



NEWSLETTER

Week Commencing February 25, 2018



Second Sunday in Lent

From the Rector

There are many different designs of the Christian Cross, the central symbol of the Christian Church. The one shown here is known as the Canterbury Cross, as a cross of this shape was found in Canterbury, England and it is often used as a symbol of the Anglican Communion.



Down through the years, the symbol of the cross has taken on many different designs and shapes to represent more than just the original cross of Jesus but also trying to symbolize his life, his words, the Trinity of God, the wholeness that comes as a result of following Christ, God's grace, God's love, the meaning of Easter and many other things.

The symbol of the cross comes to the forefront of our gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, where Jesus says, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Words that cause us to stop and ponder what they might mean for us and the decisions we make on this day. For they start to get to the heart of what it means to be a Christian. What does following Jesus Christ mean to us in terms of how we live in the world and how we offer our prayers and how we respond to our world? It is not something that is a one-time decision but something that affects all our decisions and all of our life. It is the basis of all else. We give up things to be a Christian, it involves a commitment, a promise, a covenant to live the love of God. The cross is a symbol of that.

But to help us really think about our own commitment to Christ and our own pilgrimage of faith, in this same gospel passage, Jesus offered three other particularly notable phrases that we should take some time to meditate upon and consider:

- "But who do you say that I am?"
- "The Son of Humanity must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."
- "For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

This season of Lent in the Church is a time set aside to think more deeply into our faith and take more time to really consider who Jesus was, what Jesus did and how we set our minds on divine things. Great words to consider, and more will be said about them on Sunday.

O God of the cross and our salvation, guide us and lead us on our Lenten pilgrimage to journey closer to you. To open our hearts and minds anew, to reflect on the divine things that are generously sprinkled throughout our life. Bless us on our journey and our new discoveries. In the name of Jesus, our guide and our hope. Amen.

Annual Vestry Meeting

Our Annual Vestry Meeting will take place after the 10:00 Mass this coming Sunday. Please plan to attend! This is our Annual Meeting and so we will do the business of an annual meeting, such as: the election of Trustees and Church Committee, review the Financial Statements for 2017 and the Budget for 2018, receive the reports of the different leaders and groups of the parish, and look to certain areas of ministry for 2018. We will also restoration work on the organ and some potential plans for the interior of our church. Lots on the agenda! There will be a light lunch and childcare. See you there!

A day of prayer and fasting for peace – Friday Feb 23

With the encouragement of leaders throughout the Anglican Communion, at the invitation of Pope Francis to all people of good will, we are invited to observe a day of prayer and fasting for peace, in particular for the peoples of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of South Sudan.

“Our heavenly Father always listens to His children who cry to Him in pain and in anguish; ‘He heals the broken hearted and binds their wounds’ (Psalm 147, 3). I address a heartfelt appeal that we too hear this cry and, each person in his or her own conscience, before God, let us ask ourselves, ‘what can I do for peace?’.

“Certainly we can pray; but not only this: each person can say a concrete ‘no’ to violence, as far as it depends on him or her.” *Pope Francis*

We will open St John’s church from 9 am to 5 pm. As you are able, whether in the church or elsewhere, for the day or for an hour, please join

with brothers and sisters in all parts of the world, to pray for peace, for the binding up of wounds and restoration of wholeness, and to reflect on your own calling to be a messenger of peace.

If you are able to “keep watch” in the church for an hour or for the day, there is a rota in the Narthex, or let Paul Bunnell know (604-762-6200 or pbunnell@telus.net). We will conclude the day at 4:45 with a simple service of Evening Prayer.

Wonderful news from Neighbourhood Ministry

I am delighted to share with you the news that over the past week, about 15 of the homeless clients served by the Neighbourhood Ministry were offered housing at the new modular homes building in Marpole. Move-ins have already started and will continue for the next few weeks. The building is operated by a non-profit group called Community Builders. We have reached out to them to see how we might help support their efforts to build a stable and strong community.

For the last several months, our street outreach and Mobile Care Unit volunteers have worked especially hard to prepare clients and ensure they are given every consideration for this housing. Volunteers have attended meetings with the City and BC Housing to offer assistance in locating candidates for the housing and helping them complete forms; spoken in support of the modular homes program at public meetings, often being "lone voices" in the room; toured the facility as it neared completion; and most of all, supported clients emotionally and with practical assistance, showing the care and compassion that is the hallmark of our ministry.

While not all of the current clients we serve were offered housing, we have been assured that they continue to be on the list as other modular homes projects are completed. Rest assured, we will continue advocating for every homeless person we meet.

Thanks to all of you who support the Neighbourhood Ministry's efforts in so many ways. Thank as always to Interim Clergy Leader, The Rev. Alex Wilson for his steadfast and faithful support (and sorry I keep butting in). Please join me in giving thanks to God for the roofs that will now bless some of our friends.

Deacon Pitman

ACW Fellowship Group – next meeting Feb 28

The SJS ACW Fellowship Group will be meeting at Denny's Restaurant, 1296 West Broadway, at 11:45 AM, Feb 28. All are welcome to attend. Please call the office or speak to Alberta Rudolf for more information.

Volunteers Wanted for Church Basement Clean-up

Do you love organizing? Join Amy for a church basement clean-up event. Contact the office to let us know the dates and times that work for you during the next two weeks. Snacks and tea provided!

Name Tags

Would you like to have your very own SJS name tag? Please contact the office and one will be made up for you.

Donation Envelopes

Would you like to have some donation envelopes with your envelope number written on them? Please contact the office and some will be made up for you.

Volunteers Wanted for Greeting and Hospitality



There are many positions you may volunteer with, including **greeting** and **hospitality**. We could use more people during Holy Week. Please contact the office for more information.



Holy Week



Sunday March 25 Palm Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Palm Procession and Sung Eucharist

Monday/Tuesday March 26/27

7:00pm Said Holy Eucharist

Wednesday March 28

9:30am Said Holy Eucharist

Thursday March 29 Maundy Thursday

6:00pm Homemade soup and sandwiches - all welcome

7:00pm Last Supper Eucharist with foot washing. A meditative watch will be kept until 9:00pm.

Friday March 30 Good Friday

10:00am Families Stations of the Cross

12:00noon Solemn Liturgy of the Day with Sung Passion

Saturday March 31 Holy Saturday

8:00pm Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday April 1 Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Day

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Celebration Eucharist and Easter Egg Hunt



Meeting Jesus
in the Gospel of John

Lenten Study

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

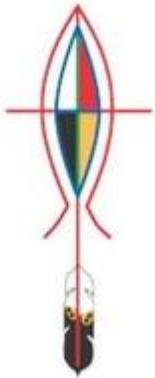
is a five-week journey into deeper intimacy with God through praying with the words of John the Evangelist.

Join the SJS clergy for this fascinating interactive Christian Formation Series! Classes will be located in the Trendell Lounge Wednesdays at 7pm.

Upcoming SJS Events

Feb 26	Knitting Group	10am (call office for details)
28	Scrabble Group	2pm (call office for details)
	Lenton Study	7pm
	ACW Fellowship Group	11:45 at Denny's
Mar 4	Neighbourhood Ministry packet prep during coffee hour	

Lenten Series celebrating The Holden Evening Prayer Service



Feb 23 - Mar 23, 7 to 7:30pm. Anglican Urban Aboriginal Ministry (U.A.M) & Lutheran Aboriginal Ministry (L.A.M.s) presents Friday Lenten Series celebrating The Holden Evening Prayer Service. A First Nation's perspective! For more information contact Carolyn Klassen at cmsk29@hotmail.com or phone 604.763.5588. Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1499 Laurier St. at Granville.



ASK Friendship Society Open House March 15th 3 - 6pm

2177 West 42nd Avenue. Are you curious about how A.S.K. has transformed the former Kerrisdale Legion into an Adult Day Centre? Come and join us for a look around and see how A.S.K. is helping seniors in the community. Come and learn what we do. Free parking at the Kerrisdale Parkade. Light refreshments served. 604-263-7333 | caring@askcentre.ca

Are You Ready for Tomorrow's Decisions? March 16th 2 – 4pm

Learn about Advance Care Planning (ACP) at a free information session. ACP helps you, and those closest to you, prepare to make future health and personal care decisions. This session will help you think and talk about what's important to you. Learn about ACP and your options. Increase comfort to discuss ACP with family and health-care providers. Increase awareness of available resources to support you in your ACP including Representation Agreements, Advance Directives and Power of Attorney. Pre-registration is required. SylvieK@kitshouse.org or call: 604-736-3588 ext. 603 Kitsilano Neighbourhood House 2305 West 7th Ave, at Vine.

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Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 8:00am to 3:00pm

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People's Warden	Maggie Sanders
Treasurer	Donald Wood
Property Trustee	Peter Kidd
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Music Director	Michael Dirk organist@sjs.net
Choir Director	Ann Chen
Children's Ministry	The Reverend Kathryn Ransdell
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

Cover image by John Stuart www.stushieart.com
Additional illustrations by SJS parishioner Erin Redfern.

