



**September 24, 2023**

# **The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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**CHORAL EVENSONG**

**The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine**

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## St. John's acknowledges these ancestral lands of the Lekwungen speaking 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.

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.

### Worship

**The Sunday morning service** takes place in-person, is also live streamed and is accessible on Zoom.

**Sunday Evensong** also takes place in person and livestreamed on the church website and Facebook pages

**Daily prayer online** is shared daily with a link on our website either live or via recording.

**Contacting Us:** The church office is now open Monday-Friday, 9:30am-12:30pm. The main email for contact is: [admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca). If you wish to receive prayer for yourself or for another, there will be members of our Pastoral Care Team who will offer their prayers. Please contact: the church office at the above email address. 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.

### Assisting with tonight's Liturgy

**Officiant:** The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

**Welcomer:** Bill Williamson

**Music:** A Quartet of Choristers

Amiel Elfert, Organist

### A note about language

*In our worship, we use language which is poetic and filled with metaphor and wonder – realising that any language about God is limited. We use some ancient words which may seem odd, or may seem to refer to God as male, or in terms which elsewhere we might not choose to use. The poetry and the metaphor are there not to restrict or define our understanding of God, but to remind us that our words are never enough to talk about the Divine: instead we use the beauty of the words and music in our worship to help us glimpse just a little of the God beyond all words.*

*Listed music is subject to substitution in the event of changes of personnel or situation.*

**Cover Image:** Dietrich, Christian Wilhelm Ernst, 1712-1774. Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57593> [retrieved September 21, 2023]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dietrich\\_Workers\\_in\\_the\\_vineyard.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dietrich_Workers_in_the_vineyard.jpg).



If you would like to give to support the work and ministries of St. John the Divine you can do so in the offering plate which is by the Garden door, there are also envelopes in the book stand which can make your gifts tax efficient. Alternatively, you can scan this QR code which will take you to our Canada Helps giving page. Thank you for your support.

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

*Please stand at the entrance of the clergy. The officiant gives a short welcome.*

### The Responses

*Thomas Ebdon (1738-1811)*

*Cantor:* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Choir:* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Cantor:* O God, make speed to save us.

*Choir:* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Cantor:* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*Choir:* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.  
Praise ye the Lord. (The Lord's name be praised.)

*Please be seated for the singing of the psalm.*

### Psalm

*119:121-128*

121 I deal with the thing that is lawful and right \* O give me not over unto mine oppressors.

122 Make thou thy servant to delight in that which is good \* that the proud do me no wrong.

123 Mine eyes are wasted away with looking for thy health \* and for the word of thy righteousness.

124 O deal with thy servant according unto thy loving mercy \* and teach me thy statutes.

125 I am thy servant, O grant me understanding \* that I may know thy testimonies.

126 It is time for thee, Lord, to lay to thine hand \* for they have destroyed thy law.

127 For I love thy commandments \* above gold and precious stone.

128 Therefore hold I straight all thy commandments \* and all false ways I utterly abhor.

*Please stand for the Gloria Patri:*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son \* and to the Holy Ghost,

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be \* world without end. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## First Lesson

Ezekiel 33:23, 30—34:10

The word of the LORD came to me:

As for you, mortal, your people who talk together about you by the walls, and at the doors of the houses, say to one another, each to a neighbour, ‘Come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.’ They come to you as people come, and they sit before you as my people, and they hear your words, but they will not obey them. For flattery is on their lips, but their heart is set on their gain. To them you are like a singer of love songs, one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; they hear what you say, but they will not do it. When this comes—and come it will!—then they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

The word of the LORD came to me: Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them—to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep; therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: Thus says the Lord GOD, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

*Please stand.*

## Magnificat

*Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: June Dixon (b. 1942)*

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and the meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## Second Lesson

Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

*Please stand.*

## Nunc Dimittis

*Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: June Dixon (b. 1942)*

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel. GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Apostles' Creed

**All: I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

## Responses, Lord's Prayer, and Collects

*Cantor:* The Lord be with you;

*Choir:* And with thy spirit.

*Cantor:* Let us pray.

*Please remain standing, kneel, or be seated as is your preference for prayer.*

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

*Cantor:* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

*Choir:* And grant us thy salvation.

*Cantor:* O Lord, save the King;

*Choir:* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Cantor:* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

*Choir:* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Cantor:* O Lord, save thy people;

*Choir:* And bless thine inheritance.

*Cantor:* Give peace in our time, O Lord;

*Choir:* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Cantor:* O God, make clean our hearts within us;

*Choir:* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*1<sup>st</sup> Collect, of the day:*

*T.E.C.*

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Collect, for Peace:*

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*3<sup>rd</sup> Collect, for Aid Against All Perils:*

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Anthem

*Please be seated for the anthem.*

O Lord, support us all the day long  
until the shadows lengthen and evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over  
and our work is done;

Then in thy great mercy,  
grant us safe lodging,  
and holy rest,  
and peace at the last,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Text: A Prayer of Cardinal J. H. Newman  
Music: Eleanor Daley

*Please remain seated, kneel, or stand as is your preference for prayer.*

## Intercessions

*Please stand to sing the hymn:*

**Hymn** (CP 30)



**1. God, that madest earth and heaven,  
darkness and light;  
who the day for toil hast given,  
for rest, the night;  
may thine angel-guards defend us,  
slumber sweet thy mercy send us,  
holy dreams and hopes attend us,  
this livelong night.**

**2. Guard us waking, guard us sleeping,  
and, when we die,  
may we in thy mighty keeping  
all peaceful lie:  
when the last dread call shall wake us,  
do not thou our God forsake us,  
but to reign in glory take us  
with thee on high.**

Text: St. 1, Reginald Heber (1783-1826); st. 2, Richard Whatley (1787-1863).  
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Melody – Welsh trad.

*Please be seated.*

## Sermon



**Hymn** (CP 617)



1. Jesus, the very thought of thee,  
with sweetness fills the breast;  
but sweeter far thy face to see,  
and in thy presence rest.
2. No voice can sing, no heart can frame,  
nor can the mind recall  
a sweeter sound than Jesus' name,  
the Saviour of us all.
3. O hope of every contrite heart,  
O joy of all the meek; to those who ask,  
how kind thou art,  
how good to those who seek!
4. But what to those who find! Ah, this  
nor tongue nor pen can show;  
the love of Jesus, what it is  
none but his lovers know.
5. Jesus, our only joy be thou,  
as thou our prize wilt be;  
in thee be all our glory now,  
and through eternity.

Text: Latin (*Jesu dulcis memoria*, 12<sup>th</sup> cent.); tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878), alt.  
Music: **ST. BOTOLPH**, Gordon Archbold Slater (1896-1979). © *Oxford University Press*.

## The Blessing or Grace

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