

23 January 2022 newsletter



Third Sunday after Epiphany

From the Rector

This week, along with Christians throughout the world, we are observing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This annual event begins on January 18, the day we remember the Confession of Peter, and ends on January 25 with the commemoration of the Conversion of Paul. Throughout the week, many communities hold ecumenical prayer services where members of different denominations come together in worship and fellowship. Individuals and congregations also mark the week by including prayers for unity in the liturgy or in their private devotions.



As we ponder the meaning of Christian unity in a world in which Christians might choose from many denominations or no denomination at all, it's a good time to consider our own stories. How did we come to be Anglican? Whether we've been Anglicans since birth or we found this church later in life, have there been influences on our faith formation that came from outside our own tradition?

I was raised Episcopalian, but I grew up in North Carolina, where I was far outnumbered by those with evangelical leanings. While I disagreed with them about a number of things, especially around worship and Biblical interpretation, I've also come to realize that their particular expression of faith offered me many gifts, too. When I was in secondary school, it was not uncommon for my Baptist friends to pray-- out loud!-- before lunch or before performances. They didn't worry about sounding as eloquent as Thomas Cranmer, nor were they concerned they might be judged for their beliefs. They prayed, without fear. And while I definitely take issue with their interpretation of certain passages of Scripture, I'm so grateful that I grew up surrounded by people who modeled turning to the Bible as a way to listen for God speaking to us in today's world.

I'm also grateful for the ways my faith has been shaped by churches more theologically aligned with our own. As a child I always looked forward to attending Vacation Bible School at the United Methodist church in the

neighborhood. As a teenager I would play the violin at different churches around town, and in doing so I learned a great deal about what I appreciated in our own tradition, as well as what I respected in others'. Without exception, I was warmly welcomed at every church in which I ever played. Hospitality, it seems, is a value that for many Christians transcends theological differences.

This week, as we focus on praying for unity with other Christians, I invite you to take note of the various influences on your own life of faith-- the good and the bad. And I invite you to consider what gifts we might receive, as Anglicans, from other Christians, as well as what gifts our own tradition has to offer to them. No matter how much we might be tempted to focus on our differences, the truth is that we have so much more in common. We all are one in Christ! Let's spend some time this week praying for that unity to be manifest in our hearts through greater compassion and understanding of one another, and in the wider Church as we strive to collaborate in doing the work of the Gospel.

Blessings,

Mother Terry+

Notice of Annual Vestry Meeting February 27th

Our Annual Vestry meeting on February 27th will be on Zoom again this year, and we hope all members of SJS will join us. Please send in your vestry report (if you have one) to the office no later than **February 8th**. The exact time of the meeting will be confirmed soon and will be after the 10am service.

Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

THE FIRST READING Nehemiah 8 (selected verses.)

All the people gathered into the square before the Water Gate. They are just returned from exile. They are faced with rebuilding their small world - their city and country. We can only try to imagine their feelings. Joy of course at being home again, but at what immense cost! They watch and

listen as their leader Ezra holds the great Torah scroll, reminding them of their long tradition of being a people who have a covenant with God.

As I write this we are beginning - just beginning - to imagine a time when Covid, with its restrictions, its fears and its frustrations may be past. Perhaps it would not be a bad idea when that time comes to gather as a congregation. Obviously, we should have a service of specific thanksgiving for being "home" from a kind of exile and able to get together again. But I think that post-Covid gathering needs more. Perhaps a joyful congregational meal - if possible catered so that everyone can enjoy it. Even then, one thing more - a very important thing - one or two congregational sessions when we can exchange thoughts about how we now feel after the long Covid exile from being able to be together. What thoughts have we about our future as a congregation? What has been missing that we long to have back? Are there some things we realize we could do differently, perhaps better?

Perhaps the same sort of gatherings could take place as deaneries, groups of parishes, or even as a diocese. What I am trying to do is to echo that long ago meeting in the ruins of Jerusalem when they drew on the deep wells of who they were and, even more important, *who they could become*, as God's people. We need to design an occasion or occasions to do that for ourselves.

PSALM 19

When we read this Psalm as Christians, all those wonderful properties and gifts of God's Law can be seen as coming to us through Jesus. These gifts flow to us from Him. He is our Torah or sacred Law. As *the Law of God revises the soul...rejoices the heart...gives light to the eyes*, so a relationship with our Lord offers these gifts, provides light and grace for our way ahead, and gives meaning to our lives.

THE SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12: 12 -31a

This moment of writing the letter to Corinth brought a wonderful breakthrough in Paul's thinking. It gave him a flash of intuition that in turn gave him a wonderful metaphor for a Christian community. He realized it was like the human body. Think of your own body, he says to

his readers - think of its limbs, its internal parts and functions - yet you are conscious of being one person! You are many yet you are one. Paul then goes on to work at a thought that is vital to any Christian community. Just as different parts of the body have different functions, it does not mean they don't belong together. So, differences in a congregation do not mean that those differences cannot be woven into a unity. Paul sees a congregation as an organic whole, a web of being, where members may have the same care for one another. Think of the grace available in such a community to every member, both in their times of need and in their times of joy.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 4:14-21

As we listen to the passage that Jesus read in the synagogue on that long ago Sabbath day, we know that there is no doubt how he sees his role and evocation. He sees himself as a LIBERATOR. For us who hear this passage today, its greatness lies in the many levels of meaning in words such as the *poor....the captives....the blind*. In his ministry Jesus will often reach out to those who are physically poor, at other times to those who are spiritually poor. He will reach out to the physically blind but also to those morally blind. To all such human situations Jesus comes as liberator. Perhaps we should follow this train of thought into our own lives. To put it simply, what would I like to be able to let go in my own make-up to feel better about who I am?

SJS Prayer List

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.

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*.

Virtual Coffee Hour after the 10am Sunday Service

Join us for a virtual coffee hour using [Zoom](#). 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://bit.ly/SJScoffee> or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88970734514?pwd=Z0hoS1g0SlU5a21XRjhYRHUyN1VtZz09>

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](#) or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJzbg4009j4WMkaRBvTE-zQ>
[St John's Shaughnessy on Twitch](#) or m.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 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!

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.

Sketches by SJS Choir sub Matthew Jiang









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 Shields Dirbas	terry.dirbas@sjs.net
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

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Offices are closed, but email and voicemail are checked regularly and often, so please reach out. We want to hear from you!

Cover Image: *The Calling of Peter and Andrew*,
Duccio Di Buoninsegna, 1308-11

