



12 December 2021

newsletter



Third Sunday of Advent

Pandemic Ponderings

We have an ongoing 'discussion' in our house about the colour of Sunday's candle. Some years we have blue Advent candles and some years purple (I like blue, my spouse prefers purple), but we always have one odd coloured candle. It's the Rose candle- the candle of Joy, only I prefer to call it pink. Not only does it reflect the colour more closely (it needs more grey if it's going to be rose) but it drives my spouse bananas- so it's a win/win either way!

This Sunday, the 'pink' candle and the theme is Joy or in Latin Gaudete. I love that we pause in Advent to make room for Joy. Just like the 'pink' candle stands out from the blue and purple just by being a little different, Joy stands out from the rest of December. Joy is different than nice, and it's different than fun, and it's different than happy. It's deeper than that, it's more expansive somehow. Joy is quiet and can come even when we aren't happy- somehow sneaking up on us and surprising us with wonder. It's bigger than nice, and it's more profound than fun. Joy is holy- it's the holiness that finds us in the midst of life.

So no matter the colours of your candles; blue, purple, rose or pink, how are you finding some holy joy this Advent?

Mother Liz

Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

Just thought of a long ago saying I recall. Seems to fit here.

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.

I awoke and saw that life was service.

I acted and behold, service was joy.

Rabindranath Tagore

OVERALL THEME OF THE READINGS

All through these scriptures spiritual help is being offered to lift the burden of fear and anxiety. In each case the thing is to act!. This is a beautiful and lyrical passage. We are listening to a wise and gentle counsellor who believes that trouble may be ahead that is probably

unavoidable. For us who read Zephaniah's words there is our concern about the future because of the still unknown Covid variant called Omicron. Rippling across the news feeds of the world there is fear and anxiety.

THE FIRST READING ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Zephaniah tries to focus people to look beyond the coming trouble. To achieve this he takes a surprising direction. He wants to jolt people out of their anxiety. He suggests there may even be some cause to sing and rejoice! He offers no less than six reasons for this...

1: *"O daughter Jerusalem"*. The fact is that we and God are linked in a living relationship

2: *The Lord has taken away his judgements against you"* . In spite of the difficulty we have in believing it, we are always forgiven and accepted by God.

3: *"The Lord is in your midst"* God is actually with us. we are not alone.

4: *The Lord your God will renew you in his love"*. God has the power to renew us if we are prepared to be open to that power.

5: *I will deal with all your oppressors"*. I have an ally in my efforts to deal with the many things that oppress me as a human being.

6: *"I will bring you home"*. God can bring the torn and fragmented parts of our lives together, all the unresolved stuff that keeps us from being at peace with ourselves, with other people and with God.

CANTICLE 3 Isaiah 12:2-6

The stance of faith in the Bible is always from the human self to to a reality beyond the self - God. Whatever we call what we are seeking - Salvation, security, stability - is not found merely in the autonomous human self. Strength is drawn from the relationship between the self and God.

"Give thanks to the Lord. Sing praises..." Worship is an intimate part of our relationship with God. Worship is to our relationship with God as lovemaking is in our relationships with one another.

THE SECOND READING PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always writes Paul. He feels joyful because the

congregation in Philippi is in good shape. A healthy congregational vitality with a sense of our Lord being present can be wonderfully contagious. "Let our gentleness be known..." We need to remember that quality when we have to differ about issues in congregational life. "Do not worry about anything". Let's face it, easier to say than to do! But there is a truth here. Congregations can do a lot of worrying. Will the money come in this year? Will we get teachers for the children? Will the roof be OK for a while? But the irony is that the answers depend on a whole set of other questions. Is ours a congregation that is essentially healthy? Is scripture a part of our lives? Is worship a vibrant experience? Do we care for one another as a congregation? Do we pray for one another when there is a need? Is there outreach from us as a congregation? Because when we can answer yes to these things then there can be a sense of peace - the peace of God that will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

THE HOLY GOSPEL LUKE 3:7-18

Even though John's words seem harsh and tough, they seem to be received as good news by people. He is showing that a way into the future can be possible if people are willing to change some of their attitudes. "*Bear fruits worthy of repentance,*" he says. John is saying that repentance is not merely looking back and seeing what has been missing or lacking. Real repentance involves acting on what we see when we look back! John is always trying to get people to ACT - not just to regret the past or merely to hope for the future - both of which are not bad but they are insufficient). Notice how John's style is abrasive, yet he is heard as a bringer of good news. Why? because nothing relieves fear and anxiety and indecision more than being given a course of action that is clear, focused and above all do-able!.

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.

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*.

Christmas Flower Dedications

Dec 19th deadline

Every Christmas St John's is adorned with beautiful flowers, especially poinsettias, and fine music. We are collecting flower dedications - a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus and remember loved ones. Please send in your special flower dedications (the exact wording for your dedication) ASAP, which can be memorials or thanksgivings, to the office by December 19th. This will allow us time to add all the flower dedications to the Christmas leaflet. **Email is best**, but you can also call it in, or write it on your donation envelope.



Virtual Coffee Hour after the 10:00am Sunday Service

Join us for a virtual coffee hour using [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88970734514?pwd=Z0hoS1g0SlU5a21XRjhYRHUyN1VtZz09). You can pop in any time between 11am and 12:30pm on Sundays.

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

Helpers needed to Decorate the Church for Christmas Dec 19th

Please bring greens and holly from your gardens!

Right after church on Sunday, December 19th, a team of SJS volunteers will be decorating the church for Christmas. Please bring evergreens and holly if you have them! Contact the office if you would like to join us.

Items needed for Mother Terry and family to borrow

Mother Terry and her family arrive soon, but their furniture will be weeks behind them. We are collecting items for them to borrow until their moving truck arrives: twin size bedding, pillows, towels, baby gates, Swiffer mop, floor lamps, and games/puzzles for children. Please contact the office for details.

Church Photographers Needed

Do you love photography? Do you have a camera that takes great photos in low light settings? Please contact the office if you would like to take photos during and/or after services at SJS.



SJS Hospitality is back!! Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for people to volunteer during coffee hour. Regan has provided guidelines to increase covid safety:

- Each week we require 2 **fully-vaccinated** 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. **Note: at the moment we are well-stocked for coffee hour snacks.**

Fully-vaccinated (if they qualify, 12+) people are welcome to join us. Masks are required (unless actively eating or drinking) and please keep two metres apart. Please do not bring food from home at this time.

Please ask the coffee hour volunteers if they need help with clean up.



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.

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, 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.

If you are already donating using the PAD program, please contact us anytime to confirm your donations for 2022.

Thank you for your generous support!





Advent Reflection: Fever Dreams Dec 8 and 22

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 Two more Wednesdays in Advent – December 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 [Zoom](#) sessions will provide opportunities for reflection and discussion on the challenges we face during this trying time. Please join us!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88079829374?pwd=K29Va2M2Z3pZY0FUCUhoenVIRG9ndz09>



Christmas Shopping List

When shopping for Christmas supplies, please keep our friends on the street in mind, as well. Following is a list of items from which to choose. Please consider expiration dates on items and remember that our friends are mobile, so large, family-sized tins of food, while very generous, are very heavy to carry all day. We are collecting all through December & January. Thank you for your generosity.

- Boost or Ensure Nutrition Drinks (3 month shelf life)
- Self opening Tinned Meat & Fish
- Juice Boxes (3 month shelf life)
- New warm socks & men's medium underwear Nut/
- raisin-free Soft granola bars (3 month shelf life)
- Sleeping Bags (or \$50 donation for one)
- Winter Coats/Toques/ Gloves
- Boots (size 10,11,12)
- Rain Gear
- Fruit/pudding cups
- New personal sized hygiene products
- Hand sanitizer
- Christmas Treats (no nuts or caramel)
- Candy Bars (no nuts or caramel)

"Mutual Transformation"

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 could use more pudding cups and juice boxes. Also outdoor clothes: jackets, rain pants, hats, and gloves are always welcomed by the folks on the street.

We would welcome another member for our little Indoor Team: someone who would like to make 20 sandwiches every other month or so. Our next outing is Saturday, Jan 1st (2022!).

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/>

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>

St. Faith's Christmas Sale December 12 11:30am to 1pm

Come by to pick up some delicious homemade holiday treats, including our famous St. Faith's Mincemeat and tasty Christmas puddings. We also have a lovely selection of previously loved and gently used items that will be perfect for your home or make a thoughtful and environmentally friendly gift—reusing and repurposing is the chic and hip thing to do and

helps us all tread more lightly on our earth home. If all that browsing and shopping gets you hungry, then be sure to enjoy a selection of hot food and drinks that will be available for purchase. 7284 Cypress St, at 57th.

Local Crafters' Sale

December 11 | 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Big Bro's Barbershop, corner of E 1st & Nanaimo. Parking at side of building





Come worship with us
from your livingroom
or in-person!

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

5pm Children's Service with Communion

10pm Christmas Eve Mass

12+ proof of vaccination required for both Dec 24th services

Dec 25th

10am Christmas Day Service with Carols



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

YouTube link on website
or join us on Facebook!

Sunday in-person services 8am and 10am (no 8am on Dec 26)

Sunday online service

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

Wednesday online service

8pm [Midweek Meditation](#)

Priest-in-Charge 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

