



October 4, 2026

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost / Season of Creation

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: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Preacher: Melanie Ihmels

Welcomer: Ruth Swinton

Reader: Ava Gregorian

Music: The Choristers of St. John the Divine

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

Prelude

An Introit may be sung.

The officiant gives a short welcome.

Please stand as you are able.

The Responses

Thomas Ebdon (1738-1811)

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

136:1-9

- 1 O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious * and his mercy endureth for ever.
- 2 O give thanks unto the God of all gods * for his mercy endureth for ever.
- 3 O thank the Lord of all lords * for his mercy endureth for ever.
- 4 Who only doeth great wonders * for his mercy endureth for ever.
- 5 Who by his excellent wisdom made the heavens * for his mercy endureth for ever.
- 6 Who laid out the earth above the waters * for his mercy endureth for ever.
- 7 Who hath made great lights * for his mercy endureth for ever;
- 8 The sun to rule the day * for his mercy endureth for ever;
- 9 The moon and the stars to govern the night * for his mercy endureth for ever.

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 2:1-11

My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.
For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
He holds success in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
for he guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.
Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair—every good path.
For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you.

Please stand as you are able.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Gloucester Service – Kerensa Briggs (1991-)

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

1 John 2:1-17

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

I am writing to you, dear children,

because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

I am writing to you, fathers,

because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father.
I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men, because you are strong,
and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.
Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world,
love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of
the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the
Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but
whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Please stand as you are able.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Gloucester Service – Kerensa Briggs (1991-)

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 EVERLASTING GOD, who art always more ready to hear than
we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour
down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things
whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we
are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ
thy Son 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

My eyes for beauty pine,
My soul for Goddes grace:
No other care nor hope is mine,
To heaven I turn my face.
One splendour thence is shed
From all the stars above:
'Tis named when God's name is said,
'Tis love, 'tis heavenly Love.
And every gentle heart,
That burns with true desire,
Is lit from eyes that mirror part
Of that celestial fire.

Text: Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)

Music: Elizabeth Coxhead (b.1998)

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

Intercessions

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn (Spr 265)

Text and Music: Timothy Dudley-Smith © 1984 Hope Publishing Company.

Music: **CLOTH FAIR**

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1. Christ be the Lord of all our days, the swift - ly pass - ing years:
Lord of our un - re - mem - bered birth, heirs to the bright - ness
of the earth; Lord of our griefs and fears.

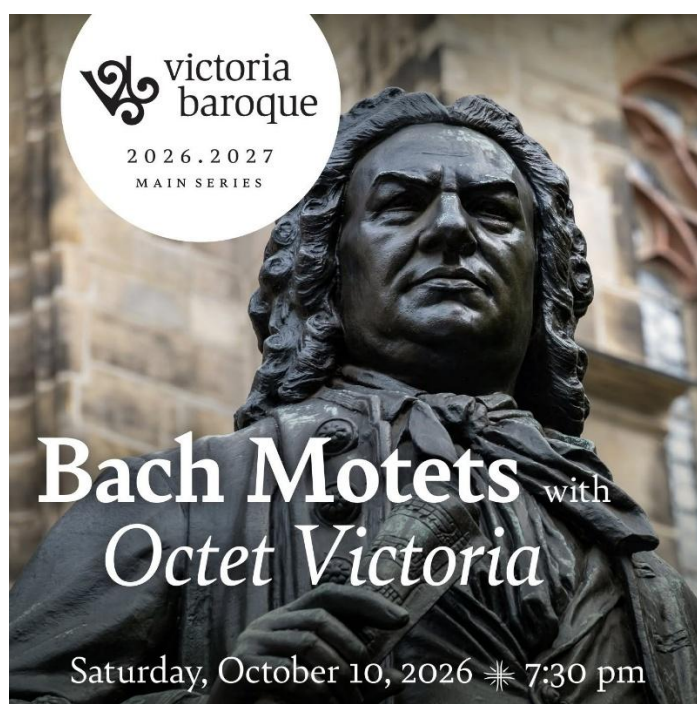
2. Christ be the source of all our deeds,
the life our living shares;
the fount which flows from worlds above
to never-failing springs of love;
the ground of all our prayers.
3. Christ be the goal of all our hopes,
the end to whom we come;
guide of each pilgrim Christian soul
which seeks, as compass seeks the pole,
our many-mansioned home.
4. Christ be the vision of our lives,
of all we think and are;
to shine upon our spirits' sight
as light of everlasting light,
the bright and morning star.

The Blessing or Grace

Please be seated.

Organ Voluntary Fugue in G-A-D-E

Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)



Saturday, October 10 | 7:30 PM; doors open at 6:50 PM

Pre-concert chat hosted by Christina Hutten at 7:05

St. John the Divine, 1611 Quadra Street, Victoria

The instrumentalists of Victoria Baroque and vocalists of Octet Victoria join forces for a performance of **Bach Motets**, a heart-lifting program of beloved compositions, including J.S. Bach's masterpieces *Jesu, meine Freunde* and *Komm, Jesu, komm*.

Tickets & Accessibility:

Tickets are available online at www.victoria-baroque.com and at the door.

General admission: \$35 | Students & Youth: \$5

Children under 12 (accompanied by an adult) attend for free. Not recommended for children under seven.

St. John's is wheelchair accessible via the garden doors on the north side. To arrange accessible seating, please email info@victoria-baroque.com before noon on Saturday, October 10.