

**January 25, 2026**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

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**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](mailto:admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca) for the link) or through the livestream on the Website: [www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](http://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](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 this afternoon's Liturgy

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

**Music:** Quartet

**Welcomer:** Ruth Swinton

David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

**Reader:** Karen Coverett

### 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 :** Duccio, di Buoninsegna, -1319?. Christ Calling the Apostles Peter and Andrew, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=49261> [retrieved January 21, 2026]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Duccio\\_di\\_Buoninsegna\\_036.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Duccio_di_Buoninsegna_036.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.*

*Please stand as able.*

### The Responses

*Katherine Burk Webb (b.1990)*

*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

33

1 Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous \* for it becometh well the just to be thankful.

2 Praise the Lord with harp \* sing praises unto him with the lute, and instrument of ten strings.

3 Sing unto the Lord a new song \* sing praises lustily unto him with a good courage.

4 For the word of the Lord is true \* and all his works are faithful.

5 He loveth righteousness and judgement \* the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made \* and all the hosts of them by the breath of his mouth.

7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together, as it were upon an heap \* and layeth up the deep, as in a treasure-house.

8 Let all the earth fear the Lord \* stand in awe of him, all ye that dwell in the world.

9 For he spake, and it was done \* he commanded, and it stood fast.

10 The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought \* and maketh the devices of the people to be of none effect, and casteth out the counsels of princes.

11 The counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever \* and the thoughts of his heart from generation to generation.

12 Blessed are the people, whose God is the Lord Jehovah \* and blessed are the folk, that he hath chosen to him to be his inheritance.

*Please stand as able 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

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

*Please stand.*

## Magnificat

*Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Short Service – Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

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**

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

*Please stand as able.*

## **Nunc Dimittis**

*Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Short Service – Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

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:*

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and all the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; 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.

*Please be seated.*

**Anthem** (*sung by the choir*)

Te lucis ante terminum,  
Rerum Creator, poscimus,  
Ut pro tua clementia,  
Sis praesul et custodia.

Procul recedant somnia,  
Et noctium phantasmata:  
Hostemque nostrum comprime,  
Ne polluantur corpora.

Praesta, Pater piissime,  
Patrique compar Unice,  
Cum Spiritu Paraclito,  
Regnans per omne saeculum. Amen.

To thee before the close of day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That, with thy wonted favor, thou  
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our sight,  
From fears and terrors of the night;  
Withhold from us our ghostly foe,  
That spot of sin we may not know.

O Father, that we ask be done,  
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son,  
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,  
Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

Text and Music: T.L. di Victoria (1548-1611)

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

**Intercessions**

*Please stand as able to sing the hymn.*

**Hymn** (CP 476)

Text: Herbert O'Driscoll (1928- ) ©.

Music: CAUSA DIVINA, F. R. C. Clarke (1931-2009). ©.  
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1. God, you have caused to be written  
your word for our learning;  
grant us that, hearing, our hearts  
may be inwardly burning.  
Give to us grace,  
that in your Son we embrace  
life, all its glory discerning.

2. Now may our God give us joy,  
and all peace in believing  
all things were written in truth  
for our thankful receiving.  
As Christ did preach,  
through all the world love must reach:  
grant us each day love's achieving.

3. Lord, should the powers of the earth  
and the heavens be shaken,  
grant us to see you in all things,  
our vision awaken.  
Help us to see,  
though all the earth cease to be,  
your truth shall never be shaken.

*Please be seated.*

## **Sermon**

*Please stand as able to sing the hymn.*

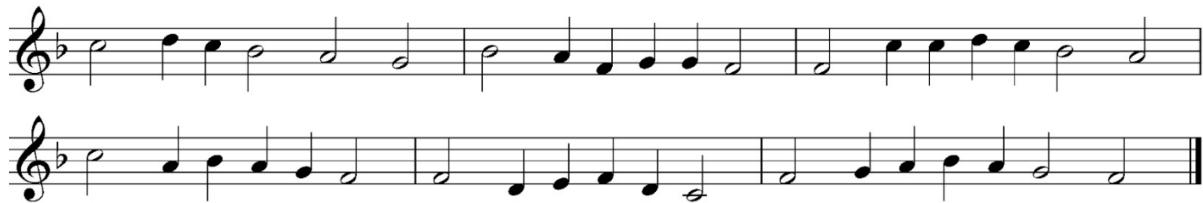
### **Hymn** (CP 13)

Text: *Phos hilaron*, Greek hymn (2007?); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930).

Tr. © Oxford University Press

Music: **NUNC DIMITTIS**, Melody – Geneva, 1551.

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1. O gladsome light, O grace  
of God the Father's face,  
the eternal splendour wearing;  
celestial, holy, blest,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
joyful in your appearing.
2. As day fades into night,  
we see the evening light,  
our hymn of praise outpouring,  
Father of might unknown,  
Christ, his incarnate Son,  
and Holy Spirit, adoring.
3. To you of right belongs  
all praise of holy songs,  
O Son of God, life-giver;  
you, therefore, O Most High,  
the world will glorify,  
and shall exalt forever.

## **The Blessing or Grace**

*Please be seated.*

## **Organ Voluntary**

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