The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

November 29, 2026
The 1st Sunday of Advent

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.



Photo by Karen Coverett

Welcome to the Parish Church of St. John the Divine, Victoria. We are a community of faith in the Anglican Church of Canada, 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.

Services at St. John's are: **8:00 am (Holy Communion – said service), 10:00 am (Holy Eucharist – with choir and organ), 4:30 pm (BCP Choral Evensong – beginning again in January)** 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

We continue to share daily prayer online with a link on our website.

Contacting Us: Please email us at admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca or call 250-383-7169. 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.

How to support us: 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 and will be presented as the Communion is prepared. 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. 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.

Thank you for your support.

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

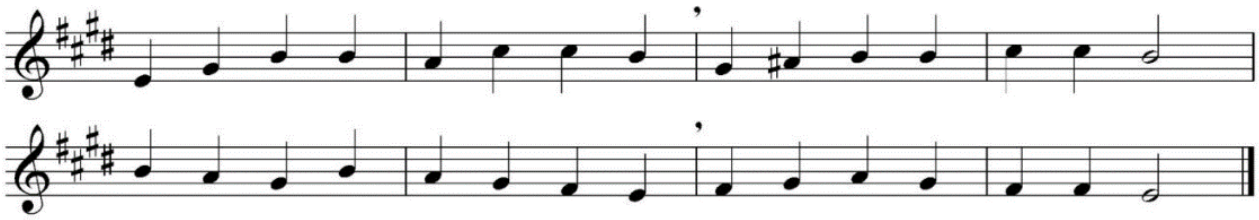
Land Acknowledgement & Welcome

Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn (CP 108)

MERTON



1. Hark, a herald voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"

2. Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shine upon the morning skies.

3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us all, with deep repentance,
pray that we may be forgiven,

4. that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

5. Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

Text: Latin (*Vox clare,* 10th cent.); tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878), alt.
Music: William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

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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.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe,

All: **For you have made all things, and love your creation.**

Gracious God, you have made light and dark, day and night. We give thanks for the wholeness of your life. We remember that in light things are clearer, and in darkness we may learn to trust in you and celebrate your mystery,

All: **For darkness and light are the same to you.**

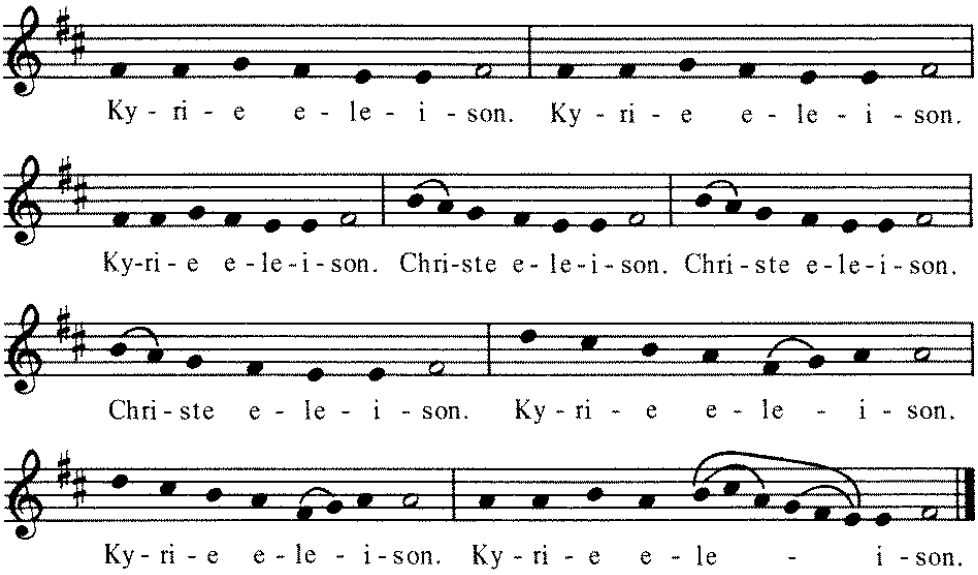
This Advent light reminds us of our heritage of faith, today we remember Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam – Patriarchs and Matriarchs of old upon whom our story is founded. May we know you in this time and in this place as the God of now and of always, God of promise and hope.

Blessed are you, loving God, creator of the Universe.

***All*:** **For you have made all things, and love your creation.**

Kyrie (CP 687)

Prepare the way of the Lord, make all paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
We prepare our hearts for the God of healing and hope:



Music: New Plainsong, David Hurd (1950-). © 1981 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
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Collect

The Presider invites all to pray. Silence is kept.

God of unveiled truth,
in times of darkened sun and waning moon,
lift up our hearts and waken our love
to announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.

All: **Amen.**

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

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 — Isaiah 64:1-9

After the Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm — 80:1-7, 16-18

Refrain: Restore us, O God of hosts.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manassah, stir up your strength and come to help us. **R**
Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
O Sovereign God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. **R**
You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**
Let your hand be upon the person of your right hand, and human child you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
Restore us, O Sovereign God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**

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.

The Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

After the Reading

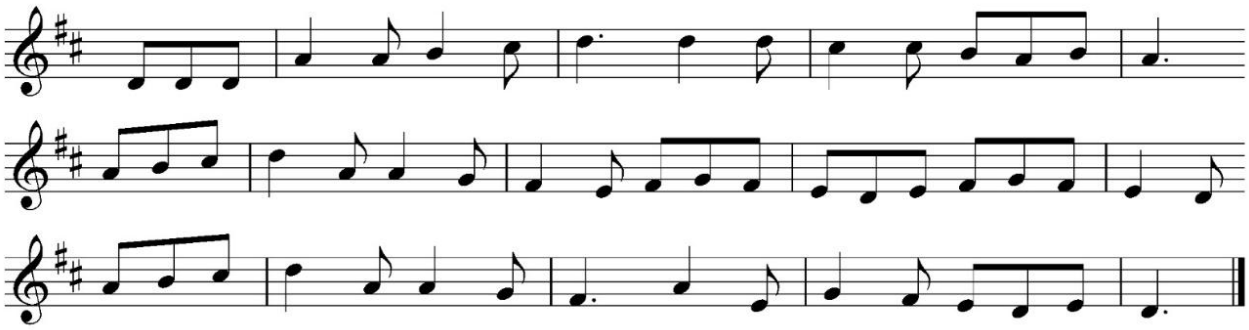
Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn (CP 91)

BESANÇON



1. **People, look east! The time is near**
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. **Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,**
one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

3. **Birds, though you long have ceased to build,**
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when the wings are frozen
God for fledgling time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

4. **Stars, keep the watch: When night is dim**
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

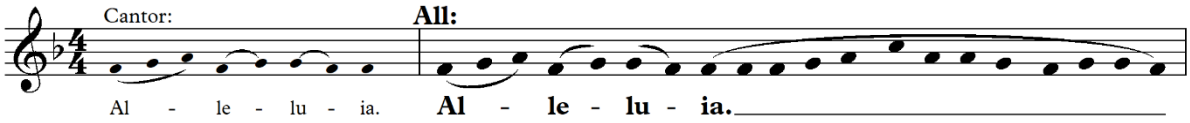
5. **Angels, announce with shouts of mirth**
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). © David Higham Associates Ltd.
Music: Melody – French trad.
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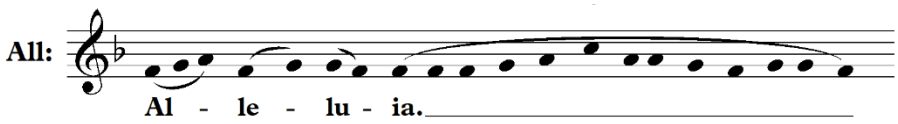
The Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Before the Gospel:



Cantor: Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Luke 21:28



God is with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Hear the Good news of Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

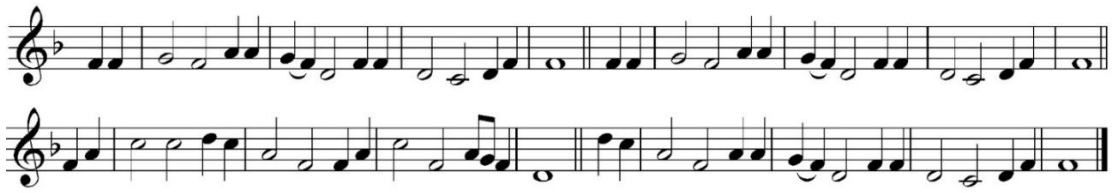
All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith (CP 44)

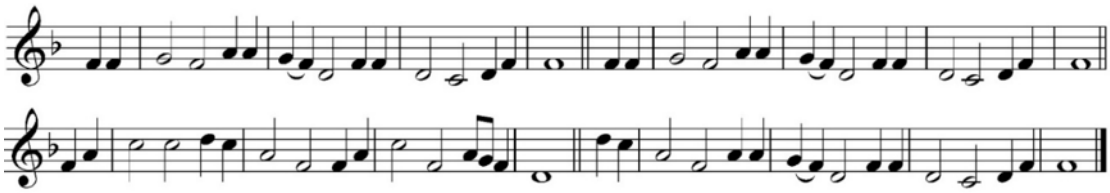
BEACH SPRING



1. I believe in God almighty,
Author of all things that be,
maker of the earth and heavens,
keeper of the sky and sea.
I believe in God's Son, Jesus,
now for us both Lord and Christ,
of the Spirit and of Mary
born to bring abundant life.

2. I believe that Jesus suffered,
scourged and scorned and crucified;
taken from the cross, was buried—
true life there had truly died.
I believe that on the third day
Christ was raised up from the grave,
then ascended to God's right hand.
He will come to judge and save.

please turn page for v. 3



3. I believe in God's own Spirit,
bonding all the saints within
one church, catholic, and holy,
where forgiveness frees from sin;
in the body's resurrection,
for the breaking of death's chain
gives the life that's everlasting:
this the faith that I have claimed.

Text: The Apostles' Creed; para. Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993). Para. © 1991 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
Melody – Welsh trad. Coll. Edward Jones (1752-1824), Musical & Poetical Relicks of the Welsh Bards, 1784, alt.
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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

The peace of Christ be always with you.

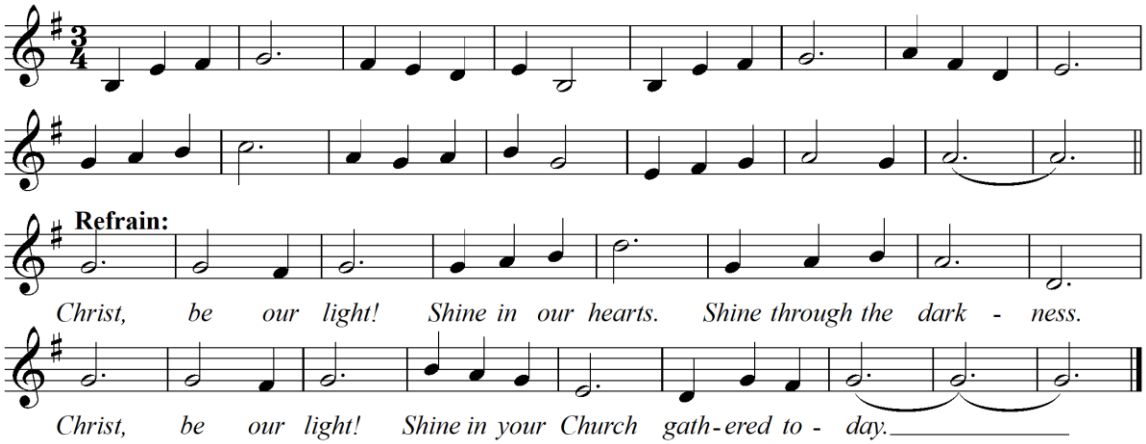
***All*: and also with you.**

All may offer their neighbour a sign of peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn (Spr 13)

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT



1. **Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**
   Longing for truth, we turn to you.
   Make us your own, your holy people,
   light for the world to see.

2. **Longing for peace, our world is troubled.**
   Longing for hope, many despair.
   Your word alone has power to save us.
   Make us your living voice.

3. **Longing for food, many are hungry.**
   Longing for water, many still thirst.
   Make us your bread, broken for others,
   shared until all are fed.

4. **Longing for shelter, many are homeless.**
   Longing for warmth, many are cold.
   Make us your building, sheltering others,
   walls made of living stone.

5. **Many the gifts, many the people,**
   many the hearts that yearn to belong.
   Let us be servants to one another,
   making your kingdom come.

Text and Music: Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)
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The Prayer over the Gifts

God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.
Teach us patience and hope
as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son,
our Saviour and Lord.

***All*: Amen.**

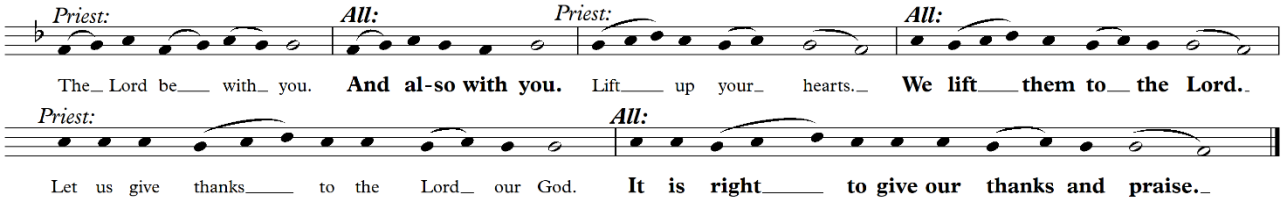
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

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

Scottish Eucharistic Prayer for Advent



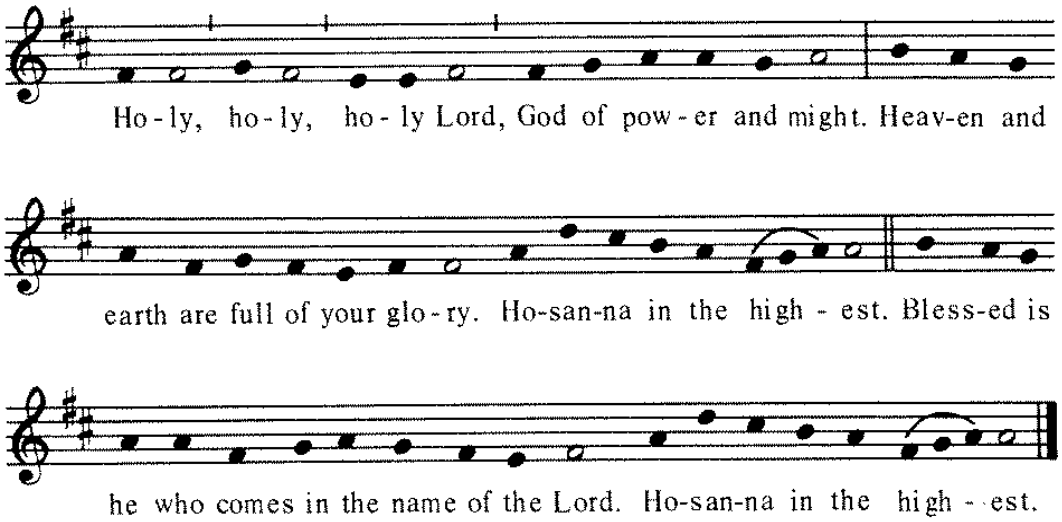
Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.
Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.
Dawn and evening celebrate your glory
till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined,
sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit,
we who bear your threefold likeness look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son,
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Sanctus and Benedictus (CP 689)



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Glory and thanksgiving be to you,
most loving Creator.
In Jesus, you showed us yourself.
Our hope is built on him,
the first, the last, the living one.
Obedient, even to accepting death,
He opened the gate of glory
and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
alight with the vision of a feast that heralded
a kingdom yet to come,
at supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:

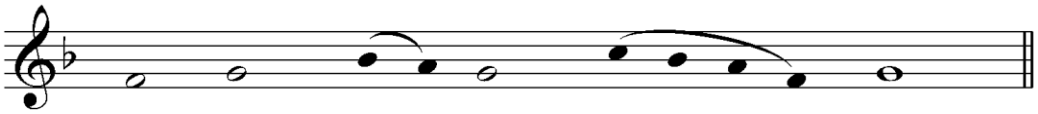
“Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by your Spirit’s life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

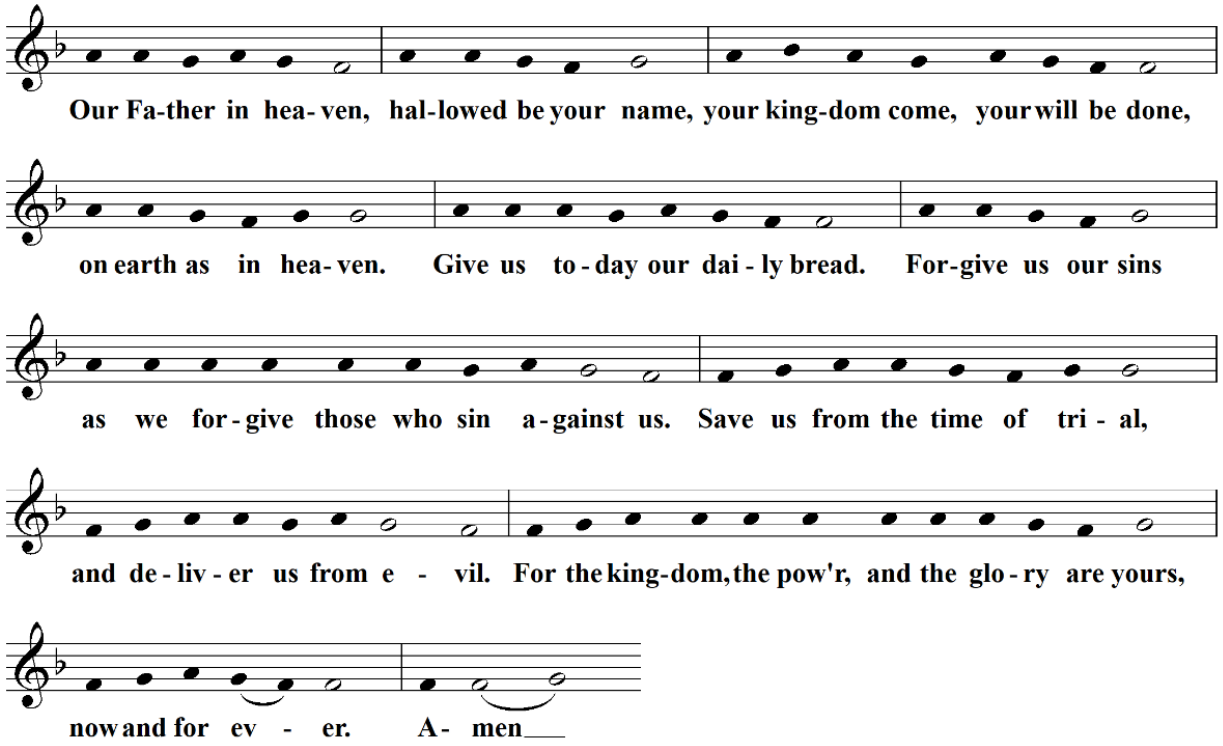
Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage in the company of Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our siblings living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages, world without end.



The Disciples' Prayer

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.**

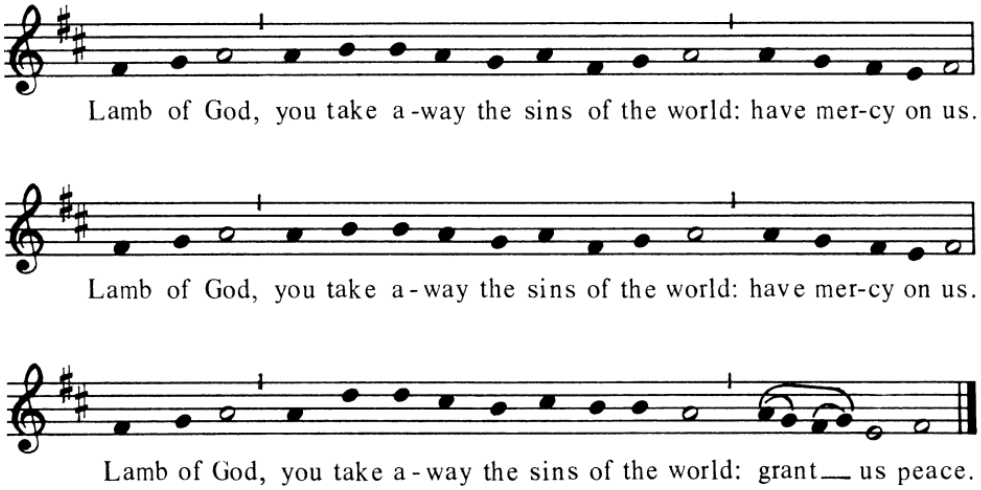
All are invited to receive communion. Receiving bread or wine is considered full communion. It is the practice of the ACC not to dip the bread into the wine. Any not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing, and to indicate that by holding their arms crossed on their chest.

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 (CP 690)



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Anthem

Zion hears the watchmen's voices,
with gladness all her heart rejoices,
She eager wakes to greet the day.
See her Lord from heaven descending
With grace and truth and power unending,
her daystar dawns with brightest ray.
O come, thou blessed one,
Lord Jesu, God's own Son,
Hosianna!
We follow there
Thy feast to share,
And taste the joys beyond compare.

Text: Anon. German.
Music: J.S. Bach (1685-1750); arr. J. Rutter (1945-).

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

God for whom we wait,
in this meal you gave us a foretaste of that day
when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Send us forth to make known your deeds
and to proclaim the greatness of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

Acclamation for Advent

In the life of our Church

All: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

With love and compassion

All: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

In grace and mercy

All: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Through love and service

All: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

In wisdom and growth

All: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Blessing

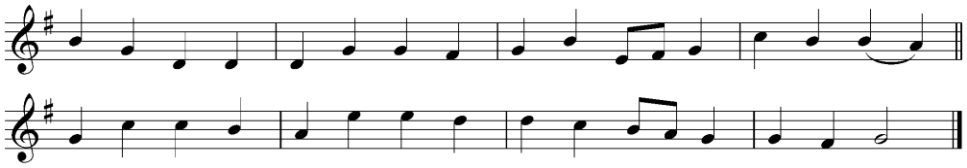
Dismissal

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

***All*:** **Thanks be to God.**

Recessional Hymn (CP 88)

CROSS OF JESUS



1. **Come, thou long-expected Jesus,**
   born to set thy people free;
   from our fears and sins release us;
   let us find our rest in thee.
2. **Israel's strength and consolation,**
   hope of all the earth thou art;
   dear desire of every nation,
   joy of every longing heart.
3. **Born thy people to deliver;**
   born a child and yet a King;
   born to reign in us forever:
   now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. **By thine own eternal Spirit,**
   rule in all our hearts alone;
   by thine all-sufficient merit,
   raise us to thy glorious throne.

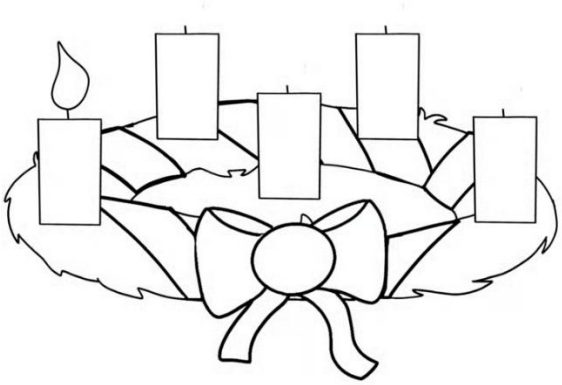
Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788).
Music: Melody – *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gotha, 1715.
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Voluntary

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.

There will be no Sunday Reflections today as we welcome Randall Brazeau from SOLID Outreach, who will give a presentation on "Understanding our Neighbours".
Please join us in the Denson Lounge.



The Anglican Church of
St John the Divine

Sun. Nov. 29, 7pm

The Advent Procession

A dramatic candlelit sequence of readings, choral music, and hymns, exploring themes of Advent - the Eternal; the Promise; the Forerunner; the Incarnation; and the Coming Again.

Sung by the Choristers of St John the Divine.
Choral music by Paul Manz, Howard Skempton, Becky McGlade, Anna Lapwood, Orlando Gibbons, Kerensa Briggs, and Jonathan Dove Sanctus.







Anglican Church of St John the Divine, Victoria

Evening Services during Advent



Sun. Nov. 29, 7pm

The Advent Procession

A dramatic sequence of readings, choral music, and hymns, exploring themes of Advent - the Eternal; the Promise; the Forerunner; the Incarnation; and the Coming Again

Sun. Dec. 6th, 4:30pm

Prayer Stations for Advent

Experience the stories of Advent in a way that engages all of our senses





Sun. Dec. 13, 4:30pm

Blue Christmas Service

An opportunity to gather during this holiday season for those who may not be feeling as festive

Sunday Dec. 20, 7pm

Christmas Carol Service

The traditional service of 'Lessons and Carols', with choral carols sung by the Choristers of St John the Divine and favourite Christmas hymns for all to sing.



Flowers

Given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for this parish family,
from an anonymous donor.

Readings for December 6th – The 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 During the desolation of the Exile the prophet is called by God to preach comfort to the people.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Hope is offered to those who seek God's forgiveness and restoration.

2 Peter 3:8-15a Do not despair in the delay of the coming of 'God's Day': Those who walk in hope prepare the way for the fullness of God's reign.

Mark 1:1-8 Echoing Isaiah, John the Baptizer goes into the wilderness to prepare the way for God.

The following people have asked for our prayers.

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

Chuck	Charles & Frances	Paul C-S.
Zoe	John & Pat	Rick & Sylvia
Carol	Suzanne R.	Judy T.
Maddie A.	Julian M.	Eric
Marilyn B.	Melinda	Michael & family
Brittany	Brian & Carla T.	James. M.
Andrew	Christopher	Kevin & family
Dennis	Susan M.	Martin Y.
Bill	Jill & family	Mark & Daryl
Joshua	Tristan	Kate
Deb	Sheila	John C.
Sue G.	The Redhead Family	Michael

Today's Service Personnel

Presider: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum
Greeters: Mary Kennedy, Marilyn Moody
Crucifer: Melanie Ihmels
Sacristan: Duane Lecky
Readers: Iris Elsdon, Carol-Ann Zenger
Gospel: Murray Harris
Intercessor: Niall Barnard
Sermon: The Venerable Alastair Singh-McCollum

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Karen Coverett, Gerry Melville, Susan Fraser
Verger: David Pupak
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
mharris@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Givings Coordinator: Jim Harlick (he/him)
givings@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

Incumbent's Warden: Jamie Lawson (he/him)
jlawson@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Associate Warden: Carol Anne Harper (she/her)
charper@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
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)
familyministry@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger (she/her)
admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

1611 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2L5 Tel. 250-383-7169 / Fax 250-381-3573
pastoral@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca or **for urgent calls only**, use 250-516-9565
or email admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca facebook.com/St.JohnVicBC
e-mail: admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca
