



October 25, 2026

The 22nd 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: Melanie Ihmels

Preacher: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Welcomer: Ava Gregorian

Reader: Karen Coverett

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

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 (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

119:97-104

97 Lord, what love have I unto thy law * all the day long is my study in it.

98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies * for they are ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than my teachers * for thy testimonies are my study.

100 I am wiser than the aged * because I keep thy commandments.

101 I have refrained my feet from every evil way * that I may keep thy word.

102 I have not shrunk from thy judgements * for thou teachest me.

103 O how sweet are thy words unto my throat * yea, sweeter than honey unto my mouth.

104 Through thy commandments I get understanding * therefore I hate all evil ways.

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

Ecclesiastes 11, 12

Ship your grain across the sea; after many days you may receive a return. Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.

If clouds are full of water, they pour rain on the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there it will lie. Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun. However, many years anyone may live, let them enjoy them all. But let them remember the days of darkness, for there will be many. Everything to come is meaningless.

You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless.

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them" — before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain; when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim; when the doors to the street are closed and the sound of grinding fades; when people rise up at the sound of birds, but all their songs grow faint; when people are afraid of heights and of dangers in the streets; when the almond tree blossoms and the grasshopper drags itself along and desire no longer is stirred. Then people go to their eternal home and mourners go about the streets.

Remember him—before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Everything is meaningless!"

Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.

The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd. Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.

Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Please stand as you are able.

Magnificat

Text: Luke 1:46-55 Music: Fauxbourdons – Healy Willan (1880-1968)

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 12:28-34

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

"Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Please stand as you are able.

Nunc Dimittis

Text: Luke 2:29-32 Music: Fauxbourdons – Healy Willan (1880-1968)

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:

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; 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

O ye who taste that love is sweet,
Set waymarks for all doubtful feet
That stumble on in search of it.
Sing hymns of love: that some who hear
Far off, in pain, may lend an ear,
Rise up and wonder and draw near.
Lead lives of love; that others who
Behold your life may kindle too
With love, and cast their lot with you.

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894).

Music: Eleanor Daley (1955-).

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

Intercessions

Please stand as you are able.

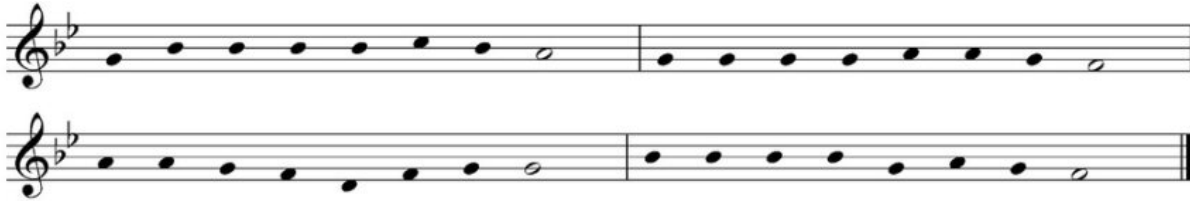
Hymn (CP 26)

Text: Latin (6th cent.); st. 1-3, *The Hymnal* 1982, alt. St. 1-3 © *The Church Pension Fund*.

St. 4. James Waring McCrady (1938-). ©.

Music: **TE LUCIS**, Plainsong, Mode 8.

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1. To you before the close of day,
Creator of all things, we pray
that, in your saving constancy,
our guard and keeper you would be.
2. Save us from troubled, restless sleep;
from all ill dreams your children keep.
So calm our minds that fears may cease
and rested bodies wake in peace.
3. A healthy life we ask of you:
the fire of love in us renew,
and when the dawn new light will bring,
your praise and glory we shall sing.
4. Almighty Father, hear our cry
through Jesus Christ, our Lord most high
whom with the Spirit we adore
forever and for evermore.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn (CP 593)

Text: William Watkins Reid, Jr. (1923-2007). © 1958,

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Music: **PASSION CHORALE**, Melody – Welsh trad.; *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865.



1. O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.
2. From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.
3. Lord, strengthen all who labour
that all may find release
from fear of rattling sabre,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.
4. Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and love shall reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

The Blessing or Grace

Please be seated.

Organ Voluntary

Choral Dorian

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

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 **no later than Thursday, October 22.**

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Stewards

People's Warden: Jim Harlick (he/him)
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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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