



13 February 2022 newsletter



Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

From the Rector

A few weeks ago, the Church lost a great light when the Very Rev. James E. Carroll departed this life. Father Jim, as he was known, was the first Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, in San Diego, and in his retirement he served at my former parish of All Souls' Point Loma for many years. He was a friend and a mentor to me and to many others. He was 92 years old and in poor health for the last couple of years, but I'm told that he did manage to celebrate Eucharist one more time in December. With his wisdom, his charm, his extraordinary intelligence, and his gentle encouragement, he was truly a blessing to the people of God.



One of the pieces of advice Father Jim once gave to my husband, Joe, was, "Be obedient to your vision." Joe took this to heart and even put it on the whiteboard in his office for many years afterward. It's such a simple statement, but it has been so powerful for us.

What does it mean to you, to be obedient to your vision? What is your vision? For the world, for our local community, and for St. John's?

The pandemic has brought about much pain and frustration and a variety of other challenges, but if there's one thing we know as followers of Jesus, it's that grief never has the last word. Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning. As we look with hope toward the transformation of these challenging times into a new chapter in our life together as a parish, what is our vision? And how might we be obedient to it? If we have a vision of a community that is safe and peaceful and caring, what can we do, in our daily living, to bring that vision to reality? If we have a vision of a church that's thriving and welcoming to all people, what small steps can we take to make that experience come to be? Being obedient to the vision isn't necessarily about having the overarching plan to get us to the final goal. It's about living into the reality to which we aspire, by the way that we live our lives each day.

My friends, I invite us all to prayerfully consider what vision for the Church, and for this congregation, God has placed in our hearts. Let's take

some time to meditate on that, to open ourselves to new possibilities and to dream big! And let's share those hopes and dreams with one another. But we can't stop there. If we don't do the work—if we don't take the first step, however small—then a dream is just a dream. So once we have that conviction, let's follow through. May we dream big, and may God give us the wisdom and courage to be obedient to our vision.

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) this week ASAP.** 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 FIRST READING Jeremiah 17:5-10

Jeremiah is not dismissing the abilities and strengths of his people. Far from it. He wants them to realize that if they are prepared to reach out for the grace and guidance of God, their own human abilities will be strengthened and blest in every way. His insight is just as true for us.

Some people think Christian faith is nothing more than dependency. They maintain that we can't handle life ourselves, so we invent a source called God to do it for us. Nothing could be further from the truth. Each of us has to live our lives. This is why we are given gifts and strengths to do so. But millions of people have discovered that if we turn beyond ourselves for grace, we receive grace! Jeremiah uses a simple but crystal-clear image. *'Hearts who turn away from their Lord shall be like a shrub in the desert.'* There is a big difference between a tree struggling to survive in the desert and

one growing near water. The first has no resources but itself. It has to struggle fiercely to survive. The tree near water has a resource beyond itself. *"Those who trust in the Lord shall be like a tree planted by water."*

THE SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15. 12-20

The Christian claim that Paul puts to those readers long ago, is that Jesus, who appeared among his friends, had not in any way avoided death but had moved beyond death into another mode of being. For Paul, Jesus is not just a great teacher, a wise guru, a wonderful storyteller. Paul sees Jesus as moving our human nature, the very same human nature he shared with us, beyond the prison of time and death where we live out our human nature, moving it into the presence of the Divine where our humanity is accepted and forgiven. Jesus, if you will, leads the way for us. I am under no illusion that to say will lessen for one moment the towering mystery of the risen Christ. What I am saying is, that by his living out among us the human nature we all share, Jesus transformed that human nature so that it becomes capable of experiencing life on another level. I also am fully prepared to admit that any language I could find will fall short of "explaining" what is forever a mystery. Even Paul himself acknowledges this when he says *"Behold I tell you a mystery....We shall be changed"*

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 6:17-26

Luke writes *"Jesus looked up at his disciples"*. I wonder why. After all there was a crowd. Why single out the intimate group. I think it may have been because it is very soon after he has chosen them. If this is true, these disciples got a most sobering description of their own future. He must have turned their world upside down, and unless we hear it as turning our lives upside down, then we haven't really heard it. In the next few minutes Jesus takes what it means to be poor and what it means to be rich and reverses all the categories! Everyone's world gets upended! *Blessed are you who are poor...who are hungry...who weep...Blessed are you when people revile you...hate you...exclude you...defame you...Woe to you who are rich...you will be hungry.*

Try to imagine what it was like to hear this for the first time. When occasionally these words explode in the ears of a particular person, they transform his or her life and bring into being a person whom the rest of us regard with awe, the awe we reserve for spiritual giants call Saints. These words of Jesus challenge every aspect of human life and human society. They reveal something so novel that we even refer to it as being a different realm. We call it the *kingdom of God*! Two modern lives come to mind, that of Dorothy Day and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. A quick look at their lives will tell us why. As Bonhoeffer challenged the terrible evil of Hitler and his Nazis he said to a group of seminarians *"When God calls a man, God calls him to die"*.

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.



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=Z0hoS1g0SlU5a21XRjhYRlUyN1VtZz09>

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](https://www.facebook.com/sjsnanton) 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!

SJS Garden photo by Paul Bunnell



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
Vestry Clerk The Reverend Karin Fulcher

Music Director Michael Dirk organist@sjs.net
Rector's Warden Judith Downes
People's Warden Maggie Sanders
Treasurer Donald Wood
Property Trustee Michael Dezell
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator Helen Kline
Altar Guild Susan Firus
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!

