



October 18, 2026

The 21st 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: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Preacher: Melanie Ihmels

Welcomer: Ruth Swinton

Reader: Ava Gregorian

Music: The Choristers of St. John the Divine

Streaming Technician: Daphne Small

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

Katherine Burk Webb (1990-)

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

142

- 1 I cried unto the Lord with my voice * yea, even unto the Lord did I make my supplication.
- 2 I poured out my complaints before him * and shewed him of my trouble.
- 3 When my spirit was in heaviness thou knewest my path * in the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.
- 4 I looked also upon my right hand * and saw there was no man that would know me.
- 5 I had no place to flee unto * and no man cared for my soul.
- 6 I cried unto thee, O Lord, and said * Thou art my hope, and my portion in the land of the living.
- 7 Consider my complaint * for I am brought very low.
- 8 O deliver me from my persecutors * for they are too strong for me.
- 9 Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks unto thy Name * which thing if thou wilt grant me, then shall the righteous resort unto my company.

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 4:1-18

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and cherished by my mother. Then he taught me, and he said to me, "Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown."

Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way. For they cannot rest until they do evil; they are robbed of sleep till they make someone stumble. They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

Please stand as you are able.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Charles Wood in E minor

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 3:16—4:6

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

Please stand as you are able.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Charles Wood in E minor

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 in Christ hast revealed thy glory among the nations: Preserve the works of thy mercy, that thy Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of thy Name; through the same 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

O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Text: Phos hilaron, Greek hymn c. 200

Music: Chris Kovarik (1970-).

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

Intercessions

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn (CP 445)

Text: John L. Bell (1949-).

Music: BUNESSAN, Melody – Gaelic trad.; arr. The Iona Community (Scotland).

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1. **God the Creator, you in love made me
who once was nothing but now have grown.
I bring the best of all my life offers;
for you I share whatever I own.**
2. **O Christ the Saviour, you in love called me
who once was no one, lost and alone.
I pledge to go wherever you summon,
making your will and purpose my own.**
3. **O God the Spirit, you in love move me
who once was nowhere and felt unknown.
I know my need of you for companion:
All things can change when not on my own.**
4. **And with the people summoned together
to be the church in which faith is sown,
I make my promise to live for Jesus
and let the world know all are his own.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn (CP 19)

Text: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); tr. Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt.

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Music: INNSBRUCK - Melody – German (15th cent.); adapt. Heinrich Isaac (1450?-1517); adapt Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

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1. The duteous day now closes,
each flower and tree reposes,
shade creeps o'er wild and wood:
Let us, as night is falling,
on God our maker calling,
give thanks and bless the Giver good.

2. Now all the heavenly splendour
breaks forth in starlight tender
from myriad worlds unknown;
and we, this marvel seeing,
forget our selfish being
for joy of beauty not our own.

3. Though long our mortal blindness
has missed God's loving kindness
and plunged us into strife;
yet when life's day is over,
shall death's fair night discover
the fields of everlasting life.

The Blessing or Grace

Please be seated.

Organ Voluntary

Sortie

Mel Bonis (1858-1937)

All Souls
Sunday, November 1st at 4:30 pm
Choral Evensong
with
Commemoration of the Departed

A service of readings, prayers, and music, in memory of all those who have departed in the past year.

There will be an opportunity for all to light a candle in memory of someone as part of this service.



If you would like names added to the list to be read out, please provide them on the sheets at the church office, the garden door or email to admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Stewards

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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

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