THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE The 1st Sunday of Advent December 1, 2019

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.



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. Gluten free wafers are available: 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 Grant Croswell **Deacon:** The Reverend Patrick Sibley **Readers:** John Bergbusch, John McLaren **Sermon:** The Venerable Alastair McCollum Intercessor: Peggy Wilmot Audio: Doug Adderley Verger: Jim Pauly Music: The Community Choir

A Nursery for children aged 0 to 3 is available from 10 am until the start of the Eucharist.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome and Announcements

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Please turn to face the west end of the church.

Minister: Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe,

All: For you have made all things, and love your creation.

Minister: Gracious God, you have made light and dark, day and night, we give thanks for the wholeness of your life. We remember that in light things are clearer, and in darkness we may learn to trust in you and celebrate your mystery,

All: For darkness and light are the same to you

As these Advent lights remind us of the light brought to us from our history, and our welcome into your Church in baptism, we pray that we too may be people of light and life,

You are God through all time – God of our forebears in faith, Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam – Patriarchs and Matriarchs of old upon whom our story is founded. May we know you in this time and in this place as the God of now and of always, God of promise, and God of hope.

Minister: Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe,

All: For you have made all things, and love your creation.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (CP 88)

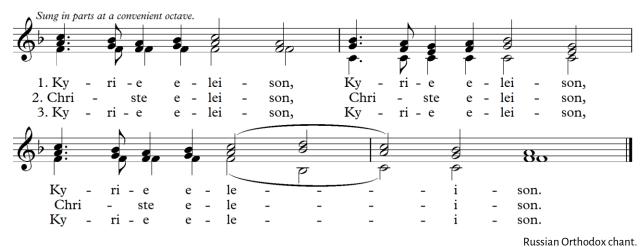
Children and youth continue their worship in the Parish House and will rejoin us for communion.

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.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND FORGIVENESS

The priest introduces the prayers, after which the Kyrie Eleison is sung:



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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God. All:

PSALM

THE EPISTLE

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN (WOO 198)

THE GOSPEL

Before the Gospel

Cantor: All: 4 Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Deacon or Cantor: Show us your mercy O Lord : and grant us your salvation.



God is with you.

And also with you. All:

Hear the Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ. All:

Sermon

Following the Sermon there will be a pause for silence.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God, from whom every family All: in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in the Christ, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

Romans 13:11-14

ST. THOMAS

Matthew 24:36-44

Isaiah 2:1-5

122

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Patterns for Worship. © The Archbishop's Council of the Church of England, adapted.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ΤΗΕ ΡΕΔCΕ

Please stand.

The peace of the Christ be always with you.

And also with you. All:

All may offer their neighbour a sign of peace.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN (CP 110)

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All:

The_Lord be____ with_ you. And al-so with you. Lift_____ up your_

All: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Priest:

. . .

.... Lord_ our God. It is right_ Let us give thanks_____ to the to give our thanks and praise._ It is indeed right that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfilment, 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,

Priest:

0

6.....

All:

hearts._

WACHET AUF

Liturgy of the Island, Prayer C

We lift_____them to____the Lord.__

Ephesians 3

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. And so as we gather around your table, With saints of every age and your beloved creation we raise our voices and sing:

Sanctus

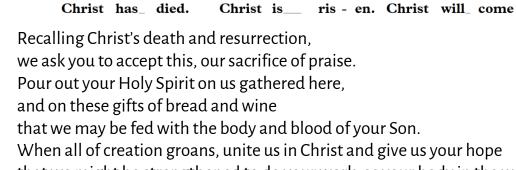
All:

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 and for many; do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith.





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, Almighty God, now and forever.



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THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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 we will bring communion to you.

Cluten 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.

ANTHEM DURING COMMUNION

'Wachet auf' - J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Bristol

Sung in German by the choir; see the first verse of the Offertory Hymn for the translation.

After the Communion, silence is kept.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMUNITY

Recessional Hymn (CP 98)

During the hymn the clergy and choir move to the font.

ACCLAMATION FOR ADVENT

Please turn to the Advent Wreath at the font at the west end of the Church.

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!

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THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

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 December 8 – The 2ND Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 The prophet foretells a day when a righteous one shall rule, establishing justice and peace for all the world. **Psalm 72:1-7, 18, 19** Echoing the themes of the Isaiah reading, this royal proclamation nourished the hopes for a restored Davidic dynasty. **Romans 15:4-13** Paul celebrates the inclusion of the Gentiles into God's covenant community. **Matthew 3:1-12** John the Baptist is on fire with God's dream of new life, cleaner life.

Flowers are given to the glory of God

In loving memory of Grahame Baker, a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, from Heather, Mark, Kathryn and Sarah, and grandchildren. Forever loved, never forgotten.



Choral Services for Advent and Christmas

This year we will be offering two seasonal evening choral services, one of which will mark the beginning of the new Church Year on this Sunday, and one which is the ideal marker for the beginning (slightly anticipated!) of the Christmas season.

The Advent Procession – Tonight at 7:30pm

Sometimes known as the 'Advent Carol Service', this service is actually a moving sequence of readings, hymns, anthems, and motets, exploring the themes of Advent -- eschatology, darkness, light, hope, and justice. This year it will be based around the seven ancient Advent Magnificat antiphons, known as the 'O' Antiphons, which form the basis of the well-known hymn 'O come, O come, Emmanuel'.

The Christmas Carol Service – Sun., Dec. 15th, 7:30pm

The traditional carol service, held on the last Sunday of Advent, featuring the standard Christmas hymns and the sequence of lessons and accompanying choral carols first made popular through the Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge

Office Hours 9am–12 Noon Monday to Friday

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today, December	1	
11:30 am	Sunday Reflections	Denson Lounge
7:30 pm	Advent Procession Service	Church
Monday 2		
1:00 pm	Garden Eucharist – all welcome	Memorial Garden
2:00 pm	Book Study	Chapel
4:00 pm	Living Presence Meditation	Chapel
Tuesday 3		
10:00 am	Food Bank	Church Basement
12:10 pm	Meditation Eucharist (note change of day)	Chapel
Wednesday 4		
7:45 am	Holy Communion followed by Breakfast	Chapel/Denson Lounge
9:30 am	Sermon Circle	Denson Lounge
12 Noon	Art & Soul Drop-In Group	Church Basement
Thursday 5		
1:30 pm	Food Bank Meeting – all welcome	Denson Lounge
5:30 pm	Holy Communion followed by soup	Denson Lounge
7:00 pm	Climate Crisis- The Call to Action NOW	Denson Lounge
	"Environmental Violence" – talk by Dr. Rick Kool	
Friday 6		
10:00 am	Food Bank	Church Basement
Saturday 7		
9:30 am	"Sabbath Economics" led by Matthew Cook	Denson Lounge
Sunday 8 – Adven	t 2	
8:00 am	Holy Communion	Chapel
10:00 am	Parish Eucharist	Church
11:30 am	Sunday Reflections	Denson Lounge
2:00 pm	Memorial Service for Brenda Morton	Church
	followed by a reception in the Baumann Centre (parish ha	ll)



EVENTS

Important Food Bank Meeting - Thursday, December 5th at 1:30pm

Early in the New Year Peggy Wilmot will be moving to Edmonton to join her daughter and family. One of the many leadership roles that Peggy has held at St. John's is in the food bank. With her departure we are embarking on a period of transition. In order to better understand and plan the way ahead for the food bank a meeting will be held this coming Thursday. If you are someone who has any interest or involvement in the food bank, please plan to attend this important meeting.

30 years on: The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women will be

marked with a candle lit vigil Dec. 6th, 5.30 pm, at First Met United Church. The hour long program of poetry, music and story will honour the 14 young women who were murdered at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal on Dec. 6, 1989. All are welcome and refreshments will follow.

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church (Oak Bay) **Giant Christmas Book Sale**

Saturday, December $7^{th} - 9:00$ am to 2:00 pm

This huge Sale – the biggest yet of Churchmouse Books' seasonal sales -- will offer all the bookshop's thousands of volumes including nearly two thousand which have been newly-donated during October and November. Quality is the keynote. Churchmouse has lately been receiving estate and library items of superlative quality and will be offering hundreds of carefully selected flawless, "like-new" volumes eminently suitable as Christmas gifts for your families and friends. As always, the Christmas Sale will include refreshments, music, and crafts by local artisans. Admission is free.



"THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER" - Poinsettias are now available to make our church look even more beautiful at Christmas. Please consider making a dedication. Cost: \$10 per plant, available until Fri., Dec.9th. Contact Carol-Ann in the church office (admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca or 250-383-7169 ext. 226) to order a poinsettia and give a dedication. Thank you.

Flash of Brass with a Hint of Holiday Cheer

including a carol sing-a-long BC Brass Collective with Artistic Director: Scott MacInnes Tuesday, December 10th @ 7:30 pm at St. John the Divine Admission by donation.

White Gifts – Sunday, December 15th

White gifts have typically been toys for children or appropriate gifts for adults, wrapped and labelled with age and gender. This year, the Burnside Gorge Community Centre has given us a "wish list", with the name/age of a child or adult, so that when you go shopping you can choose a gift knowing that this is something a person wants or needs. We will have a collection of cards with these details at Coffee Hour (please see Dorothy Chuhran), so that if you wish to choose a particular person to buy for you will be able to do so. First names only, to maintain confidentiality - we ask that you let us know if you have made the purchase, so that we can notify the Centre which gifts have been purchased, and for whom. (Similar to the process involved in purchasing gifts through Santa's Anonymous.)

You are also welcome to purchase a gift as in the past, with a simple "age/gender" designation on the gift.

The families and children of the Burnside Gorge Community Centre look forward to these gifts every year and are very appreciative of the generosity of St. John's parishioners. The Centre has operated for over twenty years with thirty staff and provides personalized services to over 500 families each year.

Christmas Brunch, December 15 th by donation on day of Brunch

Tickets are now ready for pickup. They are available from the Front Officoffee hour after Church today from Chris Eve.

Please get them early so we know how many to accommodate. No tickets will be available after Friday, December 13th, at 4:00pm. Menu – turkey dinner:

Turkey Whipped mashed potatoes Roasted yam Roasted vegetables Stuffing Assorted breads Mixed greens Vegetable platters Cranberry sauce Gravy Assorted cookies for dessert Vegetarian, vegan dish - TBD



There is a sign-up sheet at the garden door for those who are able to volunteer their time to help with baking cookies, cooking and carving turkeys, preparing and cooking of food the morning of, as well as those who are able to help with the set-up and clean-up.

CHRISTMAS



Sunday, December 15th after the 10:00 am service.

Baking contributions may be brought to the parking lot entrance of the Court after 9:00 am on the day of the sale or may be left at the church during the week between 9:00 am and noon, if refrigeration is not required.

Contact Heather Baker if you have any questions.

Announcements

A Prayer Group prays through the week; to request confidential prayers for yourself or others contact Pat Manning 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: admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca.

Blue envelopes 2020: Blue envelopes for next year will be considered by Parish Council at the December meeting. If you have a suggestion for outreach the parish should consider supporting this way please give me details and a short rationale. I will compile all your ideas and circulate to PC. Please leave a note for me (Chris Eve) at the office or email me at ceve@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

Thank you to the youth group: Sir James Douglas School did a food drive for our food bank and last Friday evening the youth group sorted the food so we could put it away in the store room. Thanks to the kids who collected over 60 boxes of food and to our youth group for sorting it all. I know our clients will appreciate all the wonderful food items that we received.

The Special Blue 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.

PWRDF MOMENT! The **PWRDF Christmas Cards** have arrived. Pat and Murray will be selling these at coffee hour - until mid-December. A \$25 donation buys you 12 cards. There are two lovely designs to choose from. All proceeds go towards supporting PWRDF's excellent community development programs in the developing world and Canada!

Have you considered paying your church contributions by automatic debit or by credit card? Many people already do so and find it a convenient way to take care of their regular commitments to the church month by month. You can renew your commitment by simply completing the appropriate section of the 2020 Pledge card.

New Automatic Debits

If you wish to START using Automatic Debit you can do so by completing a Pledge Card or by using the Automatic Debit pamphlet found at the back of the church and at the garden door. Just fill in the Pledge Card or the Automatic Debit pamphlet authorization and attach a 'VOID' cheque from your bank account to confirm your bank and account identification numbers. Place both in an envelope, mark it "For Automatic Debit," and place it in the offering plate or give it to the Church Office. Your account will be debited either monthly or twice monthly, as you choose, to coincide with the bank debit dates, which are the 15th and the last day of the month.

New Credit Card Debits

If you wish to START using VISA or MASTERCARD you can do so by completing a Pledge Card. Just fill in the Pledge Card and ensure that your card numbers and expiry date are shown on it, which should then be put into an envelope, marked "For Credit Card Debit," and placed in the offering plate or given in to the Church Office. Your account will be debited at the mid-month.

Christmas at St. John the Divine

Advent Procession Sunday, December 1 – 7:30 p.m.

A transfixing sequence of readings, hymns, and choral music, exploring the themes of Advent – light and dark, endings and beginnings, hope and justice. Sung by the Choristers of St. John the Divine.

Christmas Pageant Saturday, December 14 – 4:00 p.m.

Urban Outdoor Retelling of the Christmas Story – rain or shine, dress appropriately! Barbecue & hot apple cider at 3:30 p.m.

Lessons and Carols for Christmas Sunday, December 15 - 7:30 p.m.

The traditional service of lessons and carols for Christmas, as popularized by King's College Cambridge: carols new and old sung by the Choristers of St. John the Divine, and favourites for everyone to sing.

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, 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.

10:30 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 Venerable Alastair McCollum.

Christmas Day-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas morning service of Holy Communion, with sermon, congregational carols, and the Community Choir of St. John the Divine.

SOUL SPACE

Things to nourish our spiritual journey.

Mother's Prayer adapted by Rebecca Solnit

Our mother who art underfoot, hallowed be thy names. Thy seasons come, thy will be done, within us as around us.

Thank you for our daily bread, our water, our air and our lives and so much beauty;

lead us not into selfish craving and the destructions that are the hungers of the glutted, but deliver us from wanton consumption of thy vast but finite bounty.

For thine is the only sphere of life we know, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



I used to think that top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation.

And we scientists don't know how to do that.

~ Gus Speth

St. John's Social Justice and Action Group presents Climate Crisis- The Call to Action NOW

Thursday, December 5, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

"Environmental Violence: Trying to Understand, Confront, and Reduce our Damages" a talk by Dr. Rick Kool, Professor of Environment and Sustainability, Royal Roads University

Denson Lounge. Tea, coffee and cookies will be served.

"Sabbath Economics: Money like the Bible mattered"

Saturday, December 7th - 9:30 am to 1:00 pm Led by Matthew Cook Please sign up on the sheet prepared at the garden door. Seating is limited.

A Public Menorah Lighting

Centennial Square Sunday, December 22nd, from 5:00 pm

You are invited to join Congregation Emanu-El Synagogue for a joyous Hanukkah Lighting. We are pleased to announce that once again our musical headliner will be the ever popular **Victoria High Rhythm and Blues Band**. And, of course, *sufganiyot* (traditional doughnuts) will be served up to enhance the holiday spirit!

For more information please contact Congregation Emanu-El via email info@congregationemanuel.ca or by telephone at 250-382-0615.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

STEWARDS

People's Warden: Graeme Brown Associate Warden: Joan Huzar Envelope Secretary: Jim Harlick Rector's Warden: Chris Eve Associate Warden: Karen Coverett Treasurer: David Buckman

PARISH COUNCIL

David Buckman, Carol Denton, Marguerite Heppell, Penny Holt, Elizabeth McAuley, Rod Marsh

STAFF SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF ST. JOHN'S

Rector: The Ven. Alastair McCollum Associate Priest: The Rev'd Canon Kevin Arndt Associate Priest: The Rev'd Bill Tarter Associate Priest: The Rev'd Grant Croswell Deacon: The Rev'd Patrick Sibley Director of Music: David Stratkauskas Family Ministry Coordinator: Ruth MacIntosh Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger

HONORARY ASSISTANTS

The Rev'd Derek Dunwoody / The Rev'd Canon Andrew Gates The Rev'd Dr. Larry Scyner / The Rev'd Jane Reid

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