The Church of St. John the Divine

November 1, 2026

4:30 p.m.

All Souls - Evensong

with Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

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 ancestral lands of the Lekwungen speaking 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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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.

St. John's is open for worship at **8:00 am (Holy Communion – said service), 10:00 am (Holy Eucharist), 4:30 pm (BCP 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.

Assisting with tonight's Liturgy

Officiant: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum
Welcomer: Ruth Swinton
Reader: Ava Gregorian
Music: The Choristers of St. John the Divine
Char Hodgkins, Assistant Director
David Stratkauskas, Director of Music
Videographer: Vanessa Whyte

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.

We Seem To Give Them Back To Thee
We seem to give them back to Thee, 0 God who gavest them to us.

Yet as Thou didst not lose them in giving,
So do we not lose them by their return.

Not as the world giveth, givest Thou 0 Lover of souls.
What Thou givest Thou takest not away,
For what is Thine is ours also if we are thine.

And life is eternal and love is immortal,
And death is only an horizon,
And an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.

Lift us up, strong Son of God that we may see further;
Cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly;
Draw us closer to Thyself
That we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved ones
who are with Thee.

And while Thou dost prepare a place for us, prepare us also for
that happy place,
That where Thou art we may be also for evermore.

Attributed to Fr Bede Jarrett

Order of Service

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

Responses *(Please stand)*

Music: William Smith (1603-1645).

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.
Cantor: Praise ye the Lord;
Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

Office Hymn (CP 506)

SLANE



1. **Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,**
   whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
   be there at our waking and give us, we pray,
   your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. **Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,**
   whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
   be there at our labours and give us, we pray,
   your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. **Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,**
   your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
   be there at our homing and give us, we pray,
   your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. **Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,**
   whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
   be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray,
   your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther (1901-1953).
Music: Melody – Irish trad.; arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958), alt.
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Please be seated for the singing of the psalm.

Psalm

Psalm 121

[1] I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills : from whence cometh my help.
[2] My help cometh even from the Lord : who hath made heaven and earth.
[3] He will not suffer thy foot to be moved : and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
[4] Behold, he that keepeth Israel : shall neither slumber nor sleep.
[5] The Lord himself is thy keeper : the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
[6] So that the sun shall not burn thee by day : neither the moon by night.

[7] The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil : yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
[8] The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in : from this time forth 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

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject for ever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflictor grieve anyone.

Please stand.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Evening Canticles – Sarah Rimkus (1990-)

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

John 14:1-6, 27

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.'

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-3 Music: Evening Canticles – Sarah Rimkus (1990-)

Lord, now lettest though thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which though hast 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.

All: **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.

The Collect of the Day

O eternal Lord God, who holdest all souls in life: Give, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth thy light and thy peace; and grant that we, following the good examples of those who have served thee here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Second 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.

The Third 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

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and there shall no torment touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seem to die:
and their departure is taken for misery,
and their going from us to be utter destruction;
but they are in peace.

Text: Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-3.
Music: Herbert Murrill (1909-1952).

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

Intercessions

Please stand to sing the hymn,

Hymn (CP 24)

EVENTIDE



1. **Abide with me: Fast falls the eventide;**
   the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
   When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
   Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. **Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;**
   earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
   change and decay in all around I see:
   O thou, who changest not, abide with me.
3. **I need thy presence every passing hour;**
   what but thy grace can foil the temper's power?
   Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
   Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

4. **I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;**
   ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
   Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
   I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5. **Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;**
   shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
   heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee:
   In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847).
Music: Melody – William Henry Monk (1823-1889).
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Please remain standing as you are able.

Act of commemoration

We remember those who have died – especially those whom we have lost in the recent past, and we commend them to thy gracious keeping O God of eternity.

God is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great goodness.
As a parent is tender towards their children,
so is God tender to them that come near.
For God knows of what we are made;
and remembers that we are but dust.
Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field;
when the wind goes over it, it is gone
and its place will know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Creator endures for ever and ever
and God's righteousness is eternal.

God our creator and redeemer,
by thy great power Christ conquered death
and entered into glory.
Confident of Christ's victory
and claiming Christ's promises,
we entrust our loved ones to thy tender mercies
In the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive
and reigns with thee,
now and for ever. Amen.

We remember those who have inspired and guided us through our journey on this earth. Those who have loved and nurtured us. Those who we lost too soon.

Please be seated for the Reading of the Names

During the reading of the names, you are invited to come forward to light a candle in memory of a friend or loved one.

After the names have been read, the choir sings a setting of the Russian Kontakion of the Dead*:*

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints
Where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing but life ever lasting.

You only are immortal,
the creator and maker of all;
and we are mortal,
formed of the earth,
and to earth shall we return.

For so did you ordain when you created me, saying;
"You are dust, and to dust you shall return."
All of us go down to the dust;
yet even at the grave we make our song:

Alleluia, Alleluia

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints
Where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing but life ever lasting.

Music: Stephanie Martin (b.1962)

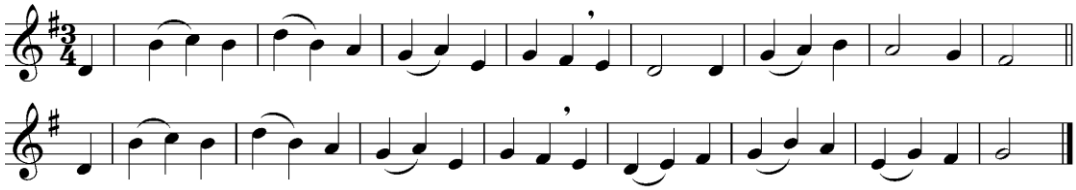
The commemoration concludes with the prayer:

Almighty God,
Father of all mercies and giver of comfort:
Deal graciously, we pray thee, with those who mourn,
that casting every care on thee,
they may know the consolation of thy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**.

Please stand to sing the hymn.

Hymn (CP 29) ST. CLEMENT



1. **The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended;**
   the darkness falls at thy behest.
   To thee our morning hymns ascended;
   thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

2. **We thank thee that thy church unsleeping,**
   while earth rolls onward into light,
   through all the world her watch is keeping,
   and rests not now by day or night.

3. **As o'er each continent and island**
   the dawn leads on another day,
   the voice of prayers is never silent,
   nor dies the strain of praise away.

4. **The sun that bids us rest is waking**
   thy faithful 'neath the western sky,
   and hour by hour fresh lips are making
   thy wondrous doings heard on high.

5. **So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never,**
   like earth's proud empires, pass away;
   thy kingdom stands and grows forever,
   till all thy creatures own thy sway.

Text: John Ellerton (1826-1893).
Music: Clement Cotterill Scholefield (1839-1904).

Blessing

Voluntary *Saraband in modo elegiaco* *Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Stewards

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David Lemon, Ruth Swinton, Cornelia van Voorst

Synod Delegates

Jim Harlick (he/him), Jamie Lawson (he/him), Michael Zenger

Synod Alternate

Penny Holt

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