2025 | 7:30 PM; doors open at 7:00 PM St. John the Divine, 1611 Quadra Street, Victoria

'Tis the season for a merry celebration of timeless holiday music! Victoria Baroque is delighted to present *Christmas with Octet Victoria*, a radiant evening of festive choral and instrumental works performed in collaboration with the acclaimed professional vocal ensemble Octet Victoria.

Victoria audiences are invited to revel in music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude, and their friends that will bring both joy and tenderness to the festive season. The program will include famous Christmas carols like Michael Praetorius's Es ist ein Ros (Lo, How a Rose), Juminous cantatas

like Buxtehude's Das neugeborne Kindelein (The Newborn Child), Bach's masterful and exuberant motet Lobet den Herrn, and some of the most cozily familiar Baroque music like Pachelbel's famous Canon and Bach's chorale Jesu bleibet meine Freude, often called "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring". All the music will be performed on historical instruments which offer a warm, speech-like expressivity and nimbleness to the music.

Founded by Char Hodgkins in 2022, Octet Victoria is a professional vocal ensemble based in Victoria, BC, dedicated to exploring choral music from every era—from Renaissance motets to music by today's most compelling composers. Octet Victoria is rapidly building a reputation for their wonderfully cohesive sound and impeccable intonation.

Tickets & Accessibility:

Tickets are available online at www.victoria-baroque.com and at the door.

General admission: \$35 | Students & Youth: \$5

Children under 12 (accompanied by an adult) attend for free. Not recommended for children under seven.

St. John's is wheelchair accessible via the garden doors on the north side. To arrange accessible seating, please email info@victoria-baroque.com before noon on Friday, December 6.

About Victoria Baroque

Victoria Baroque presents dynamic, personal, and engaging performances of music from the Baroque and Classical periods. Playing on instruments of the 18th century, Victoria Baroque brings together early music specialists from Vancouver Island and beyond for explorations of chamber, orchestral, vocal and choral works.

For media inquiries, please contact:

marketing@victoria-baroque.com

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Stewards

People's Warden: Jim Harlick jharlick@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
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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

Jaqueline Gillespie, Murray Harris, Ann McLaren Pam Plummer, Ruth Swinton, Cornelia van Voorst

Synod Delegates

Jim Harlick, Jamie Lawson, Michael Zenger

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 familyministry@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

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