



NEWSLETTER

Week Commencing April 2, 2017



LENT

Fifth Sunday of Lent

From the Rector

This coming Sunday is the fifth and final Sunday in Lent. After this Sunday, the colour violet will give way to the colour of red and white for Holy Week. This Sunday, therefore begins our transition from the season of Lent, to Holy Week and then the Triduum (or the Great Three Days). But I am getting ahead of myself!

This Sunday we will hear the beautiful passage from John's gospel about the death and then the raising of Lazarus. It is a story filled with grief, sadness, mourning and indescribable joy. It is filled with intrigue, faith, determination and wonder.

Some see this passage as a foreshadowing of the death and resurrection of Christ and we read it in church this Sunday to prepare ourselves for the coming of Holy Week. But it is so much more than that. If we simply study the person of Jesus in these 45 verses of the eleventh chapter of John's gospel, we discover so much more about him as a person and our trusted colleague and friend.

In the passage, we follow Jesus from complacency to deep grief and great joy. At first he seems uninterested in visiting Lazarus or being with him in his illness or even at his death. He does not show the great compassion that most of us associate with Jesus Christ. He waits to go to the sisters Mary and Martha, rather than rushing there to help. Once he arrives he does get wrapped up in their grief and sadness and feels it for himself. He commands Lazarus to come out and when Lazarus does, Jesus orders that the crowd to unbind him and let him go. That is the overall flow of the passage but we discover a few things. We discover Jesus' deep love for Lazarus but also Mary and Martha and I would add also for us. We discover that even though Jesus knows of eternal life and God's eternal and complete love for all people, grief bowls him over and even forces him, like us, to rethink hopes, dreams and desires. We discover that Jesus knows our pains, our sadnesses, our darknesses, our struggles, our grief. This passage in so many ways links Jesus Christ to our plight as human beings and this connection of his life to ours is vital to the Christian faith. It invites us into a deeper relationship with Christ and God the Creator.

This Fifth Sunday of Lent, while the last Sunday of Lent, seems to concretize the meaning of this holy season as we look to the cross of Good Friday.

Joan Chittister writes this: "Clearly the voice of Lent is not a dour one. It is a call to remember who we are and where we have come from and why. The voice of Lent is the cry to become new again, to live on newly no matter what our life has been like until now and to live fully. It is even more than that. It is the promise of mercy, the guarantee of new life. It is the resin that keeps our souls melded to the Spirit within us despite the pull of chaos and waste and superficialities on our spiritual moorings. Lent is our salvation from the depths of nothingness. It is our guide to the more of life." (from *The Liturgical Year*)

As the season of Lent eases to a close may you recognize Jesus words to those gathered around the risen Lazarus to be words meant for our spiritual selves as well: "Unbind him (her) and let him (her) go."

Oh God of Lazarus and hope and unbinding love, you call us out of the darkness to the light of your presence. By the voice of Jesus, your Son draw us closer to eternal life, being us closer to your presence, awaken us to the new life to which you beckon us and invite us. May your love that we saw and knew in Jesus guide us now to live in faithful service today and always. In the name of Jesus, the one who calls us, we pray. Amen.

Lent Series Monday Nights – Last class on Apr 3

Please join us this coming Monday evening for the last meeting of our Lenten study of the 7 last words of Christ from the cross. We will listen to



music, prayerfully study a passage from the Gospel of John, and share and learn from one another, and end with the service of Compline. This is a drop in series, so you are welcome even if you have not been able to attend any of the other gatherings. We meet in the Trendell Lounge from 7 pm till 8:30 pm.

Training Session for Readers, Intercessors and Lay Administrators

Please join us for a training session after coffee hour on **Sunday, April 2nd**. Come and learn more about the positions that are available. Please speak to Fr John, Mtr Liz, the wardens, or call the office for more information.

Easter Sunday Flower Dedications

Every Easter St John's is adorned with beautiful flowers, especially lilies, and fine music. We are collecting flower dedications - a wonderful way to celebrate the resurrection and remember loved ones. For every ten dollars (tax deductible) we can display one six inch pot of lilies. Please send in your special flower dedications, which can be made in honour or in memory of a loved one (any increment of ten dollars) to the office by **Sunday, April 9th**, to allow us time to pre-order them. Like all flower dedications, the Easter flower dedications will be printed in the Sunday leaflet. Envelopes have been placed at the back of the church for this purpose. You may also put your cheque in the mail, then email the church office your flower dedication.



Volunteers needed for Easter Decorating



We need several volunteers to help decorate the church for Easter. Please contact the office if you can join us **Saturday, Apr 15th from 10am to about 11am**. Hot cross buns will be served!

Maundy Thursday Supper Apr 13

Please contact the office if you would like to volunteer at the Maundy Thursday supper. We need a few more volunteers to help set up at 5:30pm, a few more volunteers to bring food and a few more for clean up. If you want to donate food, let us know the items you would like to bring. Please keep it simple to allow for a quick and easy set up and clean up. Soup or sandwiches are good choices.

Syrian Refugee Family Sponsorship – Please give generously

Last year when Canada accepted 35,000 Syrian refugees, our parish family was very keen to assist a family. As we soon discovered the sponsorship process can take several years to realize, so it was agreed that we should join a group that had already initiated the lengthy process. St Helen's Anglican Church and a group from the Archaeology Department at UBC had identified a family group who had worked for them over the years on archaeological projects who had been forced to flee from their home and were living on the street in Beirut. They were a year into the process, had initiated the documentation and security clearance procedures and already raised the funds for the first year of sponsorship. They were looking for additional partners for this sponsorship project to assist with financial support for the family in year two, as it is likely that they will not be completely self-sufficient after a year in their new country and were also looking for funds to repay the transportation costs of relocating the family from Beirut to Vancouver (as required by the Federal Government). Three other Anglican parishes on the west side of Vancouver are now assisting in the project. Given our enthusiasm for this project last year we agreed that St John's would assist in raising funds for this family and they have asked us to commit to raising the funds for the plane tickets for the seven adults. The family group consist of four men, three women, a young girl and two infants of which all but one couple and two babies have arrived in Canada over the past six weeks. The adults have been enrolled in English language courses at MOSAIC and they are living in a refurbished basement suite in the home of one of the St. Helen's parishioners.

Tucked inside your leaflet today is an envelope for you to place your donation towards the SJS Syrian Refugee Settlement Fund. Please make your cheque payable to St John's Shaughnessy, and make a note in the memo line that the funds go to the Syrian Refugee Settlement Fund. Donations are tax deductible.



Zakarya arrived Oct 13, 2016 and started English lessons in November.



Fatimal, Khaled, Lana and Mjad arrived on Dec 5, 2016.



Miriam and Abd-al-Karem arrived on Dec 29, 2016 in time for New Years.

-photos from St Helen's website



In Beirut 2015



Chrism mass -- Renewal of Vows, Blessing of Holy Oils

On Tuesday in Holy Week (April 11), 12:10pm at Christ Church Cathedral, all bishops, priests and deacons will renew their ordination vows. In addition to this all members of the laity are invited to attend and renew their baptismal vows. A light lunch will follow. Following the Chrism luncheon, from 2:15 to 3:30pm the Rev'd Canon Dr Ed Bacon, sometime Rector of All Saints', Pasadena will give an address. All are invited to hear Ed speak.

Archdeaconry Chapter Meeting 7:00pm in the Trendell Lounge

On April 26 all of the Clergy, Parish Synod Delegates and any other interested parties will meet for a pre-synod Archdeaconry Chapter Meeting. We will meet with others from our Archdeaconry to discuss items that will be presented at our Annual Synod Meeting (May 26 and 27). In particular there will be discussion regarding parish assessments and other financial matters and any other business that may be coming to Synod. Please mark your calendars.

Criminal Record Checks

If you have recently had a criminal record check for your volunteer work here at SJS, please submit your \$25 receipt and we will reimburse you. Or you may prefer to have it added to your 2017 donations and receive a tax receipt.

Walking Group at SJS

Do you think you need a little more fresh air and exercise? Join the SJS Walking Group! It is on Mondays (except holidays) starting at 12 noon. Please meet up by the east door of the church, and wear good supportive shoes. Dogs welcome. If you sign up in advance, we can let you know about cancellations and/or time changes. **We hope to walk on other days** as well. Let us know what works for you. Please **contact** the office for more information.



Knitting Group at SJS

The knitting group continues to meet Monday mornings at 10am, and we're having a lot of fun together. Maybe you would like to join us? Please contact the office for more information. **Beginners welcome.**

Do you enjoy playing Scrabble?

A small group of SJS parishioners is interested in getting together to play Scrabble. It has been suggested that meetings be in the Trendell Lounge after coffee hour on Sundays, or possibly during the week in the choir room. Please contact the office for more information, and let us know the days/times that work best for you.

Calling all Gardeners: Gardening Group starts April 3rd

Please join a small group of us who work on tidying up the gardens at St John's on Monday mornings at 10 am for an hour or two. Weeding, pruning, raking and transplanting. No experience necessary!!! Many hands make light work. Please contact the office for more information.



SJS Music Events with Michael Dirk

Further for your SJS Events considerations: **Easter Sunday April 16,** Michael has been invited to return and offer another 30min post-compline organ recital at St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle. He suggests for those interested to carpool from SJS in the early afternoon to Seattle - perhaps taking in the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival www.tulipfestival.com. Once checked into a downtown/university district hotel in Seattle (four-star around \$150CDN in downtown/university district) go for dinner up on Capital Hill. 9:30pm the famed Men's Compline Choir carry us through the service, www.complinechoir.org, followed by Michael's recital.

After a good night's rest, we have the Easter holiday Monday to enjoy all Seattle has to offer - lunch up the Space Needle, and Pike Place Market etc. At 7pm the historic Paramount Theater hosts 'Silent Movie Monday' featuring Clark Wilson at the helm of their Mighty Wurlitzer Theater pipe organ, providing accompaniment to the 82min 1924 comedy 'Girl Shy'.

<http://www.stgpresents.org/tickets/alphabetical/eventdetail/3065/-/silent-movie-mondays-girl-shy-1924>

Unless wanting to stay another night, we'd be on the I-5 heading North at 8:30pm, through the border before 11pm, and back home in bed by midnight.

SJS goes to the VSO:

It's that time of the year - the Vancouver Bach Choir joins forces with the VSO to deliver their own take on the long tradition of the Last Night of the Proms with the comically brilliant Maestro Bramwell Tovey at the Helm! Rather than just a standalone event, the VSO has made it the finale to their 2017 Spring Festival celebrating British composers and their most popular works - so have a look, and let Michael know which concerts strike your fancy, and he'll secure a ticket of your price choice at 15% off for group rate. The sooner you let him know, the better the seat!



To get the best seats, Michael Dirk is taking group rate orders for the **2017 VSO Spring Festival**. It is themed "British Fantasy", focusing on great British composers and their most popular works.

www.vancouversymphony.ca

April 22 8pm- Songs and Serenades

April 24 8pm- The Planets (Holst) & Viola Concerto (Elgar)

April 29 8pm- Henry (Walton)

April 30 7pm- Enigma variations (Elgar)

May 1 8pm- Last night of the Proms (with Bach Choir)

Group rate tickets \$22-60 (15% off). Please email Michael at organist@sjs.net or speak to him during coffee hour on Sundays.

<http://www.vancouversymphony.ca/festivals/16VSF/>

Holy Week



Sunday April 9 Palm Sunday

- 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10:00am Palm Procession and Sung Eucharist

Monday/Tuesday April 10/11

- 7:00pm Said Holy Eucharist with address (30 minutes)

Wednesday April 12

- 9:30am Said Holy Eucharist with address (30 minutes)

Thursday April 13 Maundy Thursday

- 6:00pm Homemade soup and sandwiches - all welcome
7:30pm Last Supper Eucharist with foot washing. A meditative watch will be kept until 9:30pm.

Friday April 14 Good Friday

- 10:00am Families Stations of the Cross (35 minutes)
12:00noon Solemn Liturgy of the Day with Sung Passion

Saturday April 15 Holy Saturday

- 8:30pm Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday April 16 Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Day

- 8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10:00am Celebration Eucharist and Easter Egg Hunt



Maundy Thursday

April 13

6.00pm

Homemade soup and sandwiches

7:30pm

Last Supper Eucharist with foot washing

The Eucharist is followed by the ceremonial stripping of the altar and a procession through the church to the side chapel where the Blessed Sacrament will be kept overnight, reminding us of our Lord's anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane. A meditative watch will be kept until 9:30pm.

 **St John's**
S H A U G H N E S S Y

1490 Nanton Avenue (at Granville St)
Vancouver BC V6H 2E2
604.731.4966 / www.sjs.net

欢迎



Easter Sunday

April 16

8:00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am

Celebration Eucharist followed
by an Easter Egg Hunt



St John's

SHAUGHNESSY

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欢迎

Join
**The Vancouver Community College
Willan Choir,**



The VCC Concert Choir

& Soloists from the VCC School of Music

*In an Evening of
Sacred Music*

*The dramatic setting of the
Stabat Mater text by **Giuseppe Verdi***

along with poignant excerpts from

Domenico Scarlatti's *more intimate opus*

and the uplifting, exuberant

Vivaldi Gloria

*reflect the wide-ranging emotional aspects of the
Easter season.*

Tuesday April 4

at St. John's Shaugnessy

1490 Nanton Ave, Vancouver

7:30pm.

Admission by donation at the door.

St John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church

1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6H 2E2

Telephone (604) 731-4966 (ex 11 for office)

email: church@sjs.net web: www.sjs.net

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Rector	The Venerable John Stephens john.stephens@sjs.net
Curate	The Reverend Liz Hamel liz.hamel@sjs.net
Deacon	The Reverend Dr Pitman Potter pbpotter@live.ca
Rector's Warden	Robyn Woodward
People's Warden	Maggie Sanders
Treasurer	Donald Wood
Vestry Clerk	Karin Fulcher
Music Director	Michael Dirk
Assistant Choirmaster	Ann Chen
Children's Ministry	Spencer Britten
Parish Administrator	Janet Hamilton
PWRDF Rep	Doug Symons
Sacristan and MC	Paul Bunnell
Verger/caretaker	Amy Thorogood

Sunday services

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday service

9:30am Holy Communion

Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings and Confessions are by appointment with the Rector. Please contact us if you would like to have our weekly newsletter emailed to you.

