

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Christmas Eve

4pm, December 24, 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.



A Family *Posada* Service for Christmas Eve 2019

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.

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.

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.

*Please take time to visit the Christmas crèche scene outside the side chapel.
Our thanks to Sara Chu and Claire Munn for the crèche.*

Posada is Spanish for inn.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Blessing of the Crèche *(all stand, as you are able)*

O Almighty God, who by the birth of your child Jesus has given us a great light to dawn upon our darkness: bless this crèche which we are now preparing to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith, and receive the fullness of life Jesus came to bring; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES (CP 118)

Collect for Christmas

God of grace and wonder,
on this night we, like the shepherds, are amazed. We hear again the message of the angels proclaiming peace on earth, and we recall the ageless story of a baby born in a manger. You love us more than we can ever know, through him who is Christ the Lord, and lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Scripture

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY (CP 123)

The congregation is seated.

The Story of Jesus' Birth

Mary and Joseph come to the stable—no room at the inn!

Scripture *Luke 2:4-7*

During the carol the figures of Mary and Joseph come to the stable.

Hymn *Away in a Manger*

CRADLE SONG (CP126)

The congregation is seated.

The Shepherds are told of Jesus's birth and go to Bethlehem

Scripture *Luke 2:8-16*

During the carol the shepherds are taken to the stable.

Hymn *While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night*

WINCHESTER OLD (CP136)

The congregation is seated.

The Wise Men follow the star to Bethlehem

Scripture *Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12*

During this song the Magi are brought to the stable.

Hymn *We Three Kings of Orient are...*

Lighting the Christ Candle

Leader God our Father,
for us the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.

**All: Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

A Thought for Christmas

Prayers

The congregation stands.

During the hymn, people bring their knitted sheep forward to the stable.

Hymn

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM (CP122)

Hand-held candles will be lit during the following hymn:

Hymn

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT (CP 119)

Closing prayer

Here is a place for you, Lord Jesus.

Just as our hands have made it ready,
so make our hearts ready
to love and to welcome you.

Be born again,
not in a manger,
but in us.

**Make us your Bethlehem,
where God is personal
and all things and all people
are made new.
AMEN.**

The Blessing

Please extinguish your candles.

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN (CP 138)

*You may take your candle home with you,
or place it in one of the baskets provided.*

Christmas Services

December 25	10:00 am	Holy Communion for Christmas Day (BAS)
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Epiphany services

January 5	8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10:00 am	Parish Eucharist (BAS), & Chalking of the Doors
	7:30 pm	Evensong

Christmas Office Hours

Closed: December 25th thru January 1st

*Normal office hours resume Thursday, January 2nd
9:00 am – 12 Noon*

Poinsettias – Given to the Glory of God

in memory of

Our parents, The Hutchinsons and Sylwesters
Loved ones and friends
My parents
Family & friends
Our parents, Bob & Vi McLaren, and Stewart & Ruth Bothwell
My parents, John & Doris Erickson
Altaire
Charles M. MacLeod & Evelyn E. L. MacLeod
Ian Hay
Claire Minkley
Hélène Nadeau
Our Parents – Herb & Ruth Zenger and Hugh & Betty McCaw
Our parents – Jim Reid, Ava Jane Nelson & Dan Sudbeck
Jim & Isabelle Smith
Alice & Bill Denson. We fondly remember the happy times we enjoyed together.
Remembering Grahame Baker and all the wonderful Christmases we celebrated together.
Marguerite & Harold Henrikson and Betty & Tom Melville
Rex
Mum and Dad
George Pollard & Jean Radtke Pollard
My parents, Frank & Evelyn Mayers
My parents and grandparents
May Kemp
Ann Wilson
Loved family members
Florence Reid
To Absent Friends
Ron Martin
Robert Kendrick
Our parents, George & Phil Dagger and Harry & Florence Jenkins

In thanksgiving

For the beauty of St. John's
For friends and family at Christmas
For the celebration of the safe arrival of Lladon's twins
Celebrating the joy of family
In celebration of being together for Christmas

In memory of loved ones - from

Marilyn Moody
Enid Luneburg
Margaret Walker
Barbara Jenks
Kingsley & Pat Payne

from

John & Jean Sylwester
Doug & Val Adderley
Elizabeth McAuley
Elizabeth McAuley
John & Ann McLaren
Diane Erickson
Ted & Vorna Butler
Robin MacLeod
The family
Hilary Punnett
Daniel, Ruth, Luc, Paul & Camryn
Michael & Carol-Ann Zenger
Judith Reid & Scott Sudbeck
Rhoda Brodie-Smith
The Baker Family

With love, and appreciation for all those memories, Heather & family
Bruce & Gerry Melville

Louise Langman
Louise Langman
With love from your 3 daughters
Nancy Peterson
Nancy Baal
Valerie Sullivan
Bill Williamson
Frank & Joyce Caldwell
Jane Reid
Carol Anne Harper
The Bugslag & Hodgins Families
Harriet Kendrick
John & Pat Jenkins

Esther Chapman
Susan Mugridge
TC & Judy Tethong
Dorothy Chuhuran
Marguerite Heppell



FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Main 1 in celebration of 50 years of marriage, Al & Karyn Lehmann.

Main 2 in thankfulness for all God's blessings, from Barb Martin.

Lectern in memory of absent loved ones, from Judith Branion.

Good is the Flesh

Good is the flesh that the Word has become,
good is the birthing, the milk in the breast,
good is the feeding, caressing and rest,
good is the body for knowing the world,
Good is the flesh that the Word has become.

Good is the body for knowing the world,
sensing the sunlight, the tug of the ground,
feeling, perceiving, within and around,
good is the body, from cradle to grave,
Good is the flesh that the Word has become.

Good is the body, from cradle to grave,
growing and aging, arousing, impaired,
happy in clothing, or lovingly bared,
good is the pleasure of God in our flesh,
Good is the flesh that the Word has become.

Good is the pleasure of God in our flesh,
longing in all, as in Jesus, to dwell,
glad of embracing, and tasting, and smell,
good is the body, for good and for God,
Good is the flesh that the Word has become.

Brian Wren

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 Crowell
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

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/StJohnVicBC
twitter.com/StJohnVicBC e-mail: admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
