



**March 8, 2026**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

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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 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.

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:** Gary Moss

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

**Welcomer:** Ava Gregorian

**Reader:** Ben Groom

**Music:** Quartet

Ryan Qu, Organist

Char Hodgkins, Director

**Streaming Technician:** Ben Groom

### 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 :** Photo by David Stratkauskas



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 you are able.*

### Prelude

*The officiant gives a short welcome.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### The Responses

*Char Hodgkins*

*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

40:1-13

- 1 I waited patiently for the Lord \* and he inclined unto me, and heard my calling.
- 2 He brought me also out of the horrible pit, out of the mire and clay \* and set my feet upon the rock, and ordered my goings.
- 3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth \* even a thanksgiving unto our God.
- 4 Many shall see it, and fear \* and shall put their trust in the Lord.
- 5 Blessed is the man that hath set his hope in the Lord \* and turned not unto the proud, and to such as go about with lies.
- 6 O Lord my God, great are the wondrous works which thou hast done, like as be also thy thoughts which are to us-ward \* and yet there is no man that ordereth them unto thee.
- 7 If I should declare them, and speak of them \* they should be more than I am able to express.
- 8 Sacrifice, and meat-offering, thou wouldest not \* but mine ears hast thou opened.
- 9 Burnt-offerings, and sacrifice for sin, hast thou not required \* then said I, Lo, I come,
- 10 In the volume of the book it is written of me, that I should fulfil thy will, O my God \* I am content to do it; yea, thy law is within my heart.
- 11 I have declared thy righteousness in the great congregation \* lo, I will not refrain my lips, O Lord, and that thou knowest.
- 12 I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart \* my talk hath been of thy truth, and of thy salvation.
- 13 I have not kept back thy loving mercy and truth \* from the great congregation.

*Please stand as you are able 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**

Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Magnificat**

*Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: June Nixon (b.1942)*

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.

*Please be seated.*

## Second Lesson

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Nunc Dimittis

*Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: June Nixon (b.1942)*

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:*

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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.

*Please be seated.*

## **Anthem** *(sung by the choir)*

When David heard that Absalom was slain  
he went up to his chamber over the gate,  
and wept; and thus he said:  
[O my son Absalom, my son,  
my son Absalom!  
Would God I had died for thee,  
O Absalom, my son, my son!

Text: 2 Samuel 18:33 Music: Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)

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

## **Intercessions**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Hymn** (CP 389)

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. (1944- ). © 1990 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: KING'S LYNN, Melody English trad.; coll, and arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958).  
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**1. O God of font and altar,  
of music, grandeur, light;  
toward whom the soaring arches  
aspire beyond their height:  
as beauty draws us to you  
within this house of prayer,  
let worship form and feed us  
to help us show your care.**

**2. O life-bestowing Spirit,  
inspire this hallowed space;  
breathe through us with new fervour  
and fill us with your grace.  
Arouse our lagging spirits,  
enflame our hearts with joy;  
here let a love be kindled  
that death cannot destroy.**

**3. O Christ, who cleansed the temple,  
baptize us with your zeal,  
and teach us your compassion  
to love, forgive, and heal.  
Be in our midst to claim us  
and mark us as your own;  
then send us forth in witness  
to make your mercy known.**

*Please be seated.*

## Sermon

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Hymn (CP 178)

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1. Restore in us, O God,  
the splendour of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts,  
and all our sins remove.
2. O Spirit, wake in us  
the wonder of your power;  
from fruitless fears unfurl our lives  
like springtime bud and flower.
3. Bring us, O Christ, to share  
the fullness of your joy;  
baptize us in the risen life  
that death cannot destroy.
4. Three-personed God, fulfil  
the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching ends,  
may see you face to face.

## The Blessing or Grace

*Please be seated.*

## Organ Voluntary

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