

# The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

## *The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas*

## *December 28, 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.

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Poussin, Nicolas, 1594?-1665. Return of the Holy Family from Egypt, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59341> [retrieved December 23, 2025]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Poussin,\\_Nicolas\\_-\\_The\\_Return\\_of\\_the\\_Holy\\_Family\\_from\\_Egypt\\_-\\_Google\\_Art\\_Project.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Poussin,_Nicolas_-_The_Return_of_the_Holy_Family_from_Egypt_-_Google_Art_Project.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 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 - returning on January 4, 2026)** 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)

We continue to share daily prayer online with a link on our website.

**Contacting Us:** Please email us at [admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto: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

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*The order of service is found on page 67 in the Book of Common Prayer*

Presider: The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil

# 10:00 am Parish Eucharist

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

**Presider:** The Reverend Pam Worthington

**Greeters:** Bill Williamson, Susan Fraser

**Crucifer:** Penny Holt

**Sacristan:** Ann Barry

**Readers:** Mary Kennedy, Virginia Miller

**Gospel:** Lorraine Gates

**Sermon:** The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil

**Intercessor:** David Buckman

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Iris Elsdon,

Nancy Baal, Patrick Samuel

**Verger:** David Pupak

**Streaming Technician:** Karen Coverett

**Music:** Emily Markwart

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*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.*

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## The Gathering of the Community

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome

Announcements

Processional Hymn (CP 140)

NOEL



1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing;  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

please turn the page for vs. 3-4



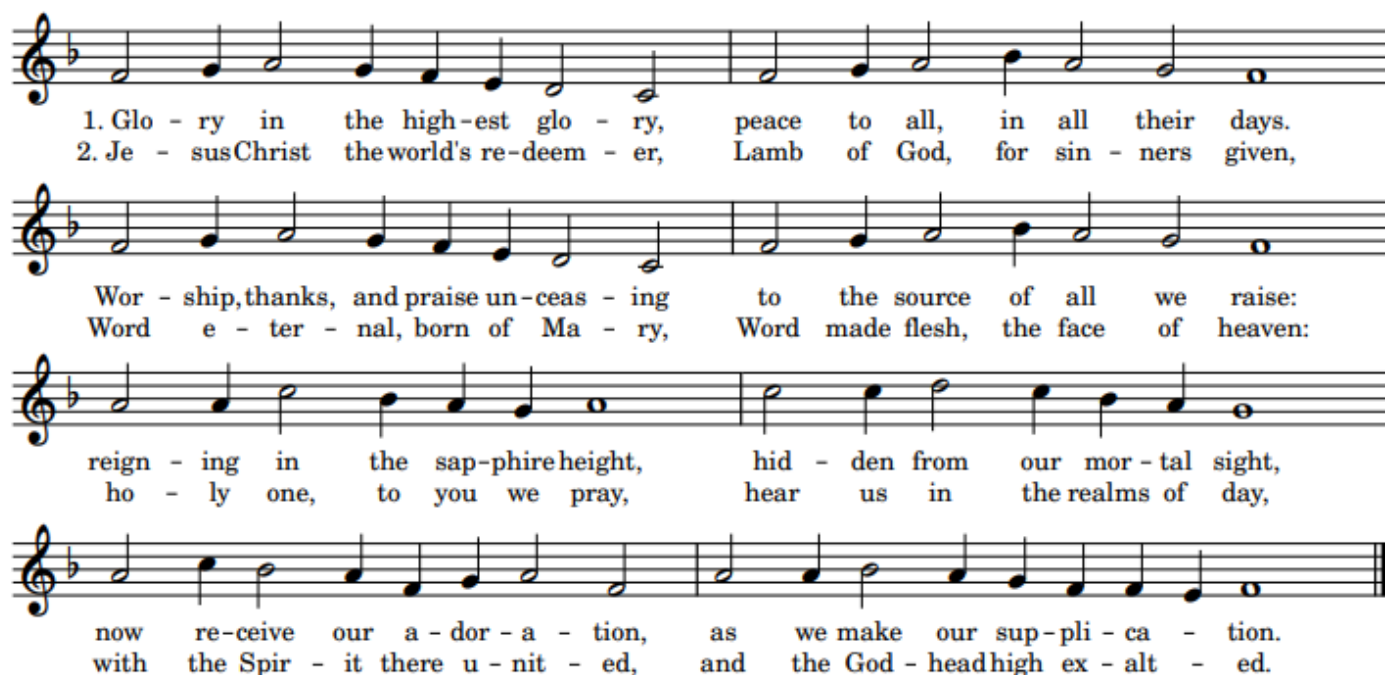
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
And we amid our wars hear not  
the words of peace they bring;  
O listen now, and still your strife  
to hear the angels sing.
4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet-bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

Text: E. H. Sears (1810-1876).  
Music: trad. English, adapt. A. Sullivan (1842-1900),  
and David Willcocks (1919-2015).

## 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.



1. Glo - ry in the high - est glo - ry, peace to all, in all their days.  
 2. Je - sus Christ the world's re - deem - er, Lamb of God, for sin - ners given,  
 Wor - ship, thanks, and praise un - ceas - ing to the source of all we raise:  
 Word e - ter - nal, born of Ma - ry, Word made flesh, the face of heaven:  
 reign - ing in the sap - phire height, hid - den from our mor - tal sight,  
 ho - ly one, to you we pray, hear us in the realms of day,  
 now re - ceive our a - dor - a - tion, as we make our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
 with the Spir - it there u - nit - ed, and the God - head high ex - alt - ed.

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

*Silence is kept.*

O Lord God,  
 you know that we cannot place our trust  
 in our own powers.  
 As you protected the infant Jesus,  
 so defend us and all in need  
 from harm and adversity;  
 through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

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# The Proclamation of the Word

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

## The First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

### *After the Reading*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

148

Hallelujah! Praise GOD from the heavens; \* praise GOD in the heights.

**Praise GOD, all you angels of GOD; \* praise GOD, all GOD's host.**

Praise GOD, sun and moon; \* praise GOD, all you shining stars.

**Praise GOD, heaven of heavens, \* and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the Name of GOD; \* for GOD commanded, and they were created.

**GOD made them stand fast for ever and ever; \* GOD gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise GOD from the earth, \* you sea-monsters and all deeps;

**Fire and hail, snow and fog, \* tempestuous wind, doing GOD's will;**

Mountains and all hills, \* fruit trees and all cedars;

**Wild beasts and all cattle, \* creeping things and wingèd birds;**

Rulers of the earth and all peoples, \* governors and all judges of the world;

**People of all genders, \* old and young together.**

Let them praise the Name of GOD, \* for GOD's Name only is exalted, GOD's splendour is over earth and heaven.

**GOD has raised up strength for their people and praise for all their loyal servants, \* the children of Israel, a people who are near GOD. Hallelujah!**

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

Hebrews 2:10-18

### *After the Reading*

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**All: Thanks be to God.**



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Unto us is born a son,<br/>King of choirs supernal:<br/>See on earth his life begun,<br/>Of lords the Lord eternal.</p>             | <p>3. This did Herod sore affray,<br/>And did him bewilder,<br/>So he gave the word to slay,<br/>And slew the little childer.</p> |
| <p>2. Christ, from heav'n descending low,<br/>Comes on earth a stranger;<br/>Ox and ass their Owner know<br/>Now cradled in a manger.</p> | <p>4. Of his love and mercy mild<br/>Hear the Christmas story:<br/>O that Mary's gentle Child<br/>Might lead us up to glory!</p>  |
| <p>5. Omega and Alpha He!<br/>Let the organ thunder,<br/>While the choir with peals of glee<br/>Rends the air asunder.</p>                |   |

Text: G.R. Woodward (1848-1934)  
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## The Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

*Before the Gospel:*

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

## 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.*

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## The Celebration of the Eucharist

### Offertory Hymn (CP 155)

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. From east to west, from shore to shore,<br>let every heart awake and sing<br>the holy child whom Mary bore,<br>the Christ, the everlasting King. | 4. Assenting to the angel's word,<br>she chose what God the Spirit willed,<br>and suddenly the promised Lord<br>that pure and hallowed temple filled.          |
| 2. Behold! The world's creator wears<br>the form and fashion of a slave;<br>our very flesh our Maker shares,<br>his fallen creature now to save.    | 5. He shrank not from the oxen's stall,<br>he lay within the manger bed,<br>and he whose bounty feeds us all<br>at Mary's breast himself was fed.              |
| 3. For this how wondrously he wrought!<br>A maiden, in her lowly place,<br>became, in ways beyond all thought,<br>the chosen vessel of his grace.   | 6. And while the angels in the sky<br>sang praise above the silent field,<br>to shepherds poor the Lord most high,<br>the one great Shepherd, was<br>revealed. |
| 7. All glory for this blessed morn<br>to God, the source of all, is due;<br>all praise to you, O Virgin-born;<br>all praise O Holy Ghost, to you.   |  |

Text: Caelius Sedulius (5<sup>th</sup> cent.?); tr. John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt.  
Music: Melody – Trier MS (15<sup>th</sup> cent.); adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

## The Prayer over the Gifts

God of light,  
in the birth of your Son we see your glory.

May we who share in this mystery  
grow daily in your love.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**All: Amen.**

The Book of Alternative Services



*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 Liturgy-1982-revision 2022-Prayer III Incarnation

May God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to our Creator God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

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 Jesus Christ, your Word became flesh,  
and 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 who overshadowed

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.\_\_\_\_

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.\_\_\_\_

Heav - en and earth are full,\_\_\_\_ full\_\_\_\_ of your glo - ry. Ho -  
Bless - ed is he who comes\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord.\_\_\_\_ Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010).  
Arr. © 1985, 1989 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,  
most loving Father and Mother of all.  
In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us,  
and lived among us,  
that we might forever live with you.  
In the manger at Bethlehem,  
in his flight to Egypt, and as the carpenter's son,  
the Only Begotten humbled himself to meet us.

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

Before he was given up to suffering and death,  
desiring to complete the work  
for which he came into the world,  
at supper with his disciples  
Jesus 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;  
and we look for the coming of the reign of justice and joy.  
Made one with Christ, we offer you these gifts  
and with them ourselves,  
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Creator,  
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 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,  
God of all ages, world without end.

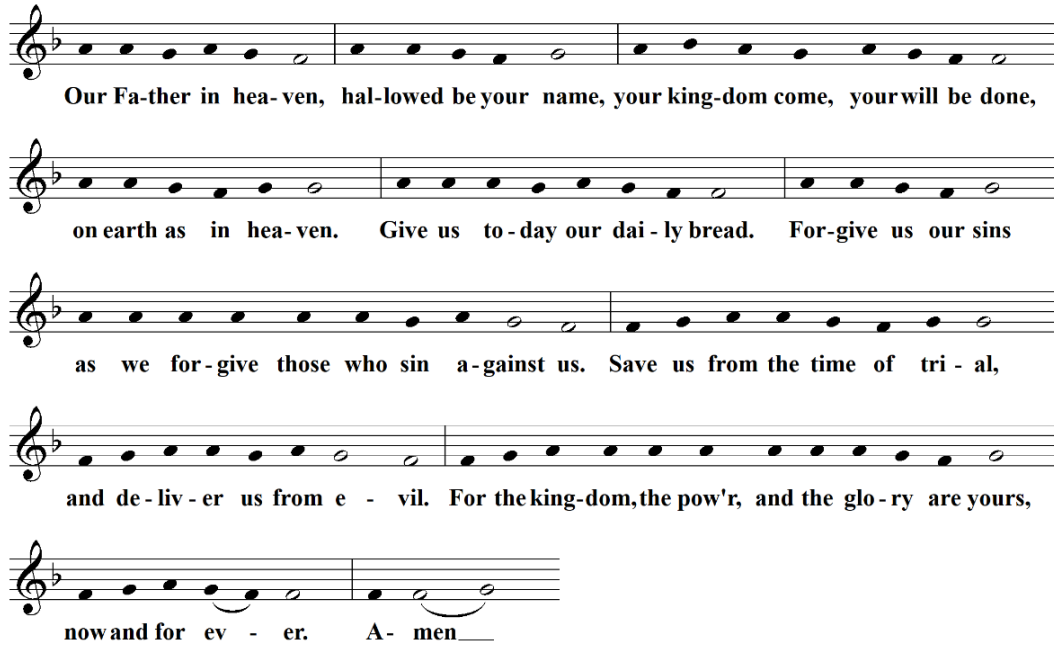


**All:**

**A - men, A - men, A - - men.**

## 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.*

*Following the Communion there will be a pause for silence.*

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# 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

Father and Mother of all,  
the child born for us is the Saviour of the world.  
May he who made us your children  
welcome us into your kingdom,  
where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

The Book of Alternative Services

## The Blessing

### Dismissal

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

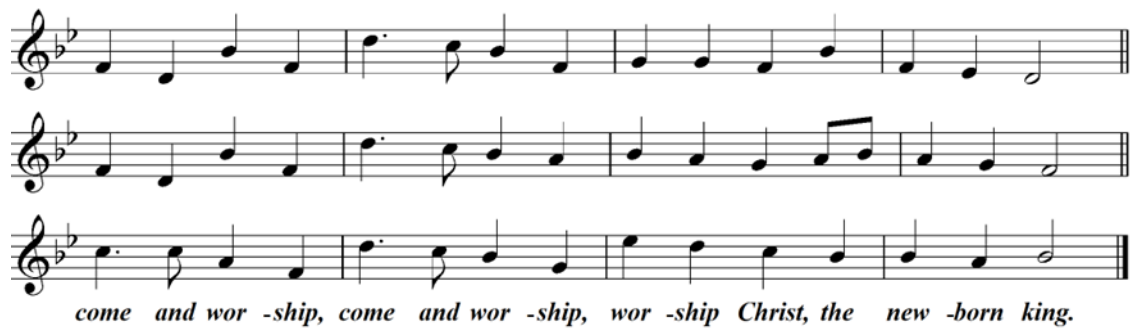
## Recessional Hymn (CP 143)

REGENT SQUARE



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Angels, from the realms of glory,<br/>wing your flight o'er all the earth;<br/>you who sang creation's story,<br/>now proclaim Messiah's birth:<br/>Come and worship, come and worship,<br/>worship Christ, the newborn king.</p> <p>2. Shepherds in the field abiding,<br/>watching o'er your flocks by night,<br/>God with us is now residing;<br/>yonder shines the infant Light:<br/>Come and worship, come and worship,<br/>worship Christ, the newborn king.</p> | <p>3. Sages, leave your contemplations;<br/>brighter visions beam afar;<br/>seek the great desire of nations;<br/>you have seen his natal star:<br/>Come and worship, come and worship,<br/>worship Christ, the newborn king.</p> <p>4. Saints before the altar bending,<br/>watching long in hope and fear,<br/>suddenly the Lord, descending,<br/>in his temple shall appear:<br/>Come and worship, come and worship,<br/>worship Christ, the newborn king.</p> |
|--|---|

please turn page for v. 5



**5. Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill the eternal throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

Text: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.  
Music: Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

Voluntary

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.



**Evensong returns  
Sunday, January 4 at 4:30 pm.**

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## Readings for January 4 – The Epiphany of the Lord

**Isaiah 60:1-6** The glory of the Lord is light for all the nations.

**Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14** In the ancient Near East, kings were next to gods. A king and his heir were seen as endowed with justice by gods, and had special responsibility for the poor and needy. This psalm is a prayer for the king, possibly written for a coronation.

**Ephesians 3:1-12** The manifestation of God's revelation to the Gentiles is celebrated and Paul's ministry to them affirmed.

**Matthew 2:1-12** "Wise men" (in Latin: magi) were members of a Persian caste of astrologers and interpreters of dreams. Astrology was widely accepted then. A star was associated with each person; the way the star rose told the wise men that a king had been born. A later church tradition called the wise men kings.

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### The following people have asked for our prayers.

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

Chuck  
Paul C-S.  
Jane  
Claire  
Annabelle  
Nancy  
Marion  
Donald  
Emily  
Robin  
James M.

Jill & family  
Nancy B.  
Zoe  
Kate  
Jim  
Joanne  
Michael & family  
Joshua  
Liz & family  
Zola  
Richard M.

Charles & Frances  
Mallory  
John & Pat  
Deb  
Pete  
Vorna & family  
Mike & family  
Carol  
Susan  
Paul  
Laura

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# 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

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  
alie2coachman@gmail.com

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

1611 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2L5 Tel. 250-383-7169 / Fax 250-381-3573  
[pastoral@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:pastoral@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca) or **for urgent calls only**, use 250-516-9565  
or email [admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca)  
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e-mail: [admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca)

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