



February 8, 2026

The 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

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

Music: Quartet

Welcomer: Ava Gregorian

David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

Reader: Karen Coverett

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 : Light for Others, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55830> [retrieved February 4, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/5421034602>.



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

William Smith (1603-1645)

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

148

1 O praise the Lord of heaven * praise him in the height.

2 Praise him, all ye angels of his * praise him, all his host.

3 Praise him, sun and moon * praise him, all ye stars and light.

4 Praise him, all ye heavens * and ye waters that are above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord * for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded, and they were created.

6 He hath made them fast for ever and ever * he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

7 Praise the Lord upon earth * ye dragons, and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and vapours * wind and storm, fulfilling his word;

9 Mountains and all hills * fruitful trees and all cedars;

10 Beasts and all cattle * worms and feathered fowls;

11 Kings of the earth and all people * princes and all judges of the world;

12 Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord * for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.

13 He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him * even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

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

Proverbs 8:1, 22-31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Please stand as you are able.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Fauxbourdons – William Byrd

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

Revelation 4

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.’

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.’

Please stand as you are able.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Fauxbourdons – William Byrd

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:

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins and give us, we beseech thee, the liberty of that abundant life which thou hast manifested to us in thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of 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 quartet*)

Ave virgo sanctissima,
Dei mater piissima,
Maris stella clarissima:
Salve semper gloriosa,
Margarita pretiosa,
Sicut lilyum formosa,
Nitens olens velut rosa.

*Hail, Holy Virgin,
most blessed Mother of God,
bright star of the sea:
Hail, ever glorious,
precious pearl,
lovely as the lily,
beautiful and perfumed as the rose.*

Text and Music: Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599)

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

Intercessions

Please stand as you are able to sing the hymn.

Hymn (CP 327)

Text: Gerhard Tersteegen (1697-1769); tr. John Wesley (1703-1791), alt.

Music: VATER UNSER, Melody - Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539.

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The image shows three staves of musical notation. The first staff begins with a G clef, the second with an F clef, and the third with a G clef. The key signature is B-flat, indicated by two flats. The time signature is 2/4. The notation consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some sharp and natural signs appearing on the second and third staves.

1. Lo, God is here! Let us adore
and own how awesome is this place;
let all within us feel God's power
and bow before the hidden face.
Redeeming Lord, your grace we prove,
serve you with awe, with reverence love.

2. Lo, God is here! Both day and night
united choirs of angels sing;
to God, enthroned above all height,
heaven's host their noblest praises bring;
disdain not, Lord, our meander song,
who praise you with a stammering tongue.

3. Being of beings, may our praise
your courts with grateful fragrance fill;
still may we stand before your face,
still hear and do your sovereign will;
to you may all our thoughts arise,
ceaseless, accepted sacrifice.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand as you are able to sing the hymn.

Hymn (CP 255)

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Music: **HIGHWOOD**, Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938). © Oxford University Press.

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- 1. Eternal God, your love's tremendous glory**
cascades through life in overflowing grace,
to tell creation's meaning in the story
of love evolving love from time and space.
- 2. Eternal Son of God, uniquely precious,**
in you, deserted, scorned, and crucified,
God's love has fathomed sin and death's deep darkness,
and flawed humanity is glorified.
- 3. Eternal Spirit, with us like a mother,**
embracing us in love serene and pure:
you nurture strength to follow Christ our brother,
as full-grown children, confident and sure.
- 4. Love's trinity, self-perfect, self-sustaining;**
love which commands, enables, and obeys:
you give yourself, in boundless joy, creating
one vast increasing harmony of praise.
- 5. We ask you now, complete your image in us;**
this love of yours, our source and guide and goal.
May love in us seek love and serve love's purpose,
till we ascend with Christ and find love whole.

The Blessing or Grace

Please be seated.

Organ Voluntary