



St Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

20 September 2026

Featuring the Ryan Oliver Quartet

Welcome!

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is a member of the Diocese of Islands and Inlets and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are an inclusive and welcoming 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. As a parish we acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen peoples. We commit ourselves, as a settler church and people, to continue with our First Nations hosts on the journey of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

*Evensong, or Evening Prayer, evolved out of two ancient services of prayer at the end of the day—*vespers* (early evening) and *compline* (nighttime). It is an opportunity to put the events of the past day into perspective, to ground one's body, mind and spirit in preparation for the restorative night of sleep, when in our dreaming, our subconscious will continue the creative work of making sense of our experiences.*

Jazz seems to fit this creative transition well, being, as Ken Burns says, “a profound intersection of freedom and creativity”. We hope that this series will speak to you as a unique and moving experience of making sense of your day.

*(The Ven) Craig Hiebert
Incumbent, St Mary's*

Your generous donations make the ongoing Jazz Evensong series possible, allowing us to compensate our musicians fairly and supporting musical beauty in Victoria.

Each Evensong costs between \$500-\$650.

And don't forget, half of your charitable donations returns to you as an income tax credit:

*Donations with a mailing address will be issued a charitable tax receipt
(envelopes are available at the entry).*

Donations may also be made via Square—see the greeter at the door.

NOTE: Some of the prayers in this service include the people as well as the leader.

*Lines in **bold italic** are spoken by the congregation.*

INTROIT

My shining hour, Harold Arlen

OPENING POEM

A Blessing for the Fresh-Start Promises by Kate Bowler

WELCOME

INTRODUCTORY RESPONSES

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

In your resurrection, O Christ,
let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

THE EVENING HYMN (*a poem*)

*Light of the world in grace and beauty,
mirror of God's eternal face,
transparent flame of love's free duty,
you bring salvation to our race.*

*Now, as we see the lights of evening,
we raise our voice in hymns of praise;
worthy are you of endless blessing,
Sun of our night, Lamp of our days.*

Version of the ancient Greek hymn *phos hilaron*, 'O gladsome light', by Thomas Josh

MUSIC

Summertime, Gershwin
Village Blues, John Coltrane

THE PSALM

Psalm 34. 1–8

- ¹ I will bless the Lord at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.
- ² I will glory in the Lord;
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- ³ Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt the name of God together.
- ⁴ I sought the Lord, who answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- ⁵ Look upon God and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- ⁶ I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.
- ⁷ The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear God
and will deliver them.
- ⁸ Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in God!
- Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

THE LESSON

Matthew 6. 1–6, 16–18

- ¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.
- ² “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is

doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE

The Basket Maker by Bishop Steven Charleston

MUSIC

Acknowledgement from a Love Supreme, John Coltrane

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Tirechan's (*pr. Ti-rec-han's*) Creed, 7th century

***Our God is the God of all humans,
the God of heaven and earth,
the God of seas and rivers,
the God of sun and moon,
the God of all heavenly bodies,
the God of the lofty mountains,
the God of the lowly valleys.
God is above all the heavens;
and beneath the heavens.
Heaven and earth and sea,
and everything in them,
such God has as an abode.
God inspires all things
gives life to all things,***

*stands above all things,
and stands beneath all things.
God enlightens the light of the sun,
strengthens the light of the night and the stars,
makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the sea,
and places the stars in the service of the greater lights.
And there is the Son who is co-eternal with God,
and similar in all respects,
neither is the Son younger nor older;
and the Holy Spirit breathes in them.
And the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are inseparable. Amen.*

from The Patrician Texts of the Book of Armagh AD 670

PRAYERS FOR THE END OF DAY

Save your people, O Hope of the poor,
and bless your inheritance.

Govern and uphold them now and always.

Day by day, we bless you.

We praise your name for ever.

Keep us this night from all sin.

Have mercy on us, have mercy.

We long for your salvation:

grant us understanding, so that we may live.

Show us your love and mercy,

for we put our trust in you.

In you is our hope;

let us not be confounded at the last.

From *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 397 alt.

[silence is held for private prayer]

COLLECT

Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray, and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

From Common Worship: Daily Prayer (2005), 124.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray after the manner our Saviour taught us:

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.

Amen.

New Zealand Prayer Book

Music

Wise One, John Coltrane

CLOSING REMARKS AND DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

After the Rain, John Coltrane

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Presider:	The Rev'd Ross Bliss	Musicians:	Ryan Oliver, <i>saxophone</i>
Readers:	Gillian & Tony Barlow		Nick Peck, <i>piano</i>
Greeter:	Karen Wilson		Ken Lister, <i>bass</i>
Curator:	Kim Greenwood		Kelby MacNayr, <i>drums</i>

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

Join Juno-nominated Saxophonist Ryan Oliver and his stellar quartet for a special afternoon of music by the great John Coltrane, celebrating Coltrane's 100th Anniversary. Oliver, who was nominated for 2022's Western Canadian music Awards Jazz Musician of the Year, steeped his concept and artistry in the creative fires of Amsterdam, honed his craft in Toronto and realized his dream of joining thousands of saxophonists at crowded jam sessions for several years in the jazz metropolis of New York City before returning to BC and the natural beauty of Vancouver Island. For over 15 years, Oliver toured the world with legendary Canadian jazz group the Shuffle Demons along with preforming with a who's who of the Canadian jazz scene. His saxophone tone and musical world reflect the uniqueness of these scenes and his musical journey. His quartet will explore many of Coltrane's best-known compositions including a special performance of A Love Supreme for Coltrane 100.

The next Jazz Evensong @ St Mary's will be *Sunday, October 18, 2026*
featuring

THE ELAINE LAKEMAN QUARTET

Keep tabs on upcoming Jazz Evensong details at www.stmarysoakbay.ca/jazz-evensong



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