



November 23, 2025

The Reign of Christ

CHORAL EVENSONG

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

St. John's acknowledges these lands of the Lekwungen people.

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 in 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

Service times: **8:00 am (Holy Communion – said service), 10:00 am (Holy Eucharist with choir and organ), 4:30 pm (BCP Choral Evensong)** on Sundays as well as mid-week services (please see our website for times). If you can't attend in person we invite you to join us via Zoom (email admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca for the link) or through the livestream on the Website: www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

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

Contacting Us: The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm. The main email for contact is: 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 this afternoon's Liturgy

Officiant: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Welcomer: Bill Williamson

Reader: Karen Coverett

Music: Small Ensemble

David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

Char Hodgkins, Assistant Director

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 : Cranach, Lucas, 1472-1553. Christ on the Cross Between the Two Thieves, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57236> [retrieved November 20, 2025]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cranach_il_vecchio,_calvario,_1515-20.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. You may also conveniently use our tap machine (no tax receipt) which is available at the garden door entrance, or the bank machine (tax receipt with envelope completion) available at the office. Envelopes for regular giving are available from the church office.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please stand as the clergy enter.

Prelude

The choir may sing an Introit.

The officiant gives a short welcome.

The Responses

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) / Matthew Larkin (b. 1963)

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

72:1-7

- 1 Give the King thy judgements, O God * and thy righteousness unto the King's son.
- 2 Then shall he judge thy people according unto right * and defend the poor.
- 3 The mountains also shall bring peace * and the little hills righteousness unto the people.
- 4 He shall keep the simple folk by their right * defend the children of the poor, and punish the wrong doer.
- 5 They shall fear thee, as long as the sun and moon endureth * from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like the rain into a fleece of wool * even as the drops that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish * yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth.

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

1 Samuel 8:4-20

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, 'You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.' But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to govern us.' Samuel prayed to the LORD, and the LORD said to Samuel, 'Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king

over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.'

So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, 'These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plough his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.'

But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, 'No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.'

Please stand.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Arnold in A

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.

Second Lesson

John 18:33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Arnold in A

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.

1st Collect, of the day:

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

2nd 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.

3rd 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 *(sung by the choir)*

Jesu, Rex admirabilis
Et triumphator nobilis
Dulcedo ineffabilis
Totus desiderabilis.

Mane nobiscum Domine
Et nos illustra lumine
Pulsa mentis caligine
Mundum reple dulcedine.

Jesus, wondrous king
and noble conqueror,
unutterable sweetness,
wholly desirable:

Remain with us, Lord,
and shine your light upon us,
drive away the darkness of our minds,
fill the world with sweetness.

Text and Music: G.P. daPalestrina (1525-1594)

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

Intercessions

Please stand to sing the hymn:

Hymn (CP 345)

Text: George Herbert (1593-1633).

Music: GWALCHMAI, Joseph David Jones (1827-1870).



1. King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
and that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast,
thou hast spared me.

2. Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried
thou didst clear me;
and along, when they replied,
thou didst hear me.

3. Seven whole days, not one in seven,
 I will praise thee;
 in my heart, though not in heaven,
 I can raise thee.
 Small it is, in this poor sort
 to enrol thee:
 even eternity's too short
 to extol thee.

Sermon

Hymn (CP 379)

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).

Music: GOPSAL, John Darwall (1731-1789).



1. Rejoice, the Lord is King!
 Your Lord and King adore!
 Rejoice, give thanks and sing
 and triumph evermore.
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
 rejoice; again I say rejoice!

2. Jesus the Saviour reigns,
 the God of truth and love;
 when he had purged our stains,
 he took his seat above.
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
 rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

3. His kingdom cannot fail;
 he rules o'er earth and heaven;
 the keys of death and hell
 are to our Jesus given.
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
 rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

4. He sits at God's right hand
 till all his foes submit,
 and bow to his command,
 and fall beneath his feet.
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
 rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

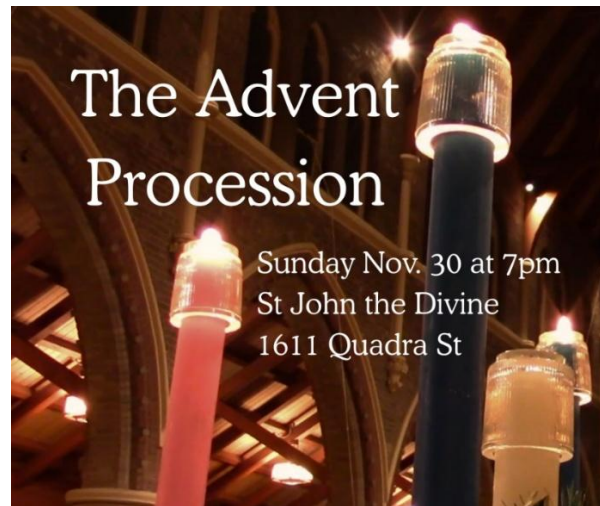
5. Rejoice in glorious hope;
 Jesus, the judge, shall come
 and take his servants up
 to their eternal home.
 We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
 the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

The Blessing or Grace

Organ Voluntary

Dialogue sur Te Deum

Denis Bédard (b. 1950)



The Church's year starts on Sunday, November 30th, marked with this dramatic and moving liturgy of music and readings at 7:00 pm, featuring the Choristers of St John the Divine. The service explores the themes of Advent - darkness, light, hope, endings, and beginnings - through a series of 'sequences' based around the mystery of the Eternal, the Promise of the Kingdom, John the Baptist the Forerunner of Christ, the Incarnation, and the Coming Again.

Music this year, in addition to the ancient chants of the O antiphons and congregational Advent hymns, will include:

- Third Song of Isaiah (David Stratkauskas)
- O Virtus Sapientiae (Hildegard of Bingen)
- O Radiant Dawn (James MacMillan)
- A Prayer to St John the Baptist (Cecilia McDowall)
- Bogoroditsye Dyevo (Sergei Rachmaninoff)
- Sanctus from the Mass in A minor (Imogen Holst)
- E'en so Lord Jesus, Quickly Come (Paul Manz)
- Advent O Carol (Joanna Forbes l'Estrange)