

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

The 1st Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 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

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

Intercessor: Jamie Lawson

Deacon: The Reverend Patrick Sibley

Audio: Bob McIntosh

Readers: Judith Reid

Verger:

Sermon: The Reverend Bill Tarter

Organist: Matt Brown

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

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 (CP150)

PERSONENT HODIE

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.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

John Merbecke, adapted



Glo - ry be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will to - wards all.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glo - ri - fy you,

we give thanks to you for your great glo - ry, O Lord god, heav - en - ly King,

God the Fa - ther al - migh - ty. O Lord the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the

sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. You take a - way the sin of the world,

re - ceive our prayer. You are seat - ed at the right hand of God the Fa - ther,

have mer - cy up - on us. For you on - ly are ho - ly; you on - ly are the Lord;

you on - ly, O Christ with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

are most high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light
of your incarnate Word.
May this light, enkindled in our hearts,
shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of 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.

Isaiah 63:7-9

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created.

He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall
not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will;

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and wingèd birds;

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens, old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour
is over earth and heaven.

He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 2:10-18

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

All: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN (CP 580)

DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

Before the Gospel



*Deacon or Cantor: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts:
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.*



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 Sermon there will be a pause for Silence.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 (CP140)

CAROL

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of light, in the birth of your Son we see your glory.

May we who share in this mystery grow daily in your love.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Prayer 3, Book of Alternative Services

Priest: The Lord be with you. *All:* And al-so with you. *Priest:* Lift up your hearts. *All:* We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *All:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

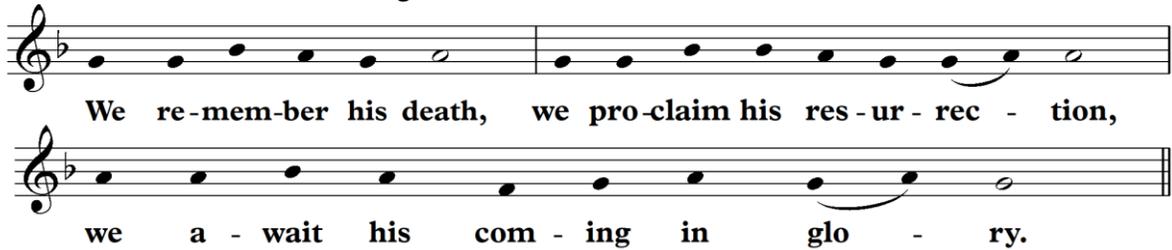
SANCTUS (CP 735)

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 re-mem-ber his death, we pro-claim his res-ur-rec-tion,
we a-wait his com-ing in glo-ry.

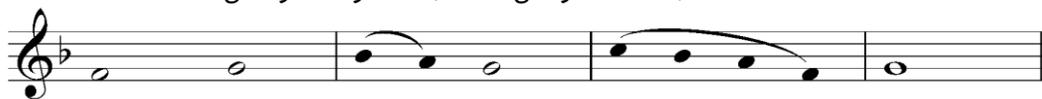
and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

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 children; 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: A - men, A - men, A - - men.

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.**

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.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE COMMUNITY

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Source of truth and joy,
may we who have received the gift of divine life
always follow the way of your Son.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: Amen.

THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN (CP 135)

IRIS

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 JANUARY 5 – EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6 The glory of the Lord is light for all the nations. **Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14** In the ancient Near East, kings were next to gods. A king and his heir were seen as endowed with justice by gods, and had special responsibility for the poor and needy. This psalm is a prayer for the king, possibly written for a coronation. **Ephesians 3:1-12** The manifestation of God's revelation to the Gentiles is celebrated and Paul's ministry to them affirmed. **Matthew 2:1-12** "Wise men" (in Latin: magi) were members of a Persian caste of astrologers and interpreters of dreams. Astrology was widely accepted then. A star was associated with each person; the way the star rose told the wise men that a king had been born. A later church tradition called the wise men kings.

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

Thursday, January 2, 2020

5:30 pm Holy Communion followed by soup

Denson Lounge

Friday 3

10:00 am Food Bank

Church Basement

Sunday 5 – The Feast of the Epiphany

8:00 am Holy Communion

Chapel

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

Church

11:45 am Sunday Reflections

Denson Lounge

EVENTS

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.

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. *Pat Payne & Murray Luft, PWRDF Reps.*

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.

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.

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.

SOUL SPACE

Things to nourish our spiritual journey.



“...the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees defines that group of people as follows: A **refugee** is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A **refugee** has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. The Holy Family, as Matthew recounts the story, was fleeing because of a “well-founded fear of persecution” because of their “membership in a particular social group,” in this case people with young children living in Bethlehem. I am not sure how you could get any clearer than that.”
-James Martin SJ

“In a word, Jesus was a refugee.

And this was no accident, no minor detail in the Christmas story. On the contrary, it was the opening note in the song that would become his life and ministry, and at the same time a clear echo of the larger divine symphony that begins in the Book of Genesis. For that young refugee grows up into a teacher well acquainted with scripture, with its oft-repeated refrain to welcome the foreigner, indeed to “love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deut 10:19).

According to the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus concludes his formal teaching with one last parable, a story that puts the premium not on any particular confession of faith but rather on whether we serve “the least of these”: “feeding the hungry,” “clothing the naked,” and also and in particular “welcoming the stranger” (Matthew 25:31-46). Jesus explicitly takes up solidarity with those who need the basics of food, clothing, and shelter in this parable, as if to say, “If you’re looking for me, you’ll find me among the most vulnerable.” And so Christians can put it this way: Jesus was a refugee – and Jesus is a refugee.

Nor can it escape our attention that Jesus constantly warned – and warns – his followers against clannish thinking, against serving the insider group at the expense of alleged outsiders.”

Matthew Myer Bolton www.saltproject.com

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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