

# **THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**

***3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent***

***December 17, 2017***

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 territories of the Lekwungen people.

---



**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 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.

If our service seems unfamiliar, please follow the cues from our leaflet, the ministers leading the service and those around you. Most of our Sunday morning worship services have the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, at the heart of our worship – please feel free to join us, whatever your tradition, in the sharing of bread and wine, at the station nearest to where you are seated. Gluten free wafers are available at all stations: Please indicate if you need one.

Within the Anglican Church of Canada (under the advice of the Primate and the Chief Medical Officer for Canada) we would ask that bread is not dipped into the wine, as this has the potential to spread infection in a way that the sharing of the cup does not. If you would prefer not to share the cup then receiving only bread is considered ‘full communion’ (also known as ‘Communion in One Kind’).

If there is anything that you wish to talk about, please do take the opportunity to talk to the worship leaders, ministers and other members of the congregation following the service. If you wish to receive prayer for yourself or for another, there will be members of our Healing Prayer group in the south Quadra entrance who would be happy to pray with you as the Holy Communion is shared.

After our service we usually share coffee and an opportunity to get to know one another, in the Church Hall – through the door on the front left hand side. We have many visitors and newcomers here so please make yourself known to folks as you feel comfortable.

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.

## **8:00 am Holy Communion**

---

*The order of service is found on page 67 in the Book of Common Prayer*

**Presider:** The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt

# 10:00 am Parish Eucharist

---

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

**Presider:** The Venerable Alastair McCollum

**Deacon:** The Reverend Patrick Sibley

**Sermon:** The Reverend Canon Kevin Arndt

**Readers:** Virginia Miller, Kevin Farris

**Intercessor:** The Reverend Patrick Sibley

**Audio:** Pauline Majcher

**Verger:** Chuck Neilson

**Music:** The Community Choir, Soloist – Annalysa Tylor

**Congregational Mass Setting:** New Plainsong Mass, David Hurd (b. 1950)

© 1981 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc. 7404 So. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

---

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** (CP 156)

DUNDEE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In this time and in this place  
we gather on the ancestral lands of the Lekwungen people.

**All: From many places and many peoples we come to this house in prayer.**

In this time and in this space  
we are not alone  
for we meet in the presence of the living God.

**All: We meet in the presence of the living God.**

In this time and in this place  
we are not alone  
for the Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

**All: The Risen Jesus stands in our midst.**

In this time and in this space  
we are not alone  
for the wind of the Spirit  
moves in and through us.

**All: The wind of the Spirit  
moves in and through us.**

In this time and in this place  
we gather with the whole company of heaven:  
here heaven and earth are one.

**All: In this time and in this space  
heaven and earth are one.**

In this time and in this space  
as the nights lengthen  
and the days are dim,

**All: we light this candle  
to remind us that our Light comes.**

In this time and in this place  
as we wait for Jesus, who is  
Joy for the world,

**All: we light this candle to remind us that our Joy comes.**

In this time and in this space,  
we gather together,  
one people in Jesus Christ.

**All: In this time and place,  
we are one people in Jesus Christ.  
In the name of God,  
Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS**

The grace-filled shadows of Advent offer us the opportunity to explore  
our human complexities through the lens of God's saving love.

Trusting in God's promises let us confess our sins:

## **KYRIE**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you close,  
pardon and cleanse you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and show you the glory of the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

God of power and mercy,

**All: you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son.  
Remove those things which hinder love of you,  
that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder  
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

---

# THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## CANTICLE

18



The Al-migh-ty — has done great things for me and ho - ly is his name.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed;

The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit, casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy. The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

## THE EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL HYMN (CP 98)

BRISTOL

## THE GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

*Before the Gospel*

The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*After the Gospel*

The Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## SERMON

## AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**All: We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature, died and rose again?

**All: We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**All: We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All: This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Authorized Affirmations of Faith (New Patterns of Worship)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE PEACE

*Please stand.*

The God who holds heaven and earth as one sent to us the Prince of Peace:  
peace in the Church, peace among nations,  
peace in our homes and peace in our hearts.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*All may offer their neighbour a sign of peace.*

---

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### OFFERTORY HYMN (CP 91)

BESANCON

### THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God for whom we wait,

**All: in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day  
when the hungry will be fed with good things.**

**Teach us patience and hope  
as we care for all those in need  
until the coming of your Son,  
our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn 'The Great Thanksgiving'. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant and the People. The second staff is for the Celebrant and the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant and the People. The lyrics are: Celebrant The Lord be with you. People And al - so with you. Celebrant Lift up your hearts. People We lift them to the Lord. Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right that we should praise you,  
God of love, our source and our fulfillment,  
for you create all things  
and in you we live and move and have our being.  
Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.

You made us in your image.  
And even though we turn from you,  
again and again you call us to yourself,  
and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own  
to nurture them in the way of compassionate love.  
You sent Jesus among us,  
incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary.  
Jesus revealed your love for all Creation,  
and showed us the way of reconciliation.

Having lived among us -  
Jesus suffered the cross,  
Died,  
And in rising again  
became the firstborn of the renewed family.

Your Holy Spirit descended  
and gave life to your church.

And so we gather around your table,  
with all the saints  
and with all Creation

We sing the hymn of your unending love:

## SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

To you be glory, almighty God,  
because on the night before he died,  
Jesus took bread,  
when he had given thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body  
which is given for you:  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:  
Drink this all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
Poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Recalling Christ's death and resurrection,  
we ask you to accept  
this, our sacrifice of praise.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts  
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son.  
Unite us in Christ  
and give us your hope  
that we might be strengthened to do your work  
as your body in the world.

Through Christ our Redeemer,  
in the power of the Spirit,  
all praise and glory be yours, Creator God,  
now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Ambrosian Chant

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**All: God here among us, light in the midst of us  
bring us light and life.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

*All are invited to receive communion at the side chapel, at the altar rail, or at the back of the church. Please follow the Greeters' instructions. 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.*

### **Ministry of Healing**

We invite those wishing prayer for themselves or on behalf of someone else to come to the front of the line to receive the bread and wine. Immediately after receiving, go to the prayer station in the south Quadra entrance. Briefly state your need. The prayer team will lay hands on your shoulders and will pray quietly for you.

## **ANTHEM DURING COMMUNION**

Advent Message - Martin How (b. 1931)

*Come Lord Jesus, Amen, come Lord Jesus. O come quickly, come Lord Jesus, come Lord come.*

*The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

---

## **THE COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

All your works praise you, O Lord.

**All: And your faithful servants bless you.**

**Gracious God we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**May we, who share his body,**

**live his risen life;**

**we, who drink his cup,**

**bring life to others;**

**we, whom the Spirit lights,**

**give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**

**so that we and all your children shall be free,**

**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**

**through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **ADVENT BLESSING**

May the saving hope of the coming infant Christ  
fill you with expectation,  
the joy of Mary's song surround you and give you courage,  
the faith of the prophets strengthen your resolve  
to work for the redemption of the world,  
and the blessing of God, Source of all being,  
eternal Word and Holy Spirit,  
be with you this day and always.

**All: Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

**VOLUNTARY** *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*

D. Buxtehude (1637-1707)

*You are invited to be seated for the Voluntary or to leave at this point.*

*Coffee, tea and cake will be served in the Parish Hall.*

### **Lessons and Carols for Christmas**

**Tonight, December 17 - 7:30 p.m.**

The traditional carol service first made popular through the Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College Cambridge.

Christmas hymns, readings, and choral carols with The Choristers of St. John the Divine.

---

### **READINGS FOR DECEMBER 24 – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**2 Samuel 7:1-11** David will not build a temple for God; instead, God will create a dynasty for David.

**Luke 1:47-55** In a praise-filled song of rejoicing, Mary lifts up the good news of God's reign and coming restoration.

**Romans 16:25-27** The wonder of a mystery, hidden for generations but now revealed, is the heart of this ending to Paul's letter.

**Luke 1:26-38** Mary finds herself in a long line of women in whom God's promises bear fruit. The Messianic hope is to be birthed by her for the world.

---

### **FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

#### **Main**

In loving memory of Herbert Alan and Ruth Fenton Zenger, from Michael, Carol-Ann and Susanna.

#### **Chapel**

In memory of our loving parents, Steve Kertoy and Nina & Lou Needham, from Marilyn Kertoy & Terry Needham.

**Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24**

**4:00 p.m.**

**All-Age celebration of the Nativity Story**

Bring the whole family and rejoice at the birth of Christ.  
Children, especially, are invited to participate in the telling  
of the Christmas story in word and song.

**7:00 p.m.**

**Holy Communion for Christmas Eve**

An opportunity to share in a Eucharist for Christmas  
if the Midnight Mass is a little late.  
With the Community Choir of St. John the Divine.

**11:00 p.m.**

**Midnight Mass**

The festive Christmas Eucharist, including traditional carols and candlelight,  
With the Choristers of St. John the Divine

**Christmas Day – 10:00 a.m.**

**Monday, December 25**

Christmas Communion

**Office Hours 9am – 12 Noon Monday to Friday**

**The deadline for leaflet announcements is Tuesday noon of each week.  
All notices are to be given in writing, preferably by email.**

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

**Today**

11:45 am	Sunday Reflections	Denson Lounge
2:00 pm	PFLAG	Denson Lounge
7:30 pm	Lessons and Carols for Christmas, reception to follow	Church
9:00 pm	Out of the Rain Youth Shelter	Crypt

**Monday 18**

12:00 Noon	Book Club Christmas Luncheon	Denson Lounge
9:00 pm	Out of the Rain Youth Shelter	Crypt

**Tuesday 19**

10:00 am	Food Bank	Crypt
7:00 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Denson Lounge
9:00 pm	Out of the Rain Youth Shelter	Crypt

### Wednesday 20

7:45 am	Holy Communion followed by Breakfast	Chapel/Denson Lounge
9:30 am	Sermon Circle	Denson Lounge
7:00 pm	Reel Thought: <i>A Muppet Christmas Carol</i>	Denson Lounge

### Thursday 21

12:10 pm	Meditative Eucharist	Chapel
----------	----------------------	--------

### Sunday 24 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve)

8:00 am	Holy Communion	Chapel
10:00 am	Parish Eucharist	Church
4:00 pm	All-Age celebration of the Nativity Story	Church
7:00 pm	Holy Communion for Christmas Eve	Church
9:00 pm	Out of the Rain Youth Shelter	Crypt
11:00 pm	Midnight Mass	Church

**No mid-week Services between Christmas and New Years.**

**The Office is closed for Christmas,  
we will re-open on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:00 am.**

## THIS WEEK

### LAST CHANCE

This year's **Christmas Bazaar** is ending today (Sunday, Dec, 17.) So your last chance to shop is on your way to coffee. **Stop off at the wagon in front of the office.**

To date, the total sales of this year's bazaar have topped \$6,000. Stay tuned for a final total.

A very special thanks to all who contributed their time and effort to make it a success.

And, a hardy thank you to one and all who supported it -- **The Organizing Committee.**

**New Year's Eve TAIZÉ** - What a beautiful way to welcome the New Year! Everyone is invited to this simple candle-lit Taizé service with chant, prayer, word and silence.

**Sunday, December 31, 9:00 - 10:00 pm**

St. Philip Anglican Church, 2928 Eastdowne Road at Neil in north Oak Bay.

[www.stphilipvictoria.ca](http://www.stphilipvictoria.ca) / [office@stphilipvictoria.ca](mailto:office@stphilipvictoria.ca) / 250-592-6823

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A Prayer Group** prays through the week; to request confidential prayers for yourself or others contact Pat Manning at: [patriciacmanning@gmail.com](mailto:patriciacmanning@gmail.com) or leave the request at the church office.

**Prayer is the bedrock of our relationship with God through Christ.** Individual requests for intercessory prayer (read at Sunday and weekday services) may be made by filling out a Prayer Request Card available at the back of the church (on the west wall) or by emailing the same information requested on the card to: [carolann.zenger@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:carolann.zenger@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca).

**Thank you** to everyone who participated in the Christmas Pageant!

**Thank you** to the angels, shepherds, sheep, narrators, holy family, angel Gabriel, musicians, refreshment hosts, grumpy innkeepers, set up crew and clean-up crew! **Thank you** to the cathedral for lending us tents and the Hallsor family for the fire pit! **And of course, thank you** to all those who came to witness the Nativity!

**Sunday Reflections** - On weeks without other events we offer the opportunity to ask 'what just happened?' at our Sunday service - an open forum to discuss the sermon, liturgy, music, and indeed anything that might have cropped up during our worship services, or about Anglican practice and tradition generally. This takes place at **11:45am, following the 10am service** and usually lasts for 45 minutes or so. All are welcome; come, and bring your questions!

**The special blue envelope for December is for Rector's Discretionary Fund.** This money is used by the rector to help people quietly and without embarrassment. It allows him to act quickly in emergencies. It gives him the ability to access funds that are not already dedicated to other purposes.

**The new 2018 Flower Dedication Calendar is now at the garden door.**



### **Out of the Rain Christmas Stockings**

Every year, for Christmas, we give the homeless young people who sleep in our crypt a gift. Typically we fill a Christmas stocking with socks, some hygiene products and a treat. If we have enough funds, along with Christmas stockings, we buy hoodies. If you would like to contribute to this project, please make a cheque out to St John the Divine designating the funds to 'OOTR Stocking Project'. If you have any questions contact Gerry Melville or Karyn Lehmann. Thanking you in advance for your support.

## Update on Parish Council

At its monthly meetings, in the last little while, Parish Council considered the following:

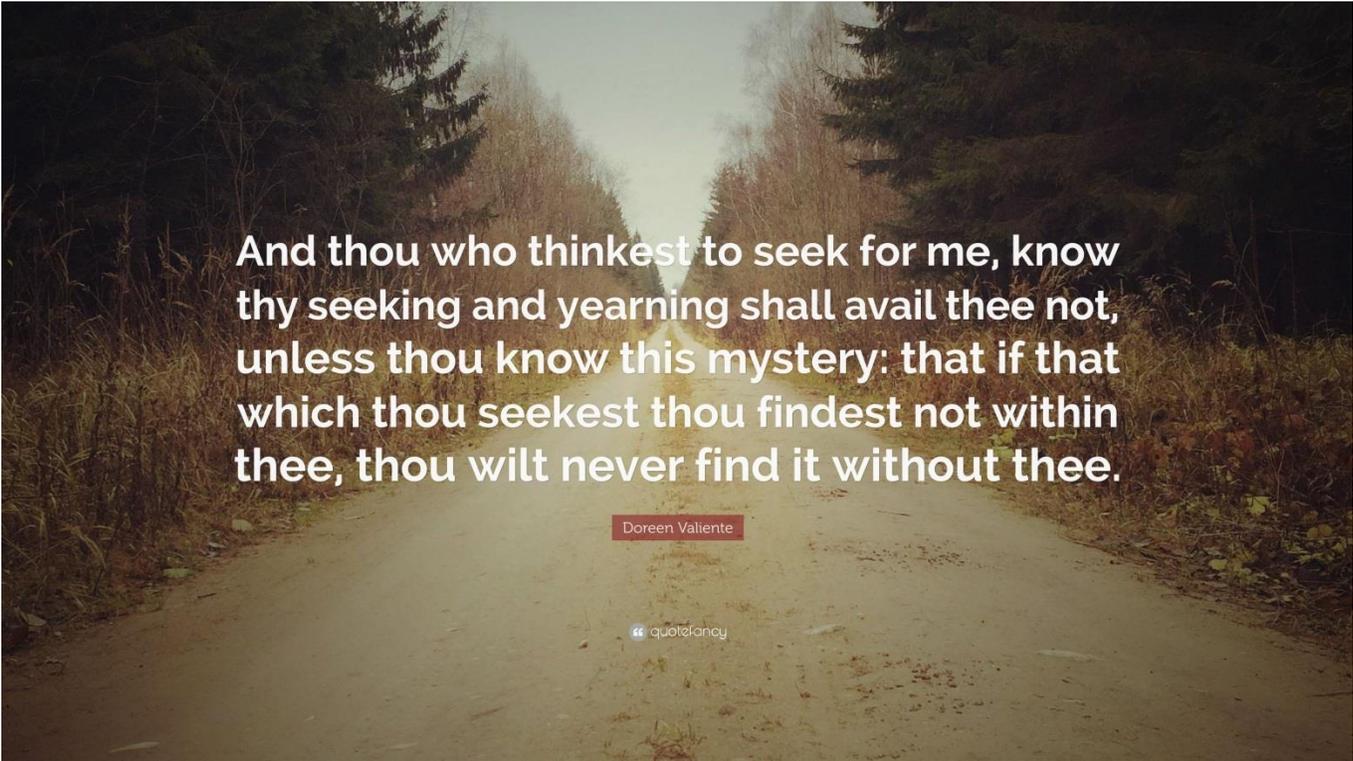
- The idea of a "Divine exchange", brought forward by Beryl Roundhill, which would function as a person-to-person exchange of items. Beryl is working on the concept, if you are interested, speak to her.
- The question of approving St. John's hosting same gender marriages will be brought to the February 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Vestry meeting. More information will follow.
- We have approved engineering design services for a new lighting system for the church and a contract has been awarded to AES Consulting.
- Under Catherine Small, a committee looked into the Blue Envelope outreach for 2018 and recommended that we give to the same groups we did last year.
- We have been investigating security of the church property, have consulted with the Victoria Police and have got several recommendations of things we could do to make our property safe for all who use it. We plan to move forward with these.
- Graeme Brown reported on a meeting with the Pacific Opera Victoria met to talk about a number of issues. POV apologized for the lack of hall availability in November. Regular meetings have been scheduled for next year. The initial five year lease comes up next November, and they are very interested in continuing it.
- The Finance Committee has been meeting regularly and is working to produce the budget for next year.
- Michael Zenger would like to look at organizing a fundraising concert with Ken Lavigne to raise funds for the food bank. Parish Council supported the idea.
- A vote of thanks to all those who put in hard work before, during, and after the very successful Christmas Bazaar.
- Graeme Brown reported on the Redevelopment Committee. Groundwater contamination of the property is an issue, and could make or break the project depending on the financial repercussions. Our partner Catalyst is investigating the implications and ways to fund this.
- As always, the minutes of the meetings are available on the web site under "Our Community/Parish Council" and are posted on the bulletin board by the Garden door.

# SOUL SPACE

Things to nourish our spiritual journey

“One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God,  
we are with God all along,  
that while we need to be reassured of God’s arrival,  
or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home.  
While we wait, we have to trust, to have faith,  
but it is God’s grace that gives us that faith.  
As with all spiritual knowledge, two things are true,  
and equally true, at once.  
The mind can’t grasp paradox; it is the knowledge of the soul.”  
— Michelle Blake

---



**And thou who thinkest to seek for me, know  
thy seeking and yearning shall avail thee not,  
unless thou know this mystery: that if that  
which thou seekest thou findest not within  
thee, thou wilt never find it without thee.**

Doreen Valiente

“ quotefancy

---

# THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

## STEWARDS

**People's Warden:** Graeme Brown

**Rector's Warden:** Duane Lecky

**Deputy People's Warden:** Joan Huzar

**Deputy Rector's Warden:** Penny Holt

**Envelope Secretary:** Jim Harlick

**Treasurer:** Kate McCabe

## PARISH COUNCIL

Sherrie Allen, Rhoda Brodie-Smith, Tom Clements, Trevor Elton, Carol Anne Harper, Doug Sheepwash, Catherine Small, Michael Zenger, Molly Patton (Clerk)

## STAFF SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF ST. JOHN'S

**Rector:** The Ven. Alastair McCollum

**Director of Music:** David Stratkauskas

**Associate Priest:** The Rev'd Canon Kevin Arndt

**Family Ministry Coordinator:** Ruth MacIntosh

**Associate Priest:** The Rev'd Bill Tarter, OSF

**Interim Parish Administrator:** Carol-Ann Zenger

**Curate:** The Rev'd Gillian Hoyer

**Bookkeeper:** Nicolas Michel

**Deacon:** The Rev'd Patrick Sibley

## HONORARY ASSISTANTS

The Rt. Rev'd R. Barry Jenks / The Rev'd Derek Dunwoody

The Rev'd Dr. Larry Scyner / The Rev'd Jane Reid

1611 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2L5 Tel. 250-383-7169 / Fax 250-381-3573

[pastoral@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:pastoral@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca) or **for urgent calls only**, use 778-678-6873

[www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](http://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca) [facebook.com/StJohnVicBC](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnVicBC)

[twitter.com/StJohnVicBC](https://twitter.com/StJohnVicBC) e-mail: [admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca)