



September 20, 2026

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

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 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: Ruth MacIntosh

Welcomer: Ruth Swinton

Reader: Ava Gregorian

Music: Quartet

Streaming Technician: Vanessa Whyte

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: Photo by David Stratkauskas



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.

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Please stand as you are able.

Prelude

An Introit may be sung.

The officiant gives a short welcome.

Please stand as you are able.

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.

Psalm

119:121-128

121 I deal with the thing that is lawful and right * O give me not over unto mine oppressors.

122 Make thou thy servant to delight in that which is good * that the proud do me no wrong.

123 Mine eyes are wasted away with looking for thy health * and for the word of thy righteousness.

124 O deal with thy servant according unto thy loving mercy * and teach me thy statutes.

125 I am thy servant, O grant me understanding * that I may know thy testimonies.

126 It is time for thee, Lord, to lay to thine hand * for they have destroyed thy law.

127 For I love thy commandments * above gold and precious stone.

128 Therefore hold I straight all thy commandments * and all false ways I utterly abhor.

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

Ezekiel 33:23, 30—34:10

Then the word of the Lord came to me:

“As for you, son of man, your people are talking together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, saying to each other, ‘Come and hear the message that has come from the LORD.’ My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to hear your words, but they do not put them into practice. Their mouths speak of love, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice.

“When all this comes true—and it surely will—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

“‘Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because my flock lacks a shepherd and so has been plundered and has become food for all the wild animals, and because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock, therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.

Please stand as you are able.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Isolation Fauxbourdons – Sarah MacDonald (b.1968)

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

Mark 9:30-37

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Please stand as you are able.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Isolation Fauxbourdons – Sarah MacDonald (b.1968)

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:

GRANT US, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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

*Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers;
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy judge eternal,
suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death
to fall from thee. Amen.*

Text: Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

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

Intercessions

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn (CP 30)

Text: St. 1, Reginald Heber (1783-1826); st. 2, Richard Whately (1787-1863).

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Melody – Welsh trad.



1. God, that madest earth and heaven,
darkness and light;
who the day for toil hast given,
for rest, the night;
may thine angel-guards defend us,
slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
holy dreams and hopes attend us,
this livelong night.

2. Guard us waking, guard us sleeping,
and, when we die,
may we in thy mighty keeping
all peaceful lie:
When the last dread call shall wake us,
do not thou our God forsake us,
but to reign in glory take us
with thee on high.

Please be seated.

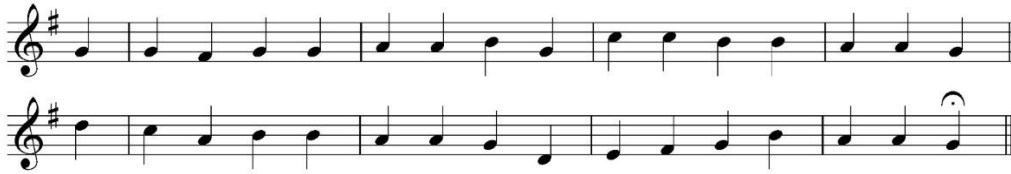
Reflection

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn (CP 25)

Text: Thomas Ken (1637-1711), alt.

Music: TALLIS'S CANON, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585).



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|---|---|
| 1. Glory to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the light;
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
beneath thine own almighty wings. | 3. O may my soul on thee repose,
and may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
sleep that shall me more vigorous make
to serve my God when I awake. |
| 2. Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,
the ill that I this day have done,
that with the world, myself, and thee,
I ere I sleep at peace may be. | 4. When in the night I sleepless lie,
my soul with heavenly thoughts supply;
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
no powers of darkness me molest. |
| 5. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. | |

The Blessing or Grace

Please be seated.

Organ Voluntary Fugue on the Magnificat 1.1

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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