

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 4, 2026

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.



Tissot, James, 1836-1902. Journey of the Magi, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56277> [retrieved December 31, 2025].
Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Magi_tissot.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)** 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 Reverend Pam Worthington

Greeters: Mary Kennedy, Ruth Swinton

Crucifer: Terry Needham

Sacristan: Terry Needham

Readers: Erin Kelly, Christine Scott

Gospel: Jamie Lawson

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Intercessor: Sarah Kell

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Garaeme Brown,
Gerry Melville, Susan Fraser

Verger: David Pupak

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: The Community Choir
David Stratkauskas, Director

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 160)

DIX



- 1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.**
- 2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.**
- 3. As they offered gifts most rare
at that cradle rude and bare,
so may we with joyful song,
raising voices pure and strong,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly king.**
- 4. In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our king.**

Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), alt.

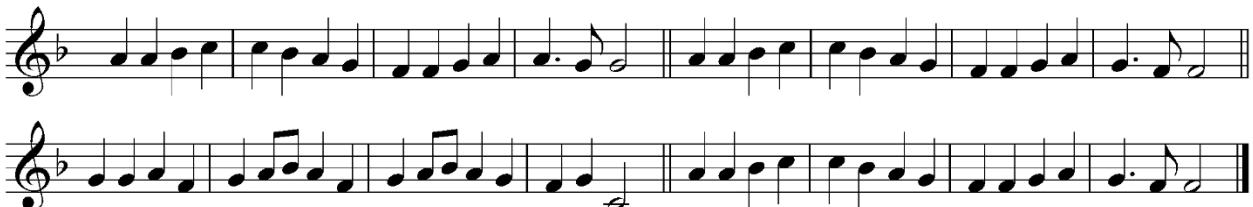
Music: Konrad Kocher (1786-1872).

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.

Gloria



1. **Glory be to God in heaven: Peace, goodwill to all the earth.**
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
2. **Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.**
Son of God and gracious Saviour, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
3. **Holy One we now acclaim you: Lord alone, to you we call;**
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendour bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

Text: Gloria, para. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, no. S204a.
Music: HYMN TO JOY, L. van Beethoven, arr. E. Hodges (1796-1867).

The Collect of the Day

Silence is kept.

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
Guide and sustain us,
so that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

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

The First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

After the Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

72:1-7, 10-14

Give the Ruler your justice, O God, * and your righteousness to the Ruler's heir;
That they may rule your people righteously * and the poor with justice.

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * and the little hills bring
righteousness.

They shall defend the needy among the people; * they shall rescue the poor and
crush the oppressor.

They shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, * from one generation to
another.

They shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * like showers that water the
earth.

In their time shall the righteous flourish; * there shall be abundance of peace till
the moon shall be no more.

The rulers of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, * and the rulers of Arabia
and Saba offer gifts.

All rulers shall bow down before them, * and all the nations do them service.

For they shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, * and the oppressed who
has no helper.

They shall have pity on the lowly and poor; * they shall preserve the lives of the
needy.

They shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, * and dear shall their
blood be in their sight.

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

Ephesians 3:1-12

After the Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.



1. Wise men, they came to look for wisdom,
finding one wiser than they knew;
rich men, they met with one yet richer—
King of the kings, they knelt to you:
Jesus, our wisdom from above,
wealth and redemption, life and love.
2. Pilgrims they were, from unknown countries,
searching for one who knows the world;
lost are their names and strange their journeys,
famed is their zeal to find the child:
Jesus, in you the lost are claimed,
aliens are found and known and named.
3. Magi, they stooped to see your splendour,
led by a star to light supreme;
promised Messiah, Lord eternal,
glory and peace are in your name.
Joy of each day, our song by night,
shine on our path your holy light.
4. Guests of their God, they opened treasures—
incense and gold and solemn myrrh;
welcoming one too young to question
how came these gifts, and what they were.
Gift beyond price of gold or gem,
make among us your Bethlehem.

Text: Christopher Idle (1938-). © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Georg Neumark (1621-1681).

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The Gospel
Before the Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12



Cantor: Al - le - lu - ia. All: Al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.

Matthew 2:2



Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn (CP 139)

THE FIRST NOWELL



1. The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2. They lookèd up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Refrain

**6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who has made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood salvation bought.**

Refrain

Text: English trad.

Music: Melody English trad. (17th cent.?), alt; arr. John Stainer (1840-1901), alt.

The Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God,
accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people
joined in praise and thanksgiving,
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:

Sanctus (CP 735)

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

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.”

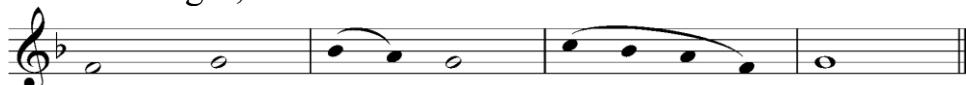
After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:
“Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

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 siblings living and departed.

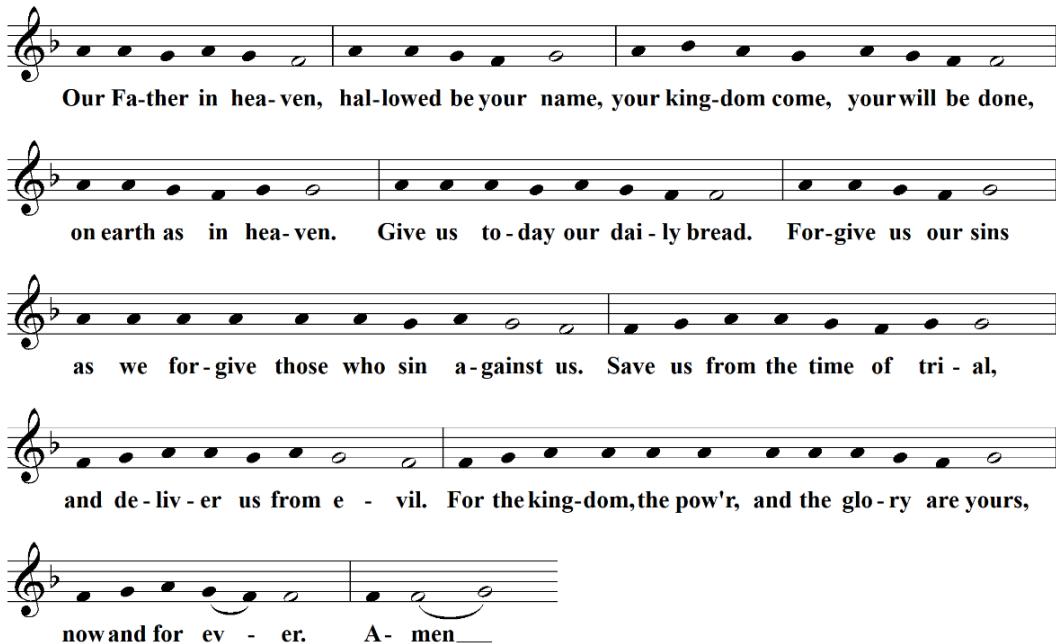
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
God of all ages, world without end.



All: A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

The Disciple's Prayer

Priest: As our saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray:



Our Fa-ther in hea-ven, hal-lowed be your name, your king-dom come, your will be done,
on earth as in hea-ven. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins
as we for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri-al,
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r, and the glo-ry are yours,
now and for ev-er. A-men

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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 is 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 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.

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 of all the nations of the earth,
guide us with your light.

Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us
in this eucharist and in our neighbours.

May we welcome him with love,
for he is Lord now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Book of Alternative Services

Closing Blessing (Chalking the Door)

During Epiphany-tide (following 6th January or the Sunday nearest) family and friends may gather at the main entrances to homes/places of work/places of worship and ask God's blessing on their dwellings and on all who live or visit there.

Peace be to this house of God and to all who enter here.

Presider: A reading from Proverbs:

“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established;
through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.”

Let us pray:

Gracious God,
as a shining star once guided the magi
to the birthplace of the infant Jesus,
so enable those who meet here to be your light in the world;
through Jesus Christ we pray.

All: Amen.

Using chalk (hence, “Chalking the Door”), people are invited to inscribe the lintel of their home (the horizontal frame above the door) with the inscription shown below. The letters C M B come from the traditional (9th century) names for the “three sages” – Caspar, Melchior & Balthazar. Some also suggest “Christus Mansionem Benedicat” which means “May Christ bless this dwelling!” We will do the same to our Church door:

20 + C + M + B + 26

Let us pray:

Sovereign God, we pray that you will bless this church and all who visit here with your gracious presence, that in this year ahead this may be a place where our community may come together, that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Jesus Christ we pray.

All: Amen.

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.

May the Lord watch over our going out and our coming in,
from this time forth and forevermore.

All: Amen.

The Blessing

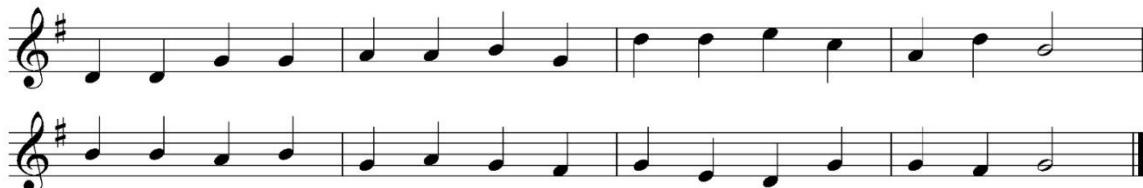
Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn (CP 158)

STUTTGART



1. **Earth has many a noble city;
Bethlehem, thou dost all excel:
out of thee the Lord from heaven
came to rule his Israel.**
2. **Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing
seen in fleshly form on earth.**
3. **Eastern sages at his cradle
make oblation rich and rare;
see them give, in deep devotion,
gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.**
4. **Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
incense doth their God disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.**

**5. Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshipped
at thy glad epiphany,
unto thee, with God the Father
and the Spirit, glory be.**

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413?); tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878).
Music: Melody Psalmody Sacra, Gotha, 1715; adapt. Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876).

Voluntary

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



Sunday Reflections will be held in the Walking Together Chapel
starting about 15 minutes after the service ends.

**Evensong returns this afternoon
at 4:30 pm.**

Flowers

Given to the Glory of God and in memory of Michael, much loved brother.
Thank you for the love and laughter you brought, from Lorraine and Andrew.

Readings for January 11th – The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9 In the form of a public proclamation with Yahweh as speaker, the prophet proclaims the mission of God's beloved servant to restore justice.

Psalm 29 The voice of the Lord breaks through the natural order.

Acts 10:34-43 With reference to Jesus' baptism, Peter proclaims the cosmic nature of God's plan in Jesus.

Matthew 3:13-17 Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan and a voice from heaven reveals Jesus' identity.

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
Paul C-S.	Nancy B.	Mallory
Jane	Zoe	John & Pat
Claire	Nancy	Joanne
Vorna & family	Carolyn & family	Melinda J.
Emi B.	Mark S.	Rick & Sylvia B.
Joshua	Cat	Emily
Liz & family	Susan	Paul
James M.	Richard M.	Andrew
Brian T.	Samantha	Ian
Kate	Mike	Deb
Miranda	Laura	Marion

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Stewards

People's Warden: Jim Harlick
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Incumbent's Warden: Jamie Lawson
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Associate Warden: Carol Anne Harper
charper@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Treasurer: David Buckman
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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
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Family Ministry Coordinator: Ruth MacIntosh
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Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger
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