

28 November 2021 newsletter



First Sunday of Advent



Pandemic Ponderings

Happy New Year! Advent is the beginning of the Church year- so happy year C (the Gospel of Luke)! Which gives us the opportunity to look at Advent as a of New Beginnings, new things. Of course Advent is always busy, of course we are preparing for Christmas, but the whole point of Advent is to slow down and focus and re-focus on what and who are really important.

Very timely for us this year! 11months ago, I began as your Priest-in-charge and here we are at the end point- getting ready for Mother Terry and her family- we've made it! Today I moved all my things out of the Rector's office and put them back into my little office space.

But it's not the same as it was before. I have new things (a giant dog crate, and a lot of craft supplies), and I went through and let go of things I don't need anymore (lots of paper), and found some things I'd forgotten about (Candlemas bags). I think it's actually cozier now, and feels more like my own space- more like me.

Advent is a good time to re-settle, to dust off the dusty places, and find homes for things that aren't serving us, to appreciate how much has changed and how much has stayed the same. This Advent along with all the busyness of getting ready for Christmas, what spaces in your lives need dusting? What spaces in your lives need re-settling? What do you need to do to create the holy space that brings us to Christmas Joy?

Holy Advent,

Mother Liz

Reflections on the Readings by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

OVERALL THEME OF THE READINGS

All the scriptures are about encouragement. All through the texts someone is either giving encouragement or seeking it. Very suitable for the first Sunday of the new Christian Year. Also very suitable because it looks like this year ahead is still going to demand resilience in the face of Covid. For some people whose lives have been devastated by various aspects of climate change, fires and floods, the months ahead will continue to demand a lot of courage.

THE FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

Talk about needing courage! Jeremiah is writing this passage from prison! What is it that keeps him going in spite of everything? The basis for Jeremiah's thinking is first of all that God can be trusted. *I will fulfil the promise, says the Lord.* Secondly he is certain *"a righteous branch will spring up"*. New leadership will emerge. God uses the gifts of men and women. Third, Jeremiah says that God will *"execute justice and righteousness in the land"*. What will this mean in the months and even years ahead?

Statements like these are being severely tested in some people's lives these days. In the months and years to come, not only is there a massive job to be done in restoring our part of the world physically. Also we have to try to build a political and economic system that is able to respond with justice and generosity to the appalling suffering of those directly affected. The call to work for such a society is soundly clearly right now.

THE PSALM 25:1-9

Sow me your ways O God...your paths. Our culture speaks incessantly of the journey of the self. We still hear distant echoes of Frank Sinatra singing "I did it my way". Notice how far beyond this shallowness the Psalmist goes. Beyond my ways are the ways of God. Beyond my paths stretch the paths of God. Both call you and me beyond the destinations of the self.

THE SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 3. 1-9

How would you and I feel if someone wrote to us and began their letter with a big compliment? That's what Paul always does with his letters,

even though later in a letter he may have to point out certain faults that have to be worked on. *"How can we thank God for the joy we feel because of you"*. Paul does this because he knows that what can make all the difference in difficult times is a word of encouragement and appreciation.

Paul has a big wish, that he can get back to see the folks at Thessalonica. He says *"May God direct my way to you"*. Come to think of it, Paul would very much understand the deep longing in these Covid times to manage to get back to see loved ones we haven't seen for a long time. Lots of us could identify with Paul's prayer *"May God and our Lord Jesus Christ direct our way to (those whom we love)"*

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

When we read or listen to this passage we hear strong echoes for our own time, especially this last year. Its images are so powerful. They speak to us on many levels. *"Signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars"* In recent years we are reaching out more and more to probe the universe around us. We are looking and reaching for the moon and our neighbouring planets. We have set one of our pieces of technology on Mars. We are reaching out to gain more information about the sun, source of all life on earth. But we are also aware that *"on the earth (there is) distress of nations"*. Rivalry between big powers. Tensions in many societies. revolution in some. *The roaring of the sea and the waves* as they react to what we have come to know as climate change. Then Jesus speaks of the mental and spiritual consequences of all these stress inducing things in the minds and hearts of people. *"People will faint from fear and foreboding for what is coming upon the world"*.

The great significance of this passage comes in the attitude that our Lord calls for. *"When these things come to pass, stand up and raise your heads"*. ..Jesus is saying something like this...if we truly believe that God is at the heart of human events, then we can experience life with confidence, knowing that all events have an ultimate purpose and meaning within the mind of God.

Midweek Meditation 8pm Wednesdays

This is a beautiful service of Compline (or Night Prayer) and a reflection. A great way to end a day. You can watch it at any time, just follow the link

from our website www.sjs.net May God be with you.

Virtual Coffee Hour after the 10:00am Sunday Service

Join us for a virtual coffee hour using Zoom. You can pop in any time between 11am and 12:30pm on Sundays.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88970734514?pwd=Z0hoS1g0SlU5a21XRjhYRHUyN1VtZz09>

In-Person Coffee Hour is Back!!

**After more than a year
we are excited to announce
the return of coffee hour!**

**Beginning Sunday November 21st,
fully-vaccinated (if they qualify, 12+)
people are welcome to visit the Trendell Lounge
following the 10am service
for in-person Coffee Hour!**

Self-serve coffee and tea, as well as a selection of pre-packaged snack items will be available.

Masks will be required (except when actively eating or drinking) and at this time we ask that no outside food be brought in.



SJS Hospitality is back!! Volunteers Wanted for THIS Sunday

We are looking for donations of snacks, and people to volunteer during coffee hour. Regan has provided guidelines to increase covid safety:

- Each week we will require 2 volunteers following the service to restock items and clean up after coffee hour. These volunteers will not be required to do anything ahead of the service – only following the service during the coffee hour. Regan will set up before the service to make things much easier for hospitality volunteers.
- Since Covid, the selection of individually wrapped snack items has increased substantially. Parishioners are encouraged to purchase and donate individually wrapped items that could be made available at coffee hour. These could include single serve cookies, cheese, crackers, chocolates, and other sweets. Please submit your receipts to the office for tax purposes, or simply put them in your donation envelope during the service.
- In addition to serving coffee, donations of drinking boxes and bottled water would be accepted and served at coffee hour.
- Possibly someone could act as the Zoom host in the Trendell Lounge, assisting people (at least at the start) as to how they may connect with those “Zooming in.”

Items needed for Mother Terry and family to borrow

Mother Terry and her family of seven arrive in about 2 weeks time, but their furniture will be a few weeks behind them. We are collecting items for them to borrow until their moving truck arrives:

inflatable mattresses, bedding, towels, baby gates, portable baby beds (Pack and Plays). We will add items to this list next week. Please contact the office if you have items to loan Terry and her family.

NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY NEWS



CHRISTMAS 2021 LUNCHEON AT DUNBAR APARTMENTS

Saturday, December 18, 2021

12:30pm to 2pm

Dunbar Apartments, 3595 West 17th Avenue

We are pleased to announce this WANM event, the first one to be held at Dunbar Apartments since December 2019.

The residents are excited for the return of this fun and festive celebration, and so are we!

Onsite volunteer opportunities are available, including cooking & serving food.

Contact Joan Stewart at ministrymcu@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more or would like to donate a food item for the luncheon.

Podcasts

If you like to listen to podcasts, why not include a podcast of Mid-Week Meditation or the Sunday Sermon? They are now available as a podcast under the heading of **The Anglican Angle from Shaughnessy**. You can get the podcast from: *Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Overcast*.



SJS Refugee Committee is in dire need of storage space so that we can safely keep all the boxes of generously donated household items and a few pieces of furniture. Sadly the house with the enclosed garage space that we

are currently using has been sold and we have been given just two months notice to move our materials out. No space is too small - even if you can only store a few boxes this would be a tremendous help. Please contact the office if you can help.

Online Worship

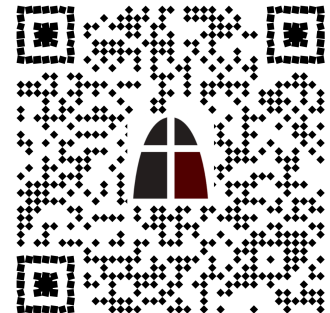
To access our worship online you can go to our website at www.sjs.net and click on the link there. Or you can access it through: a Facebook Live feed, a Youtube live feed and a Twitch live feed. To access one of the live feeds, select one of the following links:

- [St John's Shaughnessy on Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJzbg4009j4WMkaRBvTE-zQ) or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJzbg4009j4WMkaRBvTE-zQ>
- [St John's Shaughnessy on Twitch](https://m.twitch.tv/sjsnanton) or m.twitch.tv/sjsnanton
- facebook.com and search for "St John Shaughnessy"

Once the service ends, it will be available on each of the streaming platforms to view later using the same links.

Financial Support - Stewardship

If you would like to make a financial contribution to help support the worship and ministry of St. John's Shaughnessy, please do! You can use this QR code (point your phone's camera at it) and it will take you to the donation page of our website. If you have recently made a contribution online or by cheque, thank you so very much! If you currently give by Pre-Authorized Donation, thank you! Our church has been affected by COVID-19 in many ways but financial giving is certainly one.



If you would like to give via monthly Pre-Authorized Donations (easy to change and easy to cancel), please contact Janet in the office (church@sjs.net or 604-731-4966). If you would like to give to the church via one-time (or several times) donations using a credit card (and we are aware that many people are being affected financially by this pandemic), please use the DONATE button on our website (Canada Helps on top of

page one, and Paypal on the bottom of page one). Cheques may be mailed or dropped through the church mail slot.

SJS Prayer List: Please keep in touch if you add names

If you request that someone's name be added to the prayer list, please keep in touch with us monthly. At the end of each month, all names will be removed, so you will need to add the names again. We followed this protocol before the pandemic and are going back to that. Thank you.

SJS collecting items for homeless (Neighbourhood Ministry)

We are currently well-stocked, but we could always use more raingear.

Christmas Concerts with SJS Musicians

UBC's Duruflé – Michael Dirk will be on organ and our soprano Carolin sings in the University Singers choir.

<https://chancentre.com/events/ubc-choirs-orchestra/>

On Nov 30 with Vancouver Bach Choir at Orpheum, Michael Dirk on organ, and our bass Jaime in the choir (section lead).

<https://vancouverbachchoir.com/events/brittens-st-nicolas/>

Dec 11 all of our quartet will sing in Vancouver Youth Choir at the Chan.

<https://vancouveryouthchoir.com/performances/all-is-bright/>

Annabelle Ip has school concerts December 7 & 14 at Point Grey High School. <http://pointgreymusic.com/>

Dara and Jessica (parishioners) are in Good Noise Vancouver Gospel Choir and they have upcoming concerts Dec 10th & 11th

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/good-noise-vancouver-gospel-choir-31296334481>





Advent Meditation: Fever Dreams

The penitential season of Advent invites Christians to prayer and reflection as we prepare ourselves for the incarnation of God in Christ. Saint John's Shaughnessy welcomes you to join in a series of Zoom reflection sessions offered at 7pm on three Wednesdays in Advent – December 1, 8, and 22. Each session will focus on a selected passage from Deacon Pitman Potter's *Fever Dreams* collection of sacred spiritual texts, followed by night prayer.

Participants do not need copies of *Fever Dreams* - selections for each session will be circulated in advance. Those who wish to acquire a copy of *Fever Dreams* for a \$20 donation to the Neighbourhood Ministry may do so by contacting the Neighbourhood Ministry website:

<https://neighbourhoodministry.com> or ministrymcu@gmail.com

These sessions will provide opportunities for reflection and discussion on the challenges we face during this trying time. Please join us! Access via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88079829374?pwd=K29Va2M2Z3pZY0FUcUhoeNVRG9ndz09>



THE BOARD OF THE
ANGLICAN CHURCHWOMEN
OF THE DIOCESE
OF NEW WESTMINSTER
INVITE YOU TO OUR

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

11:00AM-2:00PM

ACW PLACE

7012 MERRITT AVENUE, BURNABY

PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK, IN KEEPING WITH
BC COVID HEALTH PROTOCOLS



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, November 28

3:00 o'clock



Join us for an inspiring
candlelit service
to prepare our hearts
for the birth of the Christ Child
and the Season of Advent



I bring you good news of a
great joy which will come
to all the people; for to you
is born this day a Saviour,
Christ the Lord.
Luke 2.10-11

Christmas Services

Dec 24th

5:00pm Children's Service with Communion

10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Dec 25th

10:00am Sung Eucharist



St John's

SHAUGHNESSY

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

欢迎

Sunday in-person services 8am and 10am

Sunday online service

10am [Holy Eucharist live-stream](#)

Wednesday online service

8pm [Midweek Meditation](#)

Rector	The Reverend Terry Dirbas (starting Dec 1 st)
Assistant Priest	The Reverend Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz erceliz@vst.edu
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator	Helen Kline
Rector's Warden	Judith Downes
People's Warden	Maggie Sanders
Treasurer	Donald Wood
Property Trustee	Michael Dezell
Vestry Clerk	The Reverend Karin Fulcher
Music Director	Michael Dirk organist@sjs.net
Choir Director	vacant
Children's Ministry	vacant
Parish Administrator	Janet Hamilton
PWRDF Rep	Doug Symons
Verger/caretaker	Regan Gorman 604 441 5399

Please email the office if you would like to have newsletters sent to you.
Newsletters, leaflets and online videos are posted on the website.

St John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church

Diocese of New Westminster

Anglican Church of Canada

1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, BC, V6H 2E2

604 731 4966 (ex 1 office, 2 Priest-in-Charge)

church@sjs.net

www.sjs.net



Offices are closed, but staff are working from home.

Email and voicemail are checked regularly and often, so please reach out.

Cover: Artwork by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com

