



30 January 2022 newsletter



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

From the Rector

Last week my two-year-old son, James, took a tumble in our living room and needed stitches. As I drove him to the hospital, I worried about lots of things. Would he be ok? Would we catch Covid in the waiting room? Would the wait be long, and if so, how will I keep James distracted while he's in pain and has nothing to do or to look at?



When we got to the emergency room, I was a mess of anxiety. I had a crying, bleeding toddler to tend, but I also had a pile of paperwork to fill out, and just as I figured out how to balance it all, we got called into triage. I felt like I really needed an extra couple of arms to hold everything. I was stressed, but at the very least I was glad that I kept my emotions in check.

The triage nurse, though, was amazing. After he was done with vitals, he took one look at our chaos, and said, "I'm going to help you get settled again in the waiting room. You take James. I'll get everything else. Let's get him as far away from other people as we can because of Covid." It was as if in that moment he knew all the different anxieties that were running through my mind, and he spoke right to them. In terms of solving the issue of the gaping wound in my son's head, he didn't necessarily do that much. But that exchange was vital to my feeling like we were seen and cared for.

Sometimes we think we don't have the capacity to make much of an impact on the world. Whether we think we lack the skills or the bank account to make a difference, we tell ourselves that those with more resources will take care of it, and that we have little to contribute. But the reality is that we all have a greater influence on the lives of others than we know. As much as we need doctors who stitch up cuts, we also need triage nurses who say, "Let me help you find a seat," or "Let me get your son a toy car." We need people in orange vests outside telling nervous mothers where they can find parking. We need strangers in the waiting room saying, "Excuse me, a pouch on your bag is unzipped, would you like me to zip it for you?"

There was no hero that day. Instead, there were a bunch of individuals doing their best to show compassion to those in need. The combined effect of all those interactions was that I felt like James was surrounded by supportive people, and that made it easy to trust that everything would be ok.

There are many people in our community right now who are silently wondering if they're going to be ok. Even the most confident people on the outside can have significant private struggles. Let's remember that by showing compassion and kindness, even in the smallest of ways, we spread the love of Christ. That love has the power to bring light into even the darkest places.

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.

Ash Wednesday March 2nd

Please bring back your palm crosses from last year. You may leave them in the donation plate, thank you.



Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

THE OVERALL THEME OF THESE READINGS

In each reading there is a sense of being called to a vocation that will be far from easy. To be faithful will require God's grace.

THE FIRST READING

Your country is going through a most difficult period, its social life unstable, its future threatened by surrounding great powers. You are idealistic and concerned. You feel an urge to take part in the struggle for

the future. You are under no illusions it will be easy but, because you're young you feel you can handle whatever is ahead. All of this is in the opening lines of this scripture. This is Jeremiah's take on things.

There are of course moments of panic. "*Ah Lord God. Truly I don't know how to speak. I am only a boy.*" Yet believing you're under the guidance of a higher power helps to deal with such moments. There is the assurance of a voice within you that says "*I send you. I command you*". However, there is also a warning "*Do not be afraid of them*". There is a "them" in all our lives that has to be faced - rivals, competitors, opponents, even enemies. Facing them takes a lot of trust.

"*I have put my words in your mouth*". One thing the Bible teaches again and again - the power of human speech to heal or to hurt. There will be times when we want to hurt; to return an insult or to explode with impatience. But there will also be opportunities to say a longed-for word of comfort, encouragement, or guidance. We sometimes need a silent prayer to say the word that God wishes us to speak, the word of healing rather than of hurting.

THE PSALM

We humans are a living paradox, a lifelong mingling of strengths and weaknesses, resilience, and fragility. We are never free of the need for security, the need to look to God as *my strong rock ...my castle, ...my crag*. I am strongest when I realize I am not alone and have never been alone.

THE SECOND READING

We are about to read and to listen to one of the world's great statements about the nature of love. Paul has been listing many spiritual gifts in the letter. Then comes his piercing comment. More than once he emphasizes, we can have all the gifts he mentions, but without a loving disposition they mean little. *Love never ends. Love endures all things*. Is this true? Not always. Can human love end.? Yes frequently, sometimes tragically. So, what is Paul talking about? In this passage love mean ultimate love, God's love, the source of all love - the quality of love lived as Jesus lived it. The whole span of our lives is spent trying to grow towards this love. I suspect

that we understand what it means to love fully only when we come to realize that we ourselves are fully loved.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

All spoke well of Jesus...amazed at (his) gracious words. Reading this passage forces us to ask a question. Why, in the course of a few minutes, does an enthusiastic congregation change into a raging, even life-threatening mob? *"Filled with rage...drove him out of town ...to the brow of the hill that they might hurl him off the cliff"*. What can have possibly caused this change? It lies in what Jesus says in verse 25 to 27. He deeply offends this racially conscious Jewish congregation by reminding them of two incidents in their history when God seems to ignore Jewish needs but responds to two people, a Phoenician widow, and a Syrian leper, neither of them Jews. The inclusiveness of Jesus meets the adamant exclusiveness of his own people. We don't know how he survived. Perhaps emotions had cooled by the time they reached the cliff, or perhaps wiser heads prevailed and persuaded the mob that the now unwelcome visitor should merely be sent on his way. This incident takes Jesus one step nearer to the rejection, condemnation and trial that will end in his execution.

ONE MAN'S JOURNAL (by Herb O'Driscoll) <http://onemansjournal.com>

SJS Prayer List

If you request that someone's name be added to the prayer list, please keep in touch with us. At the end of each month, all names will be removed, so you will need to add the names again on the first of each month. Thank you.

WNM items for Homeless Needed

These items are particularly short in supply: Winter clothing, raingear, boots, sleeping bags, socks, pudding cups, granola bars (soft with no fruit/nuts), & juice boxes.

-photo by Dan Toulgoet



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>

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. **No commitment required.** You can just send in photos when ever it suits you.

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 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!



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

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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!

