

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

***The Fourth Sunday of Advent***

***December 23, 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.

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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 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**

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*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

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*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:** Kevin Farris, Heidi Hodgins

**Intercessor:** Karen Coverett

**Verger:** Chuck Neilson

**Audio:** Bob McIntosh

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## **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN** (CP 114)

HELMSLEY

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

**All: And also with you.**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

*The Advent wreath is lit.*

People of God: prepare!  
God, above all, maker of all,  
is one with us in Christ.  
Maranatha!

**All: Come, Lord, Jesus!**

God, the mighty God,  
bends down in love to earth.  
Maranatha!

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

God with us, God beside us,  
comes soon to the world he has made.  
Maranatha!

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

We are God's children,  
we seek the coming Christ.  
Maranatha!

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

*Children and youth continue their worship in the Parish House and will rejoin us for communion.*

## **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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.**

## **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS**

*The priest introduces the prayers.*

## **KYRIE**

*The priest reminds us of God's healing and forgiveness.*

## **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

God of promise,  
you look with favour on the lowly,  
you scatter the proud and you fill the hungry.  
May we, like Mary, respond to your call  
and be obedient to your will;  
through Jesus Christ who is to come.

**All: Amen.**

FWM Proposed Prayers (2004) alt.

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## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

### **THE FIRST READING**

Micah 5:2-5a

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **CANTICLE** (CP 362)

Canticle 18 (Luke 1:45-77)

### **THE EPISTLE**

Hebrews 10:5-10

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

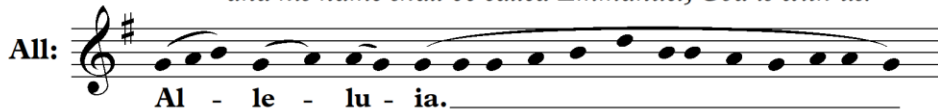
**THE GOSPEL**

Luke 1:39-55

*Before the Gospel*



*Deacon or Cantor: A virgin shall conceive and bear a son :  
and his name shall be called Emmanuel, God is with us.*



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**

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Iona Creed

**All: We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God  
who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.**

**We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change  
and put ourselves on the line;  
to bear responsibility, take risks,  
live powerfully and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the Spirit  
for God's new community of hope. Amen.**

The Iona Worship Book

## 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.*

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## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### OFFERTORY HYMN (CP 267)

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

### THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of abundance,  
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,  
and with them our very lives.

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

**All: Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Prayer C – Liturgy of the Islands

May God be with you

**All: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Creator of all.

**All: 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

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

God of promise,  
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**All: Happy are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace.**



*All are invited to receive communion. 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 communion will be brought to you.*

*Gluten free wafers for communion are available. Please request them from the person who is distributing the bread.*

*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.*

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## **THE COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.  
Send us forth to make known your deeds  
and to proclaim the greatness of your name,  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.  
Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

### **ACCLAMATION FOR ADVENT**

In the life of our Church

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

With love and compassion

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

In grace and mercy

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Through love and service

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

In wisdom and growth

**All: Come, Lord Jesus!**

## **THE BLESSING**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go forth into the world,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **RECESSIONAL HYMN** (CP 89)

VENI EMMANUEL

### **VOLUNTARY** Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

J. Brahms

*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.*

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## READINGS FOR DECEMBER 30 – THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

**1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26** From the Hebrew Scriptures we learn of a family that went to the temple each year, and to find their son there.

**Psalms 148** All peoples, all creation, are called to praise the Lord.

**Colossians 3:12-17** While the 1 Samuel reading tells how young Samuel was clothed, here we learn how Christians are to be clothed.

**Luke 2:41-52** A story we have of Jesus' youth tells of a visit he makes with his parents to the temple in Jerusalem when he is twelve years old.

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### THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

#### Today

11:45 am Sunday Reflections

Rector's Office

#### Monday 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 pm All-Age Celebration of the Christmas Story

Church

7:00 pm Early Christmas Eve Communion

Church

11:00 pm Midnight Mass (*incense will be used*)

Church

#### Tuesday 25 – Christmas Eve

10:00 am Christmas Morning Communion

Church

#### Wednesday 26

**No mid-week service**

#### Thursday 27

**No mid-week service**

#### Sunday 30 – 1<sup>st</sup> after Christmas

8:00 am Holy Communion

Chapel

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

Church



### Christmas Office Hours

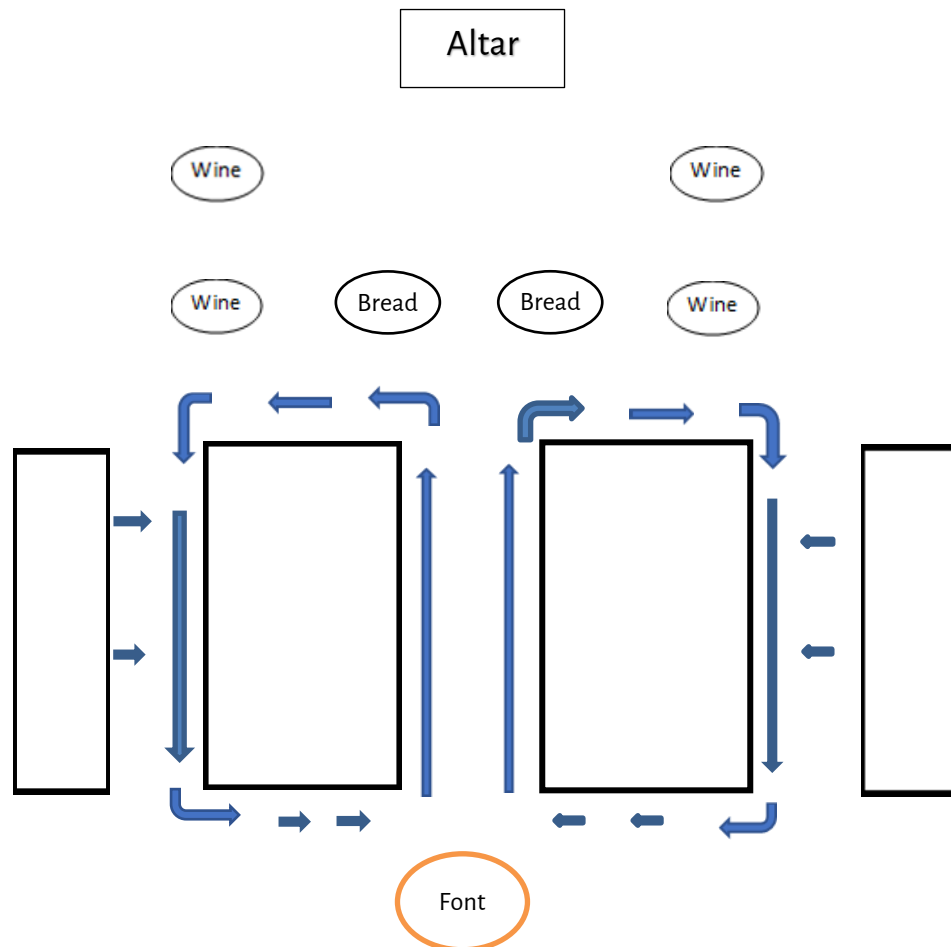
Closed: December 25<sup>th</sup> thru January 1<sup>st</sup>

Normal office hours resume Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 am – 12 Noon

## SHARING IN COMMUNION

We are trialling a new way of distributing our communion. A number of people – both newcomers/visitors and those of us who have been a part of the community for some while – have commented on how confusing, and frankly unwelcoming, our current way of sharing bread and wine is. Therefore, in an effort to make for ourselves a welcoming, accessible, straightforward space, we are going to be sharing communion in one place – at the front of the church – at two stations. Please take bread from the Eucharistic Minister standing on your side, then move to the next available chalice of the two which will be at each station. We ask those in the side aisles to go to the back of the church and then to the front to receive.



Gluten free wafers are available at both stations.

Those with limited mobility please indicate your desire to take communion in your seat and a minister will come to you.

As always, all are welcome to take part in our sharing. Thank you for being a part of our community!

## EVENTS

**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!

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## Christmas at St. John the Divine



### CHRISTMAS EVE – MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

#### 4:00 p.m. All-Age celebration of the Christmas 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. Early Christmas Eve Communion

*An opportunity to share in a Christmas service if the Midnight Mass is a little late.*

*With the Community Choir of St. John the Divine. Sermon by The Reverend Bill Tarter, OSF.*

#### 11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass

*The festive Christmas service, with Holy Communion, traditional carols and candlelight.*

*With The Choristers of St. John the Divine and the Sermon by The Reverend Bill Tarter, OSF.*

*\* There will be incense used at this service.*

### CHRISTMAS DAY – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

#### 10:00 a.m. Christmas morning service,

*with organ-led carols and Holy Communion. Sermon by The Venerable Alastair McCollum.*

### EPIPHANY – SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

#### 7:30pm Festal Choral Evensong

*Prayer, readings, hymns, and choral music on the feast of the Epiphany.*

*With the Choristers of St. John the Divine.*



**Movie Club –**

**7:00 pm in the Denson Lounge**

REEL THOUGHT AND FAITH IN JUSTICE present

**"(Disrupted) human flow: Migrants' crises in the 21st century"**

Featuring the documentary "Human Flow" by former Chinese dissident and film maker Ah Wei Wei and comment by and discussion with Sabine Lehr, Refugee Sponsorship Coordinator for the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA)

**Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Denson Lounge, St. John's Church**

**A joint venture of First Met/ and St. John's Churches.**

### **Announcements**

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

**2019 Envelopes** are now available (at the back of the church), including blue envelopes for **Credit Card and Automatic donors**.

If you expect to be visiting any shut-in parishioners between now and December 30<sup>th</sup>, please take their envelopes to them.



### **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.

**The Special Monthly Envelope for December is the Rector's Discretionary Fund.** This provides the rector with money that he can give away and use at his discretion. It could be to help a family in the parish whose house burned down. It could be used to buy a sandwich for a street person. It allows the parish to help people quietly and gives the rector a budget that he can use as he sees fit without getting approval from wardens, parish council, or vestry.

**Pledge Cards:** If you have not yet handed in your pledge card for 2019 please do so now as we need this information to help us prepare the Budget for 2019.

**The new 2019 Flower Dedication Calendar is now at the garden door.**

### **Looking for a St. John's Treasurer**

With sadness we report that Kate McCabe, our Parish Treasurer has resigned, effective immediately, for personal reasons and the pressures of a new job. Kate has done a wonderful job as our Treasurer and we will miss her. We wish her well.

So, we are seeking a Treasurer (the Parish has a bookkeeper who maintains account records). The person should have some financial knowledge and will work with the Finance Committee to oversee the finances of the Parish and report to Parish Council.

We welcome a conversation with interested individuals.

Chris, Graeme and Joan, the Wardens.

**The Canadian Church Calendar is now available for sale at the office - \$5.00**

**Social Media** – St. John's is committed to communication. If you would like to share the service on social media please do, but please do so as part of your worship and sensitively. Please feel free to use the hashtag #SJDVic.

# SOUL SPACE

Things to nourish our spiritual journey

## The Visitation

Here is a meeting made of hidden joys  
Of lightnings cloistered in a narrow place  
From quiet hearts the sudden flame of praise  
And in the womb the quickening kick of grace.  
Two women on the very edge of things  
Unnoticed and unknown to men of power  
But in their flesh the hidden Spirit sings  
And in their lives the buds of blessing flower.  
And Mary stands with all we call 'too young',  
Elizabeth with all called 'past their prime'  
They sing today for all the great unsung  
Women who turned eternity to time  
Favoured of heaven, outcast on the earth  
Prophets who bring the best in us to birth.

*Malcolm Guite*





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# THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

## STEWARDS

**People's Warden:** Graeme Brown

**Rector's Warden:** Chris Eve

**Assistant Warden:** Joan Huzar

**Envelope Secretary:** Jim Harlick

**Treasurer:** vacant

## PARISH COUNCIL

Sherrie Allen, Tom Clements, Carol Anne Harper, Penny Holt, Elizabeth McAuley,  
Rod Marsh, Catherine Small

## 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

**Parish Administrator:** Carol-Ann Zenger

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

## HONORARY ASSISTANTS

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 or **for urgent calls only**, use 778-678-6873  
www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca facebook.com/St.JohnVicBC  
twitter.com/StJohnVicBC e-mail: admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca