



2 January 2022      newsletter



Epiphany

## Message from Mother Terry

Happy new year! Though most of us are celebrating this entire holiday season quietly as we do our part to reduce the transmission of the omicron variant, the new year is still an occasion worth marking. It's a time to take stock of where we've been, and where we'd like to be. It's a time to embrace the new beginning heralded by the coming of Christ into our world, and into our hearts. God is with us. All things are possible.

While our society tends to emphasize setting goals for our physical health and fitness, the truth is most of us don't last very long with these kinds of resolutions. And why would we? With the short days and the cold weather, all I want to do is curl up on my couch with a blanket and some comfort food and cuddle with my children. Perhaps, then, in 2022 we might turn our attention to our spiritual health instead.

What do "healthy diet and exercise" look like in our life of faith? The details may be different for each of us, but we all need to nourish our relationship with God, and to be active in the pursuit of our spiritual wellness. Do we take regular time for prayer? Do we worship as often as we're able, whether in person or online? Do we engage in practices to learn more about our faith, through books, articles, classes, or Bible study? And do we exercise that faith in our daily lives, by serving those in need, caring for the environment, and trying our best to follow the example of Jesus?

These are questions to ask ourselves, without judgment, as we consider what concrete steps we might take to grow closer to God in the coming year. Is there an area of your spiritual life that needs greater attention? If so, what's one specific, sustainable practice you could adopt that might address that need?

The beauty of making resolutions for our spiritual well-being is that we need not fear failure or suffer from guilt when we fall short of our goals. We are flawed. We are human. Yet every moment is an opportunity to begin again. God, who knows all our shortcomings, chose to draw near to us anyway, to show us how profoundly loved we are. So this year, let's

focus on drawing nearer to God, that we might experience the deeper peace and well-being that only God can offer.

Blessings,

Mother Terry+

## **Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll**

### OVERALL THEME OF THE READINGS

These scriptures tell us of how God can call demoralized and scattered people to use them for God's purposes.

### THE FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:7-21

When Jeremiah uttered this lyrical statement there was no evidence that anything he hoped for would come true. Does this sound familiar some days as we enter the new year of 2022? Yet Jeremiah never gives way to bitterness or cynicism. Yes, some anger, bone weariness, frustration, things you and I know well in ministry, but this would have been very understandable. Jeremiah's book is well worth looking at. He faced many things we know these days. Many and great changes, some forcing us to respond though we don't know how to; strident voices pushing various solutions; deep divisions in thinking; real concern for the future. Yet Jeremiah never loses what we might call his sweetness of soul. He sees, and voices for us, a God who cares, always. And he never loses hope. That's really, really important.

Here is the solid foundation of Judaism to this day. Even a disaster - covid? climate change? - is seen to be within the rule of God. God is not just the God of the nice and easy parts of life. (see the attachment below, from a book of Karen Armstrong, a wonderful story).

### THE SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesus is not a happy situation, and Paul is really concerned. He basically asks them if they remember who they really are. He points these people to spiritual blessings they've been given. We can assume we are being asked to do the same thing Paul asks to remember who we are as Christians.

- 1: Paul tells us that God chose us to be holy. We may feel taken aback when we realize how far we can sometimes be from that!
- 2: Paul asks if we know who we really are? The Catechism (BCP) tells me I *am a member of Christ, the ( note "the" not just "a") Child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.* Consider how far this is above what our culture mostly considers us to be - a consumer!
- 3: We are forgiven and accepted by God just as we are! To really believe this should lift our hearts!
- 4: Paul says that God has "made known to us the mystery of God's will." This is a huge statement! I'm being told that Jesus is my window on the universe! His life, death and resurrection are a kind of lens through which I see all reality, all time, all that is alive, and the love that is at the heart of things.

So why are we given these gifts? So that the quality of our daily living might reflect - in whatever way we can - what we see in Jesus.

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

In one sublime sentence John the Evangelist gives us the central glory and central tragedy of Christian faith. At unimaginable cost the Divine become Human only to have the gesture brutally rejected, and to encounter a terrible death,

BUT.... Look at that tiny word that means so much...BUT. It's like a trumpet in the dark: like a shaft of light in darkness. It shouts that all is not lost. Some did receive the Divine gesture and responded. In every age some respond, and that makes all the difference. With those who respond, God in Christ has entered into a relationship. Suddenly we see a people called into being, a people we ourselves are part of. That a good feeling? Of course it is. It straightens the spine! Makes one look up! It gives us grace for tomorrow! Thanks be to 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](http://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*.

## Virtual Coffee Hour after the 10am 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. You may need to wait several minutes for someone else to join you!

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

## 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. Thank you.

## 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.



## Online Worship

To access our worship online you can go to our website at [www.sjs.net](http://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://www.twitch.tv/sjsnanton) or [m.twitch.tv/sjsnanton](https://www.twitch.tv/sjsnanton)  
[facebook.com](https://www.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](mailto: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. PAD forms are in the Narthex or can be emailed. Thank you for your generous support!**



## 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"***



**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
Assistant Priest	The Reverend Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz <a href="mailto:erceliz@vst.edu">erceliz@vst.edu</a>
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 <a href="mailto:organist@sjs.net">organist@sjs.net</a>
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 Rector)

[church@sjs.net](mailto:church@sjs.net)

[www.sjs.net](http://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: *The Visit of the Magi* by Edward Burne-Jones

