



January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

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

Char Hodgkins, Assistant Director

David Stratkauskas, Director of Music and 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 : Valente, Liz. Baptism of Jesus, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59319> [retrieved January 8, 2026]. Original source: Liz Valente, <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/>.



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.

Psalms

46

1 GOD is our hope and strength, / a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be changed, / and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;

3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell, / and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.

4 The LORD of hosts is with us; / the God of Jacob is our refuge.

5 THERE is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God, / the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

6 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be moved; / God shall help her, and that right early.

7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved; / but God uttereth his voice, and the earth doth melt away.

8 The LORD of hosts is with us; / the God of Jacob is our refuge.

9 O come hither, and behold the works of the LORD, / what wonders he hath wrought upon the earth.

10 He maketh wars to cease in all the world; / he breaketh the bow, and snappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.

11 Be still then, and know that I am God; / I will be exalted among the nations, and I will be exalted in the earth.

12 The LORD of hosts is with us; / the God of Jacob is our refuge.

1 O CLAP your hands together, all ye peoples; / O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
 2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared; / he is a great King over all the earth.
 3 He subdued the peoples under us, / and the nations under our feet.
 4 He chose our heritage for us, / even the glorious land of Jacob, whom he loved.
 5 GOD is gone up with a merry noise, / the LORD with the sound of the trumpet.
 6 O sing praises, sing praises unto our God; / O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
 7 For God is the King of all the earth: / sing ye praises with understanding.
 8 God reigneth over the nations: / God sitteth upon his holy throne.
 9 The princes of the peoples are gathered together, / with the people of the God of Abraham;
 10 For the rulers of the earth belong unto God; / he is very highly exalted.

The Canadian Psalter

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

Joshua 3:1-8, 14-17

Early in the morning Joshua rose and set out from Shittim with all the Israelites, and they came to the Jordan. They camped there before crossing over. At the end of three days the officers went through the camp and commanded the people, 'When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place. Follow it, so that you may know the way you should go, for you have not passed this way before. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, a distance of about two thousand cubits; do not come any nearer to it.' Then Joshua said to the people, 'Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.' To the priests Joshua said, 'Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass on in front of the people.' So they took up the ark of the covenant and went in front of the people.

The LORD said to Joshua, 'This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, "When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan."'

When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing towards the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Please stand.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Thomas Weelkes, Short Service

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

Luke 3:15-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Thomas Weelkes, Short Service

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:

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan didst proclaim him thy beloved Son and anoint him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. 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.

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my place,
To call my true love to my dance:

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance: *[Refrain]*

Refrain

*Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to human nature,
To call my true love to my dance: *[Refrain]*

Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance. *[Refrain]*

Text: Trad., arr. G.F. Woodward
Music: John Gardner (1917-2011)

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

Intercessions

Please stand to sing the hymn:

HYMN 121 8³⁰

Caithness



1	Christ, when for us you were bap-tized,	God's Spi - rit on you came,
2	God called you his be - lov - ed Son,	called you his ser - vant true,
3	Straight-way and stead-fast un - til death	you then o - beyed his call
4	Bap - tize us with your spi - rit, Lord,	your cross on us be signed,



1	as peace-ful as a dove and yet	as ur - gent as a flame.
2	sent you his king-dom to pro-claim,	his ho - ly will to do.
3	free - ly as Son of Man to serve	and give your life for all.
4	that, like-wise in God's ser - vice we	may per - fect free - dom find.

*text: F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev.; music: melody from the Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635; harm.
The English Hymnal, 1906*

Sermon



1. When Christ's appearing was made known,
King Herod trembled for his throne;
but he who offers heavenly birth
sought not the kingdoms of this earth.
2. The eastern sages saw from far
and followed on his guiding star;
by light their way to Light they trod,
and by their gifts confessed their God.
3. Within the Jordan's sacred flood
the heavenly Lamb in meekness stood,
that he, to whom no sin was known,
might cleanse his people from their own.
4. And O what miracle divine,
when water reddened into wine!
He spake the word, and forth it flowed
in streams that nature ne'er bestowed.
5. All glory, Jesus, be to thee
for this, thy glad Epiphany:
Whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

The Blessing or Grace

Organ Voluntary