



February 1, 2026

The Presentation 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: Ava Gregorian

Reader: Ava Gregorian

Music: The Choristers of St. John the Divine

David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

Char Hodgins, 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 : Angelico, fra, approximately 1400-1455. Presentation in the Temple, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=47762> [retrieved January 26, 2026]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Presentation_of_Jesus_at_the_Temple_by_Fra_Angelico_\(San_Marco_Cell_10\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Presentation_of_Jesus_at_the_Temple_by_Fra_Angelico_(San_Marco_Cell_10).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 you are able.

Prelude

The officiant gives a short welcome.

Please stand as you are able.

The Responses

Joanna Forbes l'Estrange (b.1971)

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

122

1 I was glad when they said unto me * We will go into the house of the Lord.

2 Our feet shall stand in thy gates * O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is built as a city * that is at unity in itself.

4 For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord * to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.

5 For there is the seat of judgement * even the seat of the house of David.

6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem * they shall prosper that love thee.

7 Peace be within thy walls * and plenteousness within thy palaces.

8 For my brethren and companions' sakes * I will wish thee prosperity.

9 Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God * I will seek to do thee good.

Please stand as you are 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

Haggai 2:1-9

In the second year of King Darius, in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai, saying: Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say, Who is left among you that saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the LORD; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the LORD; work, for I am with you, says the LORD of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts.

Please stand as you are able.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Herbert Murrill in E

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

John 2:18-22

The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Please stand as you are able.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Herbert Murrill in E

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 everliving God, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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.

Please be seated.

Anthem *(sung by the choir)*

O nata lux de lumine
Jesu redemptor saeculi
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.

Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.

*O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.*

*Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body*

Text and Music: Kerry Andrew (b.1978)

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

Intercessions

Please stand as you are able to sing the hymn.

Hymn (NEH 156)

Text: Editors, based on the Latin c. 9th century

Music: ISTE CONFESSOR

1. Sing how the age - long pro - mise of a Sav - iour
Spo - ken through lips of pro - phets by the Spi - rit,
In bless - ed Ma - ry, Moth - er of the Christ - child,
Finds its ful - fil - - - ment.

2. Maiden most mild, and wondrously conceiving,
Bearing incarnate God in awed obedience,
Now she presents him for a sinless offering
Unto his Father.
3. In God's high temple, Simeon the righteous
Takes to his loving arms with holy rapture
That One for whom his longing eyes had waited,
Jesus, Messiah.
4. Where now his Mother next her Son is seated,
In those fair mansions of the heavenly kingdom,
May Christ our Saviour grant to us his servants
Life everlasting.
5. Father eternal, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Trinity blessed, Maker and Redeemer,
Giver of life, and Author of salvation,
Thine be the glory. Amen.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand as you are able to sing the hymn.

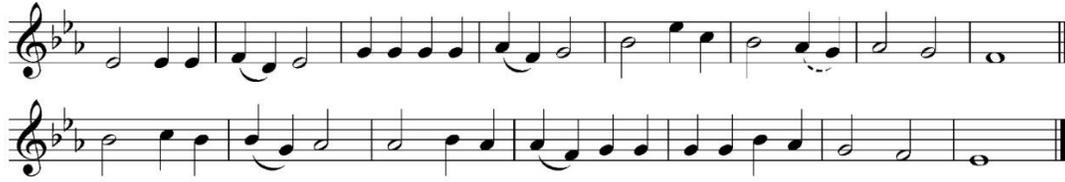
Hymn (CP 619)

Text: Munster Gesangbuch, 1677; tr. Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850, alt.

Music: CRUSADERS' HYMN, Melody Silesian trad.; Schlesische Volkslieder, Leipzig, 1842; arr. James Hopkirk (1908-1972).

Arr. © Estate of James Hopkirk.

All rights reserved. Reprinted under Onelicense.net #A-719605.



1. **Fairest Lord Jesus,
ruler of all nature,
O thou the Godhead's human son:
Thee will I cherish,
thee will I honour,
thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**
2. **Fair are the meadows,
fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
who makes the troubled heart to sing.**
3. **Fair is the sunshine,
fairer still the moonlight,
and fair the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.**
4. **All fairest beauty,
heavenly and earthly,
wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;
none can be nearer,
fairer, or dearer
than thou, my Saviour, art to me.**

The Blessing or Grace

Please be seated.

Organ Voluntary

*The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine
(Diocese of British Columbia / Anglican Church of Canada)
1611 Quadra Street Victoria BC V8W 2L5 250.383.7169
stjohnthedivine.bc.ca facebook.com/musicSJD*
