



6 February 2022      newsletter



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

## From the Rector

It's Olympics time! I don't know about you, but even though I'm not the biggest sports fan, I could use a little diversion. The world has felt so heavy lately that it's nice to see people come together for something uplifting as we support our country's athletes. (For the record, I'm all in for Team Canada this time!)

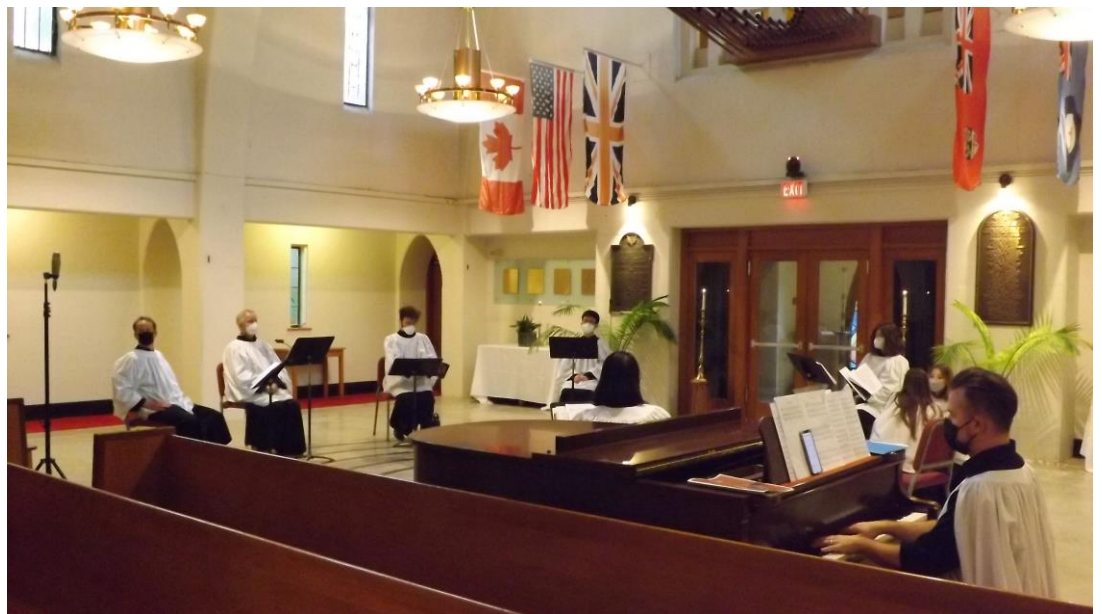


Admittedly, I don't follow all the events closely. I tend to go for the "prime time" events like artistic gymnastics in the summer games, and figure skating in the winter. I did promise myself when we moved that I'd learn to appreciate hockey, but I'm a work in progress. But even with sports I don't necessarily understand, I love the sense of excitement and anticipation, knowing that the athletes have dedicated themselves for so many years to training for this rare event. It is a beautiful, hopeful thing to see people reach their goals and flourish after much hard work.

What I love most about the Olympics, however, is that while there is certainly fierce competition, there is also camaraderie and cooperation. In the opening ceremonies, athletes walk in by country, but at the closing, they all walk together, symbolically acting as "one nation." I find this a beautiful image of our oneness with other Christians and other children of God. We have different interests, different cultures, and we can celebrate that diversity, but at the end of the day, we can and should support one another, for we are all God's beloved children.

Blessings,  
Mother Terry+

photo by  
Regan Gorman





## Notice of Annual Vestry Meeting February 27<sup>th</sup>

Our Annual Vestry meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>.** The exact time of the meeting will be confirmed soon and will be after the 10am service.

## Ash Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

### OVERALL THEME OF THE READINGS

Each of the readings points in some way to those moments when we become aware of the mysterious presence of God in our experience.

### THE FIRST READING Isaiah 6. 1-8 (9-13)

Isaiah's experience is very much ours. *In the year that (his) king dies* he comes to an intense sense of God's presence in his life. If we think of kingship as a source of authority, our 21st century culture is experiencing the changing and dying of many sources of authority, many institutions, many traditions. For Isaiah *the pivots on the thresholds shook*. For us too there is sense that many social and cultural foundations we have long taken for granted are shaking. Also for Isaiah *the house filled with smoke*. For us today the way ahead is anything but clear.

When God calls Isaiah he feels utterly inadequate. He says "*I am a man of clean lips*". He also despairs of his whole society, saying "*I live among a people of unclean lips.*" With all the change and turmoil today, despairing of one's society is a common experience. But notice that Isaiah cannot bring himself to simply walk away from responsibility. He says "*My eyes have seen the Lord of hosts.*" He feels held in the force-field of God's presence. The moment he realizes this he receives God's grace. He realizes that - adequate or inadequate - he has something to contribute. This is exactly

what we are being called to do - to offer the gifts we have to contribute. To say Yes to God even in this challenging time.

#### THE PSALM 138

*"Before the gods I sing your praise".* Easy to miss something here. The poet is saying that he chooses the God of Israel before and above any lesser gods. We're being given a bit of spiritual direction here. Within all of us there are many lesser "gods" or valued, vying for attention, pulling us towards itself. The god of our fears, the god of our anxieties, in short, the god of our ever-demanding self. Important in my spirituality is to reach for spiritual resources beyond just myself. *"When I called, you answered me. You increased my strength within me"*

#### THE SECOND READING 1 Cor 15:1-11

There is a kind of trap that ensnares many of us. We tend to assume that unless we too have some kind of shattering Damascus Road experience like Paul, we have not encountered Christ as a source of grace in our lives. After all, we think, who are we, - utterly ordinary us - to expect such an encounter? We need to realize that our very searching for a relationship with the risen Christ is itself the indication of a relationship with Him! Our searching for Him is a sign that he already walks in our soul. We don't need some imagined melodramatic Damascus Road experience. The stranger whom we wish to encounter is already within us. You and I are on a spiritual journey

#### THE GOSPEL PASSAGE Luke 5:1-11.

When the overwhelming draft of fish was drawn in, something happens deep inside Peter. He realizes that he's in the presence of something or someone greater than his own limited humanity. Kneeling in the boat he blurts out *"Go away from me Lord for I am a sinful man"*.

We have all done this kind of kneeling. ...perhaps before something incredibly beautiful, maybe before someone we admire immensely, perhaps glorious music, perhaps a moment of worship that has suddenly catapulted us to unexpected heights of emotion. One is aware only of Presence before which or whom the only thing to do is to kneel down,

knowing that every aspect of one's life is open to this Presence, is being judged by the Presence, yet knowing that even the judgement itself will be loving. There is a beautiful Gaelic song that (in English translation) prays "By the Christ of the sea may we be caught in the nets of God"

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. Email the office anytime! 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.

## **WNM Street Outreach Team Report    Saturday, Jan 29**

### **Team Members: Peg Gabor & Steph Martens**

On a cloudy Saturday morning, Steph and Peg met Ken Pepin at St. John's Shaughnessy. We received generous packets: a brown bag with fresh sammies—egg, banana—a snack cake, lots of socks and other clothing, and blankets. Peg had toiletries.

Ken saw us off with prayer.

Peg had her husband Eric and dog Stella in the car, so we took two cars. We drove west to St Helen's, but Blair was not there, so we left a packet by his neatly folded bedding.

At the Highbury fence, we found T. He took food and said his shoulder injury was healing.

P was not at Whole Foods, but we found L panhandling in front of Shoppers. Steph had met her before. She is housed downtown but said she comes to this area because people are generous here. She took food, and



when asked if she needed anything else, she told us about her friend R who is also in need. We gave her food for him.

We navigated to the parkade behind Windsor Plywood. There was a big camp in the corner draped with tarps. When we called out, a voice from inside responded and took food, but only identified themselves as “a friend of Harold.” Just then, C came by—young, middle-aged, dark hair, slim. He told us he had lost his home and possessions and had nothing but the clothes on his back and a few things in a duffle. We gave him food, a warm shirt, gloves, hat and blanket, and our laminated card with services and info. He requested boots or shoes size 11 or 12.

Under the bridge at Granville and 7th, we saw another camp. It was H, R and B. They all took food, clothes and toiletries and were happy to see us, especially H, who said he’d had an operation and now he can pee “really well!” As we were leaving, more fellows showed up, including Conrad, who we had just met in the parkade, and W, to whom we gave food.

We moved the cars a few blocks south, parked, loaded up again and set off on foot. At the VSB park, we woke up E, who was sleeping on the grass with a nice, warm sleeping bag and mat. E is applying for CPP but lost his phone recently. We told him we have phones for people sometimes and would let the WANM know he needed one.

We continued east on 10th. There was a large cart and belongings just east of Granville, and we left a packet. Behind McDonald’s, there was no one in the lane, but we saw another cart in front and left another packet.

We walked through the construction on Broadway and found A outside Circle K. He took food and told us that the big cart on Granville belonged to his friend R. We circled back to our cars but did not see anyone else in the area.

We drove back west on Broadway. The construction traffic was brutal, and we had to detour around the block to get to J and J, who were waiting at their usual spot by Wawanesa. J just got new dentures and will be getting a shave and haircut soon. As usual, J was chatty, but the construction noise made it hard to hear. J requests XL size underwear (we only had medium).

There was no one at the Safeway at MacDonald and B'way or Tim Horton's. Steph took 2 packets and fresh food and stopped at Shoppers in Dunbar on her way home. She met K, who was new to her. He looked pretty run down, and she gave him the food and a Shoppers gift card. What a thoughtful thing to do!

Peg brought the last 2 remaining packets and some extra socks and caps to St. Anselms for the next outing.

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

photo by Regan Gorman





**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	<a href="mailto:terry.dirbas@sjs.net">terry.dirbas@sjs.net</a>
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

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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!

