

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

The 4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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 Reverend Bill Tarter

Sermon: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

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

Presider: The Reverend Bill Tarter

Audio: Walter Hundleby

Deacon: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Verger: Douwe Bosma

Readers: Iris Elsdon, Christine Scott

Music: Members of the Choristers of St. John the Divine

Sermon: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Mass: Messe pour le temps de Noël

Intercessor: Karen Coverett

- Michel Corrette (1707-1795)

A Nursery for children under 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 the faithful bearer of Christ, Mary, whose strength and grace inspires us all, who declared the mighty cast down, and the humble raised up, and who nurtured and guided Jesus, the Christ. 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.

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:

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour,
now fill us with your grace,
that we in all things may embrace your will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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

Isaiah 7:10-16

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM (*sung by the choir*)

80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are
enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come
to help us.

Restore us, O god of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 1:1-7

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN (CP 362)

WOODLANDS

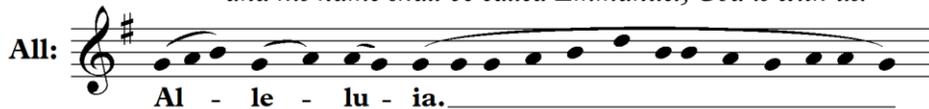
THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

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.*



God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Hear the Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Following the Address there will be a pause for silence.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We glorify you, Loving God, and we bless you,
for in the ineffable Sacrament of your love,
you have decreed that in the mysteries of the altar
we should see Christ,

Now may this altar be a sign and symbol of the promise of your presence
and a celebration of our common life in Christ,
in whom all things hold together and who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ALTAR

May God by God's power sanctify this altar,
which we bless,
so that, as a visible sign,
it may express the mystery of Christ,
who gave all for the life of the world.

All: Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

**All: We believe in God, from whom every family
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.**

**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.

Ephesians 3 Patterns for Worship. © ABCE, adapted.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PEACE

Please stand.

The peace of the 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 48)

PICARDY

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Gracious God,
by the power of the Spirit
who sanctified the mother of your Son,
make holy all we offer you this day.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Liturgy of the Island, Prayer C

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff has four measures, alternating between 'Priest:' and 'All:'. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al-so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The second staff has two measures, alternating between 'Priest:' and 'All:'. The lyrics are: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. 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 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,
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 *(sung by the choir)*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

*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 and for many; do this to remember me.
Great is the mystery of faith.



All: Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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 of bread and wine
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son.
When all of creation groans, 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, Almighty God, now and forever.



All: A - - men, a - men.

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 *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. 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.

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

I sing of maiden That is makeless
King of all kings To her son she ches.
He came all so still Where His mother was,
As dew in April That falleth on the grass.
He came all so still To His mother's bower,
As dew in April That falleth on the flower.
He came all so still Where His mother lay,
As dew in April That falleth on the spray.
Mother and maiden Was never none but she:
Well may such a lady God's mother be.

Words: Traditional. / Music: Patrick Hadley (1899-1973).

After the Communion, silence is kept.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMUNITY

RECESSIONAL HYMN (NEH 19)

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

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!

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 29TH – THE 1ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 63:7-9 The prophet reminds his listeners that the Lord saves, leads God's people out of danger, and can be trusted. **Psalms 148** The whole universe is summoned to praise the Creator.

Hebrews 2:10-18 Christ, who lived as one of us, has led us out from the slavery of fearing death.

Matthew 2:13-23 An angel warns Joseph to take Mary and the baby Jesus and flee from Herod.

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

in memory of Herbert Alan & Ruth Fenton Zenger, from Michael & Carol-Ann Zenger.

Christmas Office Hours

Closed: December 25th thru January 1st
Normal office hours resume Thursday, January 2nd
9:00 am – 12 Noon

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today

11:45 am Sunday Reflections

Monday 23

1:00 pm Garden Eucharist – all welcome

Memorial Garden

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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.

Sunday 29 – The 1st Sunday after Christmas

8:00 am Holy Communion

Chapel

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

Church

EVENTS

A Public Menorah Lighting - Centennial Square - **today 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.

Longest Night Service – today at 7:00 pm

St. Luke Cedar Hill (corner of Cedar Hill and Cedar Hill Cross Road)

Whether you have experienced loss in your life or simply are finding it difficult to enter into Christmas this year for whatever reason...

Come and enter gently into a quiet holy time...

For more information, call 250-477-6741

or visit www.stlukesvictoria.ca

The Chancel Guild will be **decorating the Church** for Christmas on Monday, December 23rd. Any donations of greenery would be most welcome. They can be brought any time after 9:00 am tomorrow. Thank you for your help in beautifying our church for this festival season.

Prepare to welcome the New Year! Everyone is invited to a **New Year's Eve Taizé** service with candlelight, chant, prayer, anointing with oil, word and silence. This service will take place on December 31st, 7:00 – 8:00 pm, at St. Philip Anglican Church, 2928 Eastdowne Road.

The Art & Soul Group will not be meeting over the Christmas period, but will resume again on Wednesday, January 15th, 2020.

Food Bank Fundraiser: Save the Date!!

Wondering what to get someone for Christmas who has everything??? How about tickets to our exciting fund raising event scheduled for February 23, at 2:00 pm in support of our Food Bank. We will host the Greater Victoria Police Chorus for one of their amazing concerts. Tickets are only \$20 each and are available through the Church Office. Plan to attend and bring your friends!!

Forces of Nature

With Kati Debretzeni, violin/director



Friday, January 10 7.30pm

St John the Divine

Vivaldi - Four Seasons

Rebel - Les Éléments

Tickets: \$30/\$25/\$5

At McPherson Box Office, Ivy's, Munro's
Coffee Hour Jan 5th, and the door



victoria-baroque.com

victoria-baroque@shaw.ca

250.590.9770

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.

If you have not yet returned your **2020 pledge card**, please do so soon as we need this information to prepare as accurate a budget as we can.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made last weekend such a wonderful and memorable time: The Pageant, the morning service, Christmas Brunch, Bake Sale and Lessons & Carols.

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.

The **Bake Sale** team and I are most grateful to the members of the congregation for their generous participation in last week's bake sale. As the contributions were brought into the hall we were in awe at the quantity and quality of everything, and as the items were enthusiastically purchased until there were very few remaining, we were absolutely amazed.

The end result was \$1,214.00!

Thank you so much to everyone who supported this fund raising event. *Heather Baker, Convener.*

Food Bank: We have 15 to 20 banana boxes (sturdy and good quality) in which the Food Bank at St. John's receives fresh food. We usually return the empties for future use, but the food share network has plenty of boxes for now. If anyone in the parish would like one or more of these boxes, they are available in the crypt. At year-end, we will recycle any remaining boxes.

PWRDF MOMENT! - Thanks to St. John's folks who purchased PWRDF Christmas Cards this season. Our sales totalled over \$800. Your kind contributions will help fund important, life-changing social and economic development programs in the global South. Tax receipts will be mailed from PWRDF's Toronto office early in 2020.

As you do your last minute Christmas shopping for those friends and relatives who have just about everything, don't forget PWRDF's "World of Gifts". Catalogues are available with the Dec. Anglican Journal. Choose from meaningful gifts such as clean water, climate adaptation, education and food security options --a small PWRDF gift to loved ones is a great way to really make a world of difference!

Pat Payne & Murray Luft, PWRDF Reps.

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.

SOUL SPACE

Things to nourish our spiritual journey.

“There is a reason Mary is everywhere. I've seen her image all over the world, in cafés in Istanbul, on students' backpacks in Scotland, in a market stall in Jakarta, but I don't think her image is everywhere because she is a reminder to be obedient, and I don't think it has to do with social revolution. Images of Mary remind us of God's favor. Mary is what it looks like to believe that we already are who God says we are.”

— *Nadia Bolz-Weber, Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*



“The artist Ben Wildflower grew up evangelical, reading the Bible over and over. Yet he never heard the song of Mary emphasized in church until he started attending an Anglican congregation. There, the Magnificat was a part of the evening prayer in the Book of Common Prayer, and Wildflower found it beautiful and profound. One day he picked up a piece of wood outside of a construction site and crafted an image of Mary that was different from all the sweet pictures of her staring up into heaven. He drew her with her fist raised to the sky, and her foot stepping on a snake. It is now his most popular image.

“She’s a young woman singing a song about toppling rulers from their thrones. She’s a radical who exists within the confines of institutionalized religion,” he said. Some Christians took issue with the political nature of his image, until Wildflower wrote a post explaining the revolutionary text came from the Bible.”

-DL Mayfield, *Washington Post* 20/12/2018: *Mary's 'Magnificat' in the Bible is revolutionary. Some evangelicals silence her.*

Happy
Holidays

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

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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