



July 12, 2026, 7pm
PRIDE EVENSONG

**The Anglican Church
of St. John the Divine**

St. John's acknowledges these ancestral lands of the Lekwungen people.

Welcome to the Anglican 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. 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 tonight's Liturgy

Officiant: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Readers: Karen Coverett; Kate Newman

Sermon: Niall Barnard

Music: Members of the Choristers of St. John the Divine;
David Stratkauskas, Director of Music; Christina Hutten, Organist

Welcomers: Melanie Ihmels; Nancy Baal

Videographer: Karen Coverett

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.



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. 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) or the bank machine (tax receipt with envelope completion), which is available at the garden door.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please stand at the entrance of the clergy and choir. The officiant gives a short welcome.

The Responses

Music: Grace Coberly (they/them, b. 1999)

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.)

Office Hymn

Text: Mary Louise Bringle (she/her, b. 1953), © 2006, GIA Publications All rights reserved.

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1. Sing a new world into being, sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings, lend your voice and dare to dream.
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being, sing as Christ inspires your song.
2. Sing a new world into being, where each gender class and race.
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace.
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being, Risk transforming heart and mind.
3. Sing a new world into being, where the homeless find a home.
Where no children ever hunger, but are filled with God's shalom.
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being, raise the harmonies of peace.
4. Sing a new world into being, Join the ancient prophets' cry.
For a time of health and plenty, when all tears have been wiped dry.
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.
Sing a new world into being, live the promise you believe.

Please be seated for the singing of the psalm.

Psalm

Psalm 133; Chant DS.

- 1 Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is * brethren, to dwell together in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down unto the beard * even unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his clothing.
- 3 Like as the dew of Hermon * which fell upon the hill of Sion.
- 4 For there the Lord promised his blessing * and life for evermore.

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

2 Samuel 1:17-27

David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. (He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said,

"Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places! How the mighty have fallen! Tell it not in Gath; proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice; the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult. You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you nor bounteous fields! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, nor the sword of Saul return empty. Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions. O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you with crimson, in luxury, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"

Please stand.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Joanna Forbes l'Estrange (she/her, b. 1971), King's College Service

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

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Joanna Forbes l'Estrange

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.

1st Collect, of the day (The Episcopal Church, 1979):

Cantor: O God, who hast taught us to keep all thy commandments by loving thee and our neighbour: Grant us the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to thee with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Choir: Amen.

2nd Collect, for Peace (The Book of Common Prayer, 1662):

Cantor: 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.
Choir: Amen.

3rd Collect, for Aid Against All Perils (The Book of Common Prayer, 1662):

Cantor: 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.
Choir: Amen.

Please be seated while the choir sings the anthem.

Anthem

Music: Sarah Rimkus (she/her, b. 1990)

O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.
You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
Search me, O God, and know my heart:
try me, and know my thoughts.

(Psalm 139)

Jacob said, "Tell me, I pray thee, thy name."
"Why do you ask after my name?"

(Genesis 32:29)

God said, "I AM that I AM."

"This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation."

(Exodus 3:14-15)

[Hagar] gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her:
"You are the God who sees me," for she said,
"I have now seen the One who sees me."

(Genesis 16:13)

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

Intercessions

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn

Text: John L. Bell (he/him, 1949-). Music: *KELVINGROVE*, Scottish trad. (CP 430)

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1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and ever be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me

Please be seated.

Address

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn

Text: adapt. Matthew Blake Lovegood (they/them b. 1982, aka Flamy Grant), ©

Music: SLANE, Irish trad.



1. Be thou my vision o Light of my heart
Teaching me it's never too late to start
Urge my best thoughts by day or by night
In every moment your presence, my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom and be my true Word;
Voice from within me speak out undeterred;
Sing truths I've known since I was a child;
Mind, spirit, body, and heart reconciled
3. Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise;
This my inheritance, now and always:
Leading me onward, you never depart,
Spirit of knowing, right here in my heart
4. Spirit of knowing, we've only begun,
Shine with the brilliance of bright heaven's sun,
Heart of my own heart, wherever I go
You're my truest vision, O light of my soul.

The Blessing or Grace

Organ Voluntary

Marianne Martines (she/her, 1744-1812): Allegro

NOTES ABOUT THE MUSIC

Grace Coberly (they/them, b. 1999) is a composer, singer, and educator with a passion for human connection. They write language-focused music that seeks to create communal, emotional experiences that forge a bond between performers and audience. The *Preces and Responses* use Mixolydian harmonies and offset rhythms to create a sense of instability and contemplative hope. The premiere took place at an Evensong service commemorating the life and work of the Anglican Communion's first female bishop, The Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris.

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (she/her, b. 1971) is a celebrated British vocalist, composer, and conductor whose career began with seven years at the helm of the Swingle Singers. The *King's College Service* was written for Ben Parry and *King's Voices*, the mixed student choir which sings Monday evensongs in the stunning chapel of King's College in Cambridge, England.

Sarah Rimkus (she/her, b. 1990) is an award-winning American composer of choral, vocal and chamber works. She is currently a visiting assistant professor of music theory and composition at Sewanee University. About today's anthem she writes, 'In the book of Genesis, the first person to name God is Hagar, an African slave woman. She calls Him "The God who sees me." These themes of naming, the name of God, and identity recur throughout the Bible. Acknowledgement and acceptance of the identities of individuals and groups is also a frequent topic of discussion in public life today. I wrote this anthem in celebration of God as an entity that not only knows us thoroughly, but truly accepts and celebrates every single part of ourselves.'

Mary Louise Bringle (she/her, b. 1953) is Professor of Philosophy and Religion Chair of the Humanities Division at Brevard College in North Carolina. A teacher at heart and a theologian by training (with a Ph.D. from Emory University and an assortment of publications in pastoral theology), she began writing hymn texts in 1999.

John Lamberton Bell (he/him born 1949) is a Scottish hymn-writer and Church of Scotland minister. He is a member of the Iona Community, a broadcaster, and former student activist. In 2017, responding to the suicide of Lizzie Lowe who was afraid to tell her parents about her sexuality, John Bell came out as gay during an address entitled 'Rampant Heterosexuality' at Greenbelt Festival.

Flamy Grant made drag history in 2023 when her debut album *Bible Belt Baby* reached #1 on the iTunes Christian music charts, earning her headlines in Rolling Stone, Entertainment Weekly, Billboard, People, and more. The "person under the hot pink wig" is **Matthew Blake Lovegood** (they/them) a "39-year-old non-binary badass drag queen" who grew up as a fundamentalist Evangelical, through Plymouth Brethren.

Marianne Martines (she/her, 1744-1812) was an Austrian composer, pianist, and singer of the Classical period, based in Vienna, the first woman to be admitted to the *Accademia Filarmonica of Bologna*. She and her sister, neither of whom married, led lives at the centre of Viennese artistic life, with Mozart being amongst the frequent guests of their soirees.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE

Sunday services:

8am Communion (spoken, 17th-century Book of Common Prayer);
10am Parish Eucharist (with music; modern language);
4:30pm Choral Evensong (from September)

Please check the website for midweek services.

Please note the choirs are on hiatus until early September.

If you can't attend in person, we invite you to join us through the livestream on the Website or our Youtube channel.

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

David Buckman, Murray Harris, Ann McLaren
Pam Plummer, Ruth Swinton, Cornelia van Voorst, Merle Wall

Synod Delegates

Jim Harlick, Penny Holt, Jamie Lawson

Staff Supporting the Ministry of St. John's

Incumbent: The Ven. Alastair Singh-McCollum
incumbent@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Volunteer Priest Associate: The Revd 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

1611 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2L5 Tel. 250-383-7169 / Fax 250-381-3573
pastoral@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca or **for urgent calls only**, use 250-516-9565
www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca facebook.com/St.JohnVicBC
e-mail: admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

