

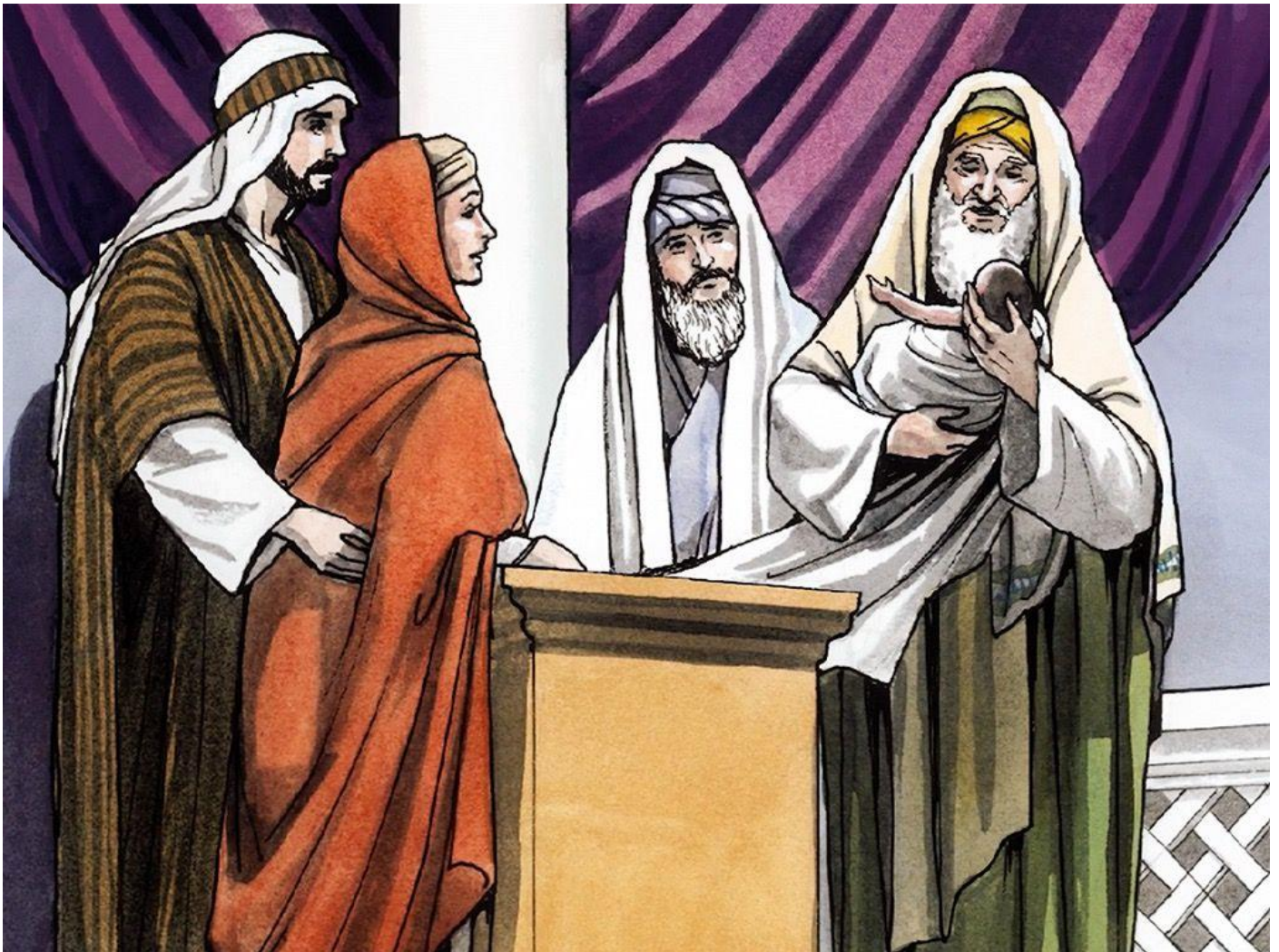
THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

The Presentation of the Lord

January 28, 2018

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 Venerable Alastair McCollum

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

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

Presider: The Reverend Gillian Hoyer

Deacon: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Sermon: The Venerable Alastair McCollum

Readers: Joel Durkovic, Kit Pearson

Intercessor: Karen Coverett

Verger: Rand Harrison

Music: The Choristers of St. John the Divine, The Sutton Organ Scholar, The MacRae Choral Scholars, Kimberley Farris-Manning, director.

The Mass Setting: Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni (1657-1743), *Missa in Nativitate Domini*

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

The children are invited to gather at the back of the church and join in the procession.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (NEH 156)

ISTE CONFESSOR

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Almighty God

**All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYER

Loving God,

**All: You've called us to be your family and to celebrate our life together in worship.
We pray for all the members of our family, here and absent,
and especially for our young people now as they continue their worship,
Bless them, and each of us, in fun and learning, in friendship, and love. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

**All: we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GLORIA (sung by the choir)

Gloria in excelsis Deo.	<i>Glory to God in the highest,</i>
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.	<i>and, peace to his people on earth.</i>
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.	<i>Lord God, heavenly King,</i>
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.	<i>almighty God and Father,</i>
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.	<i>we worship you, we give you thanks,</i>
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.	<i>we praise you for your glory.</i>
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe.	<i>Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,</i>
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.	<i>Lord God, Lamb of God,</i>
Qui tollis peccata mundi,	<i>you who takes away the sin of the world:</i>
miserere nobis.	<i>have mercy on us;</i>
Qui tollis peccata mundi,	<i>you who takes away the sin of the world:</i>

suscipe deprecationem nostram. *receive our prayer;*
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, *you who are seated at the right hand of the*
miserere nobis. *Father: have mercy on us.*
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. *For you alone are the Holy One,*
Tu solus Dominus. *you alone are the Lord,*
Tu solus Altissimus, *you alone are the Most High,*
Iesu Christe. *Jesus Christ,*
Cum Sancto Spiritu, *with the Holy Spirit,*
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen. *in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
All: for you have sent us your salvation.
Inspire us by your Holy Spirit
to recognize him who is the glory of Israel
and the light for all nations,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

24:7-10

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
'Who is this King of glory?'
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'
Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
'Who is he, this King of glory?'
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 2:14-18

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

Before the Gospel

Cantor: *Al - le - lu - ia.* All: *Al - le - lu - ia.*

Cantor or Choir: This child is the light to enlighten the nations : and the glory of your people Israel.

All: *Al - le - lu - ia.*

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

Following the Sermon there will be a pause for Silence.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism,
as we say,

**All: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PEACE

Please stand.

The peace of the Lord 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 619)

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU

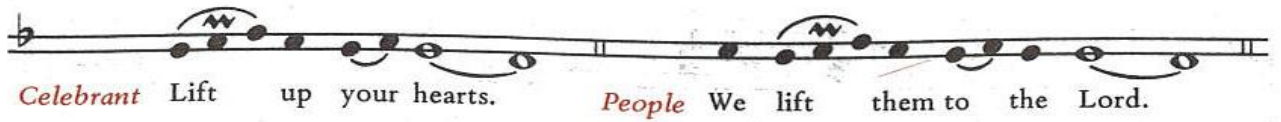
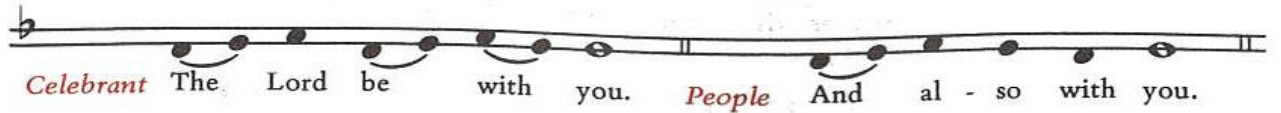
THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Almighty God,

**All: accept the joyful offering of your Church
and grant that your Son may shine in us
as the light that lightens every nation.**

We ask this in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Blessed are you, gracious God,
 creator of heaven and earth,
 because in the mystery of the Word made flesh
 you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,
 to give knowledge of salvation
 in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Now with angels and archangels
 and the whole company of heaven,
 we lift our voices
 to proclaim the glory of your name.
 Therefore with all the angels of heaven,
 we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise
 to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,	<i>Holy, holy, holy</i>
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.	<i>Lord God of power and might.</i>
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.	<i>Heaven and earth are full of your glory.</i>
Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>
Benedictus qui venit	<i>Blessed is he who comes</i>
in nomine Domini.	<i>in the name of the Lord.</i>
Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
 for the goodness and love
 you have made known to us in creation;
 in calling Israel to be your people;
 in your Word spoken through the prophets;

and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and 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,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you,
from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,

that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ambrosian Chant

THE 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 to light and life.**

THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI *(sung by the choir)*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*
miserere nobis. *have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, *Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,*
dona nobis pacem. *grant us peace.*

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.

MOTET

Maria das Jungfräuelein (*sung by the choir in German*) – Johannes Eccard (1553-1611)

When to the temple Mary went, and brought the Holy Child, Him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been revealed. He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God he said: In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen, The Hope of Israel, the Light of people.

Help now thy servants, gracious Lord, that we may ever be as once the faithful Simeon was, rejoicing but in Thee; and when we must from earth departure take, departure take, may gently fall asleep, may gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

(Tr. from the German by J. Troutbeck.)

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMUNITY

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait,

**All: you fulfilled the hope of Simeon,
who did not die till he had welcomed the Messiah.
Complete in us your perfect will,
that we in Christ may share in your eternal kingdom;
for he is Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE DOXOLOGY

Glory to God,

**All: whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN (CP 380)

HANOVER

VOLUNTARY Prelude and Fugue in C

J.S. Bach

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

Coffee and tea will be served in the Parish Hall.

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 4 – 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 40:21-31 The prophet calls to God's people to remember their source of strength, the one God who has created the universe and sustains everything within it.

Psalms 147:1-7, 21c God our creator is praised for gathering the outcasts, healing the broken-hearted, and lifting up the downtrodden.

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Freedom in Christ empowers a servanthood so that others might believe.

Mark 1:29-39 Mark shows Jesus rapidly gaining fame, but is that what Jesus wants? Jesus finds clarity in prayer.

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
9:00 pm	Out of the Rain Youth Shelter	Crypt

Monday 29

10:30 am	St. John's Court Board Meeting	Denson Lounge
2:00 pm	Book Study	Denson Lounge
9:00 pm	Out of the Rain Youth Shelter	Crypt

Tuesday 30

5:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Denson Lounge
9:00 pm	Out of the Rain Youth Shelter	Crypt

Wednesday 31

7:45 am	Holy Communion followed by Breakfast	Chapel/Denson Lounge
9:30 am	Sermon Circle	Denson Lounge
1:30 pm	Art & Soul Group	Crypt

Thursday, February 1

12:10 pm	Meditative Eucharist	Chapel
1:00 pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	Denson Lounge

Friday 2

10:00 am	Food Bank	Crypt
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Sunday 4

8:00 am	Holy Communion	Chapel
10:00 am	Parish Eucharist	Church
11:45 am	Sunday Reflections	Denson Lounge
7:30 pm	Evensong	Church
9:00 pm	Out of the Rain Youth Shelter	Crypt

THIS WEEK

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!

Come and revive your **Art & Soul** at the art and spirituality group held in the basement space at St. John the Divine every Wednesday afternoon at 1:30pm. Art experience is not necessary! We ask for a *voluntary* donation of \$4.00 per session to provide supplies for those in need. Any questions - please contact Gillian Barlow or Susan McCabe.

LGBTQ and Christian – Victoria’s Generous Space group meets monthly

Next meeting: **Wed., Jan. 31st @ 7pm.** Please contact Mark Hanson for meeting location and/or more information: markhansongs@earthlink.net

*No matter your sexuality, gender expression, or relationship status;
no matter your convictions, interpretation of Scripture, or theology;
no matter how vibrant your faith, audacious your questions, or persistent your doubt,
there is room for you in our group.*

Social Justice and Action Group

As we reflect at St. John’s on reconciliation with our Indigenous sisters and brothers and ways of moving forward on that journey, we note that there are several important films on indigenous issues and themes that will be screened during the Victoria Film Festival, February 2-11. “Indian Horse” (from Richard Wagamese’s novel) is screening at Silver City 3, Feb. 11 at 6:30 pm; “Our People Will be Healed” at the Vic Cinema, Feb. 3 at 9:00 pm and “Kayak to Klemtu” at Silver City 3, Feb. 4. at 3:30 pm and Feb. 6 at 9:00 pm. Details on these films and others of interest can be found in the VFF program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ted Hughes talks!

You are invited to a conversation with BC’s most distinguished public-sector jurist on Child Protection, Conflicted Premiers, the Suppression of Protests, and the Public Interest.

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Fraser Building, Room 159, University of Victoria
Interviewed by CBC journalist Laura Lynch. Special guests David Eby, QC, Attorney-General of BC; Maureen Maloney, SFU, former Deputy Attorney-General of BC and Dean of Law at UVic.

Parishioner Ted Hughes has had a long career defending the vulnerable and fighting corruption. Hughes was appointed BC’s Deputy Attorney General in 1983 and BC’s first Conflict-of-Interest Commissioner in 1990. He conducted investigations that led to the resignation of former Premier Bill Vander Zalm, the establishment of The Office of the Representative for Children and Youth, and a reconsideration of how police should handle major protests. He was one of the first government officials to seek justice for residential school survivors. He has recently “partially” retired at the age of 90.

This event is free and open to everyone.

Vancouver School of Theology presents: A series of evening public lectures and daytime workshops at Oak Bay United Church designed to get you thinking and acting for the good in God's world.

The evening lectures (Feb. 9 & 23, Mar. 9 & 23) are free and open to the public; the workshops (Feb 10 & 24, Mar 10 & 24) are \$25 per workshop. See the posters on the bulletin board for more info. Registration is online only: www.bit.ly/vst-academy

Vestry Annual Reports are to be submitted **no later than Mon., Feb. 12th**. Please email them to Carol-Ann at the office: carolann.zenger@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca



Come One, Come All to Mardi Gras aka Pancake Tuesday – Tues., Feb. 13th, at 6:00 p.m. in St. John's Church Hall. Fun for the whole Family! **By donation at the dinner.** (Suggested donation: \$5/person or \$20/family.) Please **do pick up a ticket** from Carol-Ann so we make sure to flip enough pancakes. Prizes for the best Mardi Gras hats, masks or costumes! Entertainment! And, of course, pancakes!

Gluten free pancakes will be available (please let us know if this is your preference).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Prayer Group prays through the week; to request confidential prayers for yourself or others contact Pat Manning at: 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.

Flowers

"In days when daisies deck the sod and blackbirds whistle clear wi' honest joy our hearts will bound to greet the coming year." Robert Burns

Please consider a flower dedication for the main altar or chapel to greet our new year. The list of available spots for a dedication is at the garden gate door. Susan Powell





THIS FUND-RAISER NEEDS YOUR HELP ! DON'T WAIT - ACT NOW!

Coming next Sunday – DIVINE BUY-AND-SELL'S list of items that are being offered for sale.

Do **YOU** have an item you would like to include for sale,
with proceeds going to St. John's Church?
If so, contact Beryl Roundhill immediately at roundhill@shaw.ca.

Books! - We're trying to develop a collection of Indigenous books for our library. You will find a few in a basket at the Garden Door which may be borrowed. If you can contribute any, they would be most welcome. Please leave them in the book return in the Denson Lounge or with Carol-Ann in the office.

The January blue envelope is for refugee ministry. Parish Council has approved the sponsorship of an orthodox Christian family of 9 Eritreans who are expected to be arriving in late March or early April. Thank you to those who volunteered to get involved and help with the settlement process from time to time over about the next six months. We could still use a few more volunteers if you have time in the next six months. If you are new to this the Diocese will provide an orientation and a link for a Criminal Record Check. There is a detailed job list and sign-up at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/BFCJ3>

Our parish has a joint refugee ministry with First Met, where Kathy Cook is leading the organisation of our sponsorship of a Syrian single Mom and her two teen children. This sponsorship has sprung a budgetary leak: When the family arrives the daughter is unlikely to be eligible for the Canada Child Benefit so the proceeds of this blue envelope will be helping to provide additional support for the Syrian family.

If you have questions please contact Chris Eve.

A chance to make a difference! A nomination committee appointed by Parish Council is seeking parishioners who would like to stand at Vestry for a 2 year position as a parish councillor or a one-year position as an assistant warden (beginning in March 2018). If serving in this way interests you, or if you would like more details, please contact Graeme Brown, Tom Clements or Michael Zenger.

Update from Parish Council

December meeting:

- At the meeting Alastair announced that Jacqueline Gillespie is St. John's Safe Church person. She is the person to whom any incidents should be reported.
- The profit from the Christmas Bazaar, as of the end of November, is \$5,136.
- The Property Committee report welcomed Betty Miller as a new member, noted that the lighting project is underway and that they are looking at new signage for the church.
- David gave a music report, noting that he will follow-up on the organ project in the new year.
- A short meeting followed by Christmas cheer.


January meeting:

- Chris Eve sought and received approval from Parish Council for a new sponsorship plan for an Eritrean Christian family of 9, the Ghebremeskels.
- Treasurer Kate McCabe presented the year end financials.
- Joan presented the Finance Committee's proposal for a new way of organizing the parish finances, to be in line with how we actually operate, and a budget for 2018. The new approach and budget were approved and will be presented to Vestry.
- Alastair noted in his Ministry report what his work as an Archdeacon entails and that he is spending a day a month on these duties.
- Rhoda gave an update on the Chapel Project noting the chairs have been shipped and are on the way. Four pews have been sold and the remainder will be sent to Kilshaw for auction. We will be creating a work party to engage the community helping to unpack the chairs and install the book racks on the back. The pews are in the process of being removed. Temporary chairs may be required for a short period of time. Plans to paint the chapel are in progress. The Diocesan Visioning Fund has provided \$10,000.00 for replacing the chapel doors and including Indigenous art work on the doors and the arch above. An application to The Anglican Foundation of Canada for additional funding for this project is being prepared.
- Rhoda presented a report from the Redevelopment Committee noting that as contamination is present in the soils around the church, a study to determine the extent is needed before anything can be done about developing the site. 3 quotes have been obtained, ranging from \$20,000 to \$30,000. After much discussion there was agreement to have the committee decide on the appropriate quote and bring it back for approval.
- The Nominating Committee is looking for new members of Parish Council, Synod delegates and an Assistant Warden.
- Duane reported on the new website being developed that they hope to have live very soon. He noted that the coming year will be his 20th as WebMaster, and his last.
- It was decided that this would be the final meeting of Parish Council before Vestry on Feb. 25th. Alastair thanked those leaving for their service: Rhoda Brodie-Smith, Trevor Elton, Doug Sheepwash and Michael Zenger, and Rector's Warden Duane Lecky. He noted that the group has functioned well together and that it had been a pleasure to work with.

Full minutes and reports are available on the St. John's website: www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca under "Our Community/Parish Council".

SOUL SPACE

Things to nourish our spiritual journey



No organist played a
Magnificat but the wind in the
flue chimney, no choir sang a
Nunc Dimittis but the
wuthering gulls, yet I fancy
the Creator was not
displeazed.

~ David Mitchell

morefamousquotes.com

Candlemas

They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
For God was coming with them to His temple.
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
Had made a killing on the two young doves.
They come at last with us to Candlemas
And keep the day the prophecies came true
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.

~Malcolm Guite~

Lent is nearly upon us and as we begin thinking about what we can do in the weeks following Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14th, yes it's Valentine's Day!) I would like to encourage us all to consider taking up a devotional book for the days of Lent.

Queering Lent is a collection of 41 poems, one for each day of Lent and one for Easter, that explore queerness and Christianity and the queerness of Christianity. Written as a Lenten discipline by slats, a queer/trans/nonbinary Presbyterian who works as a theatre director, sound designer, and pastor, this collection is one of the resources St. John's is offering for our Lenten reading discipline this year. Books are available to order through the office or directly via Amazon.ca/local bookstore.

*This collection contains references to transphobia, violence against trans people, mental illness and suicide. Also we hope to have a book study based on the book I referenced in a recent sermon; it is called **Radical Reconciliation** and is by Allan Boesak and Curtiss DeYoung – this book will form the basis of our Wednesday **Lunch With a Point** meetings, which will begin on Wed., Feb. 21st at noon in the Denson Lounge, but is a book which I recommend reading over this time. I will be producing study notes for this book which we will be using on Wednesdays but they will also be available on request. This book is also available through the office/online/local bookstores – please have orders in to the office by Feb. 9th.

FOCUS - What Does God Require? Spirituality and Genre in the Bible

Time: Four Thursdays, 7pm-9pm, beginning February 22 at The Church of St. John the Divine, Quadra Street

Thursday, February 22, "Apocalyptic Spirituality." The apocalyptic is a specific genre of Biblical literature first found in post-exilic Jewish writings, further developed in second temple Judaism and the early church, and echoed in millenarian movements throughout the history of the church. It focuses on visions, the end times, and heavenly messengers. We will look at the spirituality embedded in this genre and the role this spirituality plays in the formation of Christian individuals and institutions. Instructor: The Rev. Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott.

Thursday, March 1, "Liturgy and Faith." All the major religious traditions generate liturgical frameworks in which believers come together to re-enact the movements of faith. Because it engages the body as well as the mind, the public expression of religion as it flows through the cycles of the calendar and the sacraments of faith has not always been viewed as a distinct spirituality. For many millions of believers, however, liturgical practice, by opening up a spiritual space, has become a road to divine encounter. Both inside the Bible (the Levitical prescriptions of temple worship, for example, and the church liturgies in the pastoral epistles) and outside it (the many manuals of church order and worship in historical Christianity), a large body of literature witnesses to the significance of this spirituality. Instructor: Archdeacon Alastair McCollum.

Thursday, March 8, "Wisdom Literature and the Mystical Journey." The wisdom books of the Hebrew Scriptures, Job, Proverbs, certain Psalms, and Ecclesiastes/Quohelet (for Jews and Protestant Christians) and Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon (for Roman Catholics), are only part of a larger tradition of wisdom spirituality that has influenced Judaism and Christianity. Wisdom spirituality calls attention to the wider human picture in which faith occurs. Known as the "documents of Hebrew humanism," wisdom literature uses pithy sayings, insightful analogies and stories, wide-ranging philosophical reflections, and mystical insights to lead its adherents on a journey toward the divine. We will consider in this session how this spirituality manifests itself in both nascent Christianity and classical Judaism. Instructor: Dr. Kem Luther.

Thursday, March 15, "Prophetic and Social Spirituality." In the multi-millennial history of Judaism and Christianity, believers have discovered, time and again, that a focus on just action and just living can become a framework for divine encounter. In the decalogue and continuing into the prophetic tradition, we recognize an emphasis on social and spiritual transformation that shapes the journey of those who commit themselves to it. The major and minor prophets of the Hebrew scriptures, books that are a major focus within the gospels and certain New Testament letters (notably are attributed to James) add a literary dimension to prophetic spirituality. Instructor: The Rev. Canon Philip Wadham.

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