

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost *September 6, 2026*
Season of Creation

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

As people of God, we celebrate Christ in the heart of Victoria through joyful worship,
building inclusive community, and putting faith into action.

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

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.



Welcome to the Anglican Church of St. John the Divine, Victoria. We are a welcoming, affirming, inclusive, community in the heart of downtown Victoria. For more details of who we are and what we do, please check out our Website: www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca or chat to one of the Ministry Team.



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

We are in the Season of Creation – this Ecumenical (Inter-Church) season has been observed since 2020 from 1st September to 4th October and serves as a reminder of our part within God's creation, and that we are not apart from or above the created world around us. We are called in this season to renew our commitment to be stewards of the earth and to care for it and one another.

The Theme for this year's Season of Creation is 'Living Water' taking its theme from imagery within our Scriptures, especially Ezekiel Chapter 47 verses 9 & 12. We are considering the necessity of water for life, and the need to preserve the waters of the earth for the use of all living things, including ourselves! Much more detail, including the celebration guide for this year, can be found at www.seasonofcreation.org.

We begin this season by observing the newly established Festival of the Creator transferred from 1st September to 6th September and we will finish, as we move into our Season of Stewardship, on 4th October as we mark the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

As part of this Season of Creation, you will notice a new Eucharistic prayer. These words come to us from Salal & Cedar (a church without walls in the diocese of New Westminster). Salal & Cedar are a community committed to re-connecting to the creation values and land covenants at the core of our tradition. They are part of the Watershed Discipleship Movement that refers both to watersheds as natural geographic divisions, and to the fact that we are at a watershed moment in terms of the climate crises. Salal and Cedar is deeply committed to a learning and listening relationship with Indigenous land protectors, taking direct action in climate matters, participating in alternative economies such as mutual aid, and creating land based liturgical resources.

Also during this time, we are reading *The Serviceberry* by Anishinaabe Scientist and Author Robin Wall Kimmerer. Video reflections on themes in this book will be shared online on Sundays on the St. John's Website.

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. You may also use our tap machine (no tax receipt) 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. Alternatively, you can scan this QR code which will take you to our Canada Helps giving page. Donations may be emailed to givings@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca If you are a new donor and wish a tax receipt, please include your mailing address in the comment section.



8:00 am Holy Communion

The order of service is found on page 67 in the Book of Common Prayer
Presider: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

*The congregation is invited to join in the hymns, responses and prayers marked in **bold print**.*

This service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending this service, you acknowledge and consent to the fact that video images of you may appear there.

The Gathering

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome

Announcements

Opening Prayer

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Psalm 19:1-4 St. Helena's Breviary

God of Creation: We give you thanks for your ancient promise
that while the earth endures, seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat, summer and winter,
day and night, will never cease.

(cf Genesis 8.22)

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn (CP 425)

HYMN TO JOY



**1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.**

please turn page for v. 3



3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Text: Henry van Dyke (1852-1933), alt.
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); arr. Edward Hodges (1796-1867).
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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Act of Penitence

You laid the foundations of the earth,
but we have claimed your world as our own.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

All things were created through you and for you,
but we have not lived as those who belong to you.
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

You make all things new,
but our hope has grown dim.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May God forgive us, free us guilt,
and renew us that we may be
faithful stewards of all creation.

All: Amen.

Church of England

Gloria (CP 702)

Please note the refrain is in italics.

fine.

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, almight-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you

thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. *Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and*

peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord

God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are

seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther, re-ceive our prayer. *Glo-ry to*

God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth. For you a-lone are the

ho-ly one, you a-lone are the Lord. you a-lone are the most high, Je-

-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of

Repeat refrain 'Gloria to God'

God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Beckett Gerald Senchur (1946-). © 1977 St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pa. 15650.
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The Collect of the Day

The Presider invites all to pray. Silence is kept.

Holy and eternal God,
you are the Maker of heaven and earth,
you are the Word through whom all things were made,
and you are the Spirit, the giver of life:
Draw us into the mystery of your love,
that with all creation we may proclaim your praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

All: Amen.

Church of England

The Proclamation of the Word

Let us listen to the Word of God in Holy Scripture.

Please be seated for the Readings and the Psalm.

The First Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

After the Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

149

Cantor: Sing to the Lord a new song.

All: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Hallelujah! Sing to GOD a new song; * sing GOD's praise in the congregation of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; * let the children of Zion be joyful in their Ruler.

Let them praise God's Name in the dance; * let them sing praise to God with timbrel and harp.

For GOD takes pleasure in GOD's people * and adorns the poor with victory.

All: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; * let them be joyful on their beds.

Let the praises of God be in their throat * and a two-edged sword in their hand;

To wreak vengeance on the nations * and punishment on the peoples;

To bind their rulers in chains * and their nobles with links of iron;

To inflict on them the judgment decreed; * this is glory for all God's faithful people. Hallelujah!

All: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Inclusive Language Psalter: A New Gender-Inclusive Adaptation of the Book of Psalms,
Based on the 1979 Book of Common Prayer Text (Version for Congregational Use)

Edited and adapted by Adam Waddell, Hannah Bowman, the Rev. K.D. Joyce, and the Rev. Bailey Pickens.

After the Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn (CP 487)

TWENTY-FOURTH (PRIMROSE)



- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.</p> | <p>4. Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.</p> |
| <p>2. With grateful joy and holy fear
his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength
now love him in return.</p> | <p>5. Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.</p> |
| <p>3. Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.</p> | <p>6. Love can exclude no race or creed
if honoured be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose Father is the same.</p> |

Text: Latin (9th cent.); tr. Omer Westendorf (1916-1997), alt.

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Music: Attrib. Lucius Chapin (1769-1842).

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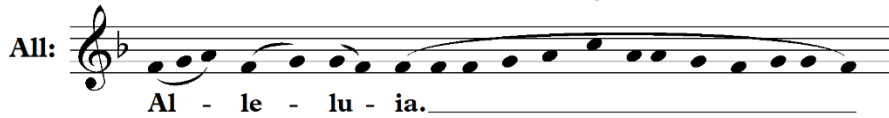
The Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

Before the Gospel:



Cantor: You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things. Church of England



God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Hear the Good news of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please sit, stand or kneel as is your custom.

Prayers of the People

Those who have asked for our prayers are listed at the end of the leaflet.

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

The peace of Christ be always with you

All: and also with you.

Church of England

All may offer their neighbour a sign of peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn (SNC 92)

TEAGUE



- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. In sacred manner may we walk
upon the fair and loving earth
in beauty move, in beauty love
the living round that brought us birth.
We stand on holy ground.
We stand on holy ground.</p> <p>2. In sacred manner may we see
the luminous and loving stars,
with wonder and with awe behold
their ever new creative pow'rs.
The heavens show us God.
The heavens show us God.</p> <p>3. In sacred manner may we touch
the suspirant and loving green.
Give honour and give gratitude
for shade, for bloom, for gift unseen.
The trees shall shout for joy.
The trees shall shout for joy.</p> | <p>4. In sacred manner may we hear
the pounding waves, the scaring fire,
the rushing wind, the singing night,
the forest hymn, the loving choir.
The morning stars shall sing.
The morning stars shall sing.</p> <p>5. In sacred manner may we live
among the wise and loving ones,
sit humbly, as at sages' feet,
by four-legged, finned, and feathered ones.
The animals will teach.
The animals will teach.</p> <p>6. In sacred manner may we walk
upon the fair and loving earth,
in beauty move, in beauty love
the living round that brought us birth.
We stand on holy ground.
We stand on holy ground.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1997 ©; admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music: Thomas Pavlechko, 2008 © Augsburg Fortress.
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The Prayer over the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
by your goodness the world was formed and filled with plenty.
As we set before you this bread and wine,
teach us gratitude for your gifts
and make us faithful stewards of your creation.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Church of England

As we prepare to celebrate this Eucharist, we remember that we are the people of God. Near or far we are gathered together by the love of Christ. We remember that we are incorporated into the body of Christ. We join together in this celebration of our union in Christ.

Please remain standing as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Salal & Cedar

May God be with you.

All: And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is right in all times and in all places to thank and praise you Creator of all.

We praise you here on this island in the Salish Sea,

where city and farm, wilderness and industry are side by side.

We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again.

We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation.

Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration.

They depended on the land,

were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands.

They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells,

in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets

who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens.

Together with angels and ancestors, orca and salmon, bear and raven,

salal and cedar we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honour song:

Sanctus and Benedictus (CP 732)

The musical score is written on four staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Pow - er and might, Heav'n and". The second staff continues the melody and lyrics: "earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -". The third staff continues: "san - na in the high - est. Bless'd is he who comes in the name of the". The fourth staff concludes the piece: "Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The music ends with a double bar line.

Music: *Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (1937-2010). © 1971, 1977 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
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We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough.
He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness,
he travelled in fishing boats and told parables of famers and seeds,
labour and wages, yeast and bread.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,
food of the poor, the work of field and hearth,
he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you,
do this to remember me.

Again, after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land,
gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying:
This is my blood, which is shed for you.
When you do this, do it in memory of me.

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection
and awaiting his coming kingdom,
we offer you this bread and this cup.

Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts
so that we know Jesus in them
and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal
of justice and community.

Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus,
that we may strive for justice and peace,
respect the dignity of every human being,
and safeguard the integrity of creation.

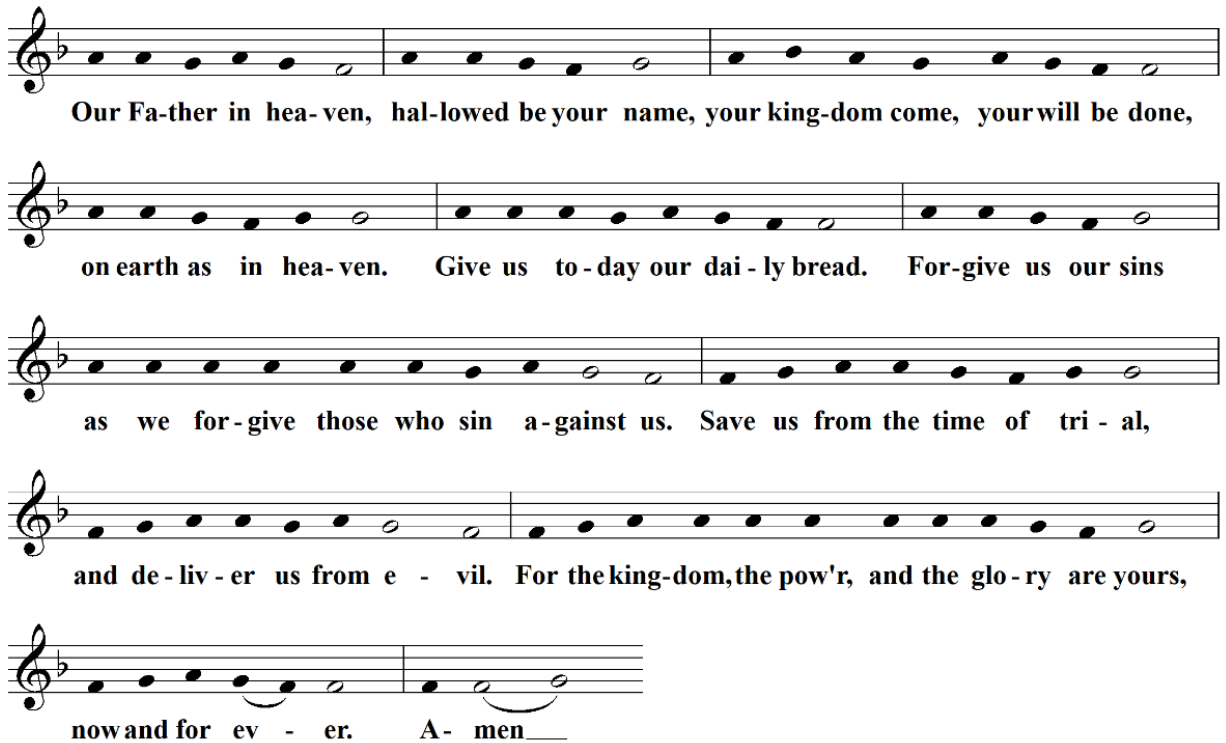
Bring us with all your saints
to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar
which is both now and yet to come.
All honour and glory are yours,
Creator, Christ and Spirit, now and forever.



All: **A men A - men A - men.**

The Disciples' Prayer

Priest: As our saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray:



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The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All: We, being many, are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

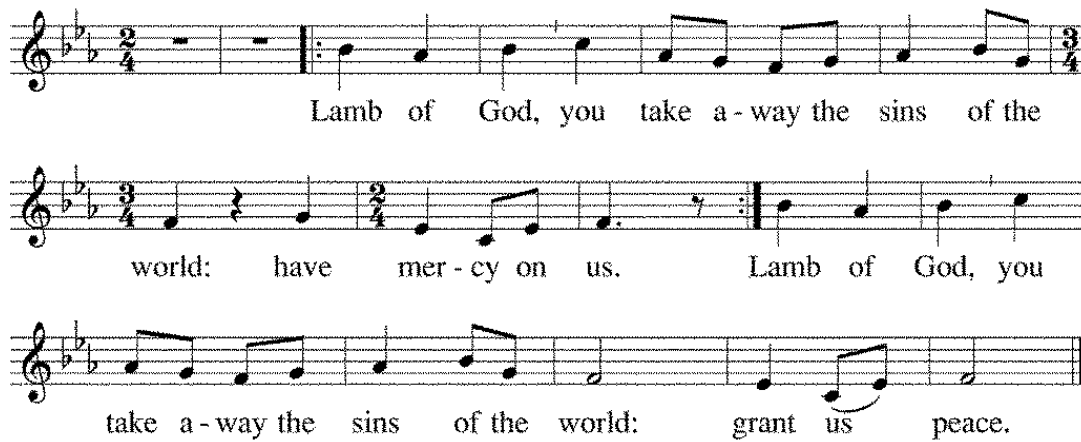
All are invited to receive communion. Receiving bread or wine is considered full communion. It is the practice of the ACC not to dip the bread into the wine. Any not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing, and to indicate that by holding their arms crossed on their chest.

If you are unable to come to a communion station, please make this known to the Greeters and we will bring communion to you.

Gluten-free wafers for communion are available. Please request them from the person who is distributing the bread.

Please be seated.

Agnus Dei



Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, GIA Publications, Inc.

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During Communion

Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.

Live in charity and steadfast love,
live in charity; God will dwell with you

Text: 1 John 4:16b; Eng. Para. Taizé Community (France).

Eng. Para. © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé.

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Please stand as you are able.

One body are we.

**All: For, though we are in many places,
spiritually we share one bread.**

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,
you renew us at your table with the bread of life.
May your holy food strengthen us in love
help us to serve you in each other,
and care for all creation

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing

May God the Creator,
source of all goodness,
pour their blessing upon all things created,
and upon us, God's children,
that we may use God's gifts to God's glory
and the welfare of all peoples;
and the blessing ...

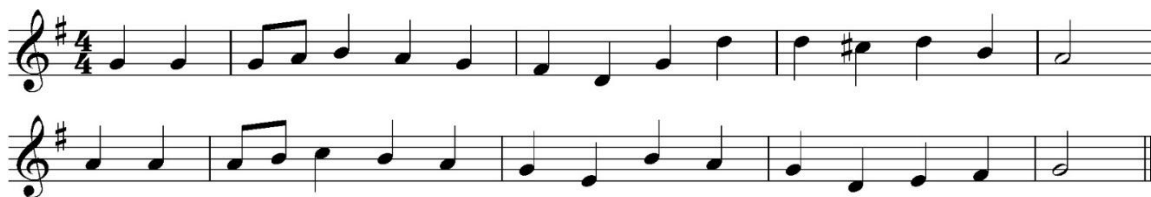
Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve God in all creation.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn (CP 485)

LOVE DIVINE



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown. | 4. Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love. |
| 2. Jesus, thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart. | 5. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee, |
| 3. Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave. | 6. changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise. |

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).

Music: John Stainer (1840-1901).

Voluntary Gaudeamus

Sidney Campbell (1909-1974)

Prayers are from The Book of Alternative Services © 1985 unless otherwise listed.

Please join us at the back of the church for refreshments and fellowship.

Sunday Reflections will be held in the Denson Lounge
starting about 15 minutes after the service ends.

**Please note that Evensong will recommence
next Sunday, September 13th at 4:30 pm.**

Blue Envelope for September : The Food Bank at St. John's

The Food Bank at St. John's provides staple food items to those in need in our community.

Flowers

Given to the Glory of God and remembering our parents,
Betty & Tom Melville and Margurite & Harold Henrikson as they all would have been
celebrating their wedding anniversaries this week, from Bruce & Gerry.

**Readings for September 13th – The 16th Sunday after Pentecost
The Season of Creation**

Exodus 14:19-31 A powerless people emerge victorious, and a powerful army is brought to nothing.

Psalms 114 Reflecting the joy of the Exodus experience, creation proclaims the story of God's saving presence.

Romans 14:1-12 We are called to be slow in condemning the behaviour of others, remembering we are accountable to God for the love and acceptance we extend to others.

Matthew 18:21-35 In a world that stores up debts, we are called to be people of forgiveness.

The following people have asked for our prayers.

Please keep them in your heart and mind as you go through your week.

Chuck
Zoe
Carol
Joanne
Andrew
Henry
Susan M.
Greg & Regina
Joshua

Charles & Frances
John & Pat
Bill
Judy T.
Christopher
Bob
Martin Y.
Melinda
Jill & family

Paul C-S.
Rick & Sylvia
Suzanne R.
Maddie A.
Kevin & family
Dennis
Bill & Marilyn
Susan E.

Today's Service Personnel

Presider: The Reverend Pam Worthington
Greeter: Barbara Jenks
Crucifer: Penny Holt
Sacristan: Iris Elsdon
Readers: Virginia Miller, Sarah Kell
Gospel: Murray Harris
Intercessor: Jamie Lawson
Sermon: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Karen Coverett,
Nancy Baal, Lorraine Gates
Verger: Chuck Neilson
Streaming Technician: Daphne Small
Music: The Community Choir
David Stratkauskas, Director of Music

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Stewards

People's Warden: Jim Harlick (he/him)
jharlick@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Associate Warden: Murray Harris
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Givings Coordinator: Jim Harlick (he/him)
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Incumbent's Warden: Jamie Lawson (he/him)
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Associate Warden: Carol Anne Harper (she/her)
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Treasurer: David Buckman
treasurer@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

Parish Council

Brendan Feary, Jaqueline Gillespie, Mary Kennedy
David Lemon, Ruth Swinton, Cornelia van Voorst

Synod Delegates

Jim Harlick (he/him), Jamie Lawson (he/him), Michael Zenger

Synod Alternate

Penny Holt

Staff Supporting the Ministry of St. John's

Incumbent: The Ven. Alastair Singh-McCollum (he/him)
incumbent@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Volunteer Priest Associate: The Rev. Dr. John Thatamanil
jthatamanil@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Pam Worthington
alie2coachman@gmail.com

Director of Music: David Stratkauskas (he/him)
sjdchoirs@gmail.com
Family Ministry Coordinator: Ruth MacIntosh (she/her)
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