



6 March 2022

newsletter



First Sunday of Lent



-photo by Matthew Jiang

From the Rector

As we mark the transition into the season of Lent, we will begin this week's service with the Great Litany. It is called the "Great Litany" to distinguish it from the other litanies found in our authorized liturgical materials, such as the litanies we might use at the Prayers of the People, the Litany of Thanksgiving, or the Litany of Penitence we just prayed at our Ash Wednesday service.

The Great Litany was the first rite to be published in English, prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in 1544. King Henry VIII ordered its use in all English churches at a time when England was at war with Scotland and France. It was later included as an appendix in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer, and it has been with us ever since. Though some of its petitions may seem archaic to us, it is a beautiful and comprehensive prayer that serves as a connection with our historic Anglican roots and offers a reminder that in all things, we are utterly dependent on God's providence.

As the Great Litany is such a full expression of our prayers and our penitence, when it begins the liturgy, there is no need for the Prayers of the People or for a confession of sin later in the service. This slight change in the order of worship may feel a bit awkward, but that very discomfort is a part of what helps us mark the Lenten season as distinct from others.

You will likely notice some other changes this season, as well. In subsequent weeks, we won't go through the entire Great Litany again, but we will begin our service with the Penitential Order—a format especially suited for Lent, in which the confession comes at the beginning of worship, rather than just before Holy Communion. Throughout the season, instead of a “Gloria” we will sing a “Kyrie”—a song not of praise, but of petition for God's mercy. Likewise, we refrain from the “alleluia” and the collective “Glory to God” at the conclusion of the service, reserving the shout of praise and our beloved communal doxology for an even more joyful expression at Easter.

As Anglicans, we have a rich liturgical heritage, and a sincere belief that “praying shapes believing.” It is my hope that the worship we offer throughout the season of Lent will be authentic, beautiful, and transformative for us all.

Love,
Mother Terry+

Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

THE FIRST READING Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The instructions are detailed and vivid. *You shall take some of the first of all the fruit.* Notice the emphasis on the first. This is not to be an afterthought when everything else is done. *You shall go to the place where the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.* Its intriguing that God chooses where the divine presence will dwell. We tend to build our churches and then assume our choice is necessarily God's. Maybe we should be continually open to the possibility that the Holy is in all sorts of places.

Notice the words *"the land your God is giving you."* We might expect that would be *"has given you"*. Instead there's the implication that our relationship with God is one of always receiving. Far from making me feel always a dependent, this gives me the good news that there is always more to be received if I am prepared to be open to receiving.

Notice the detailed instructions...*you shall say...you shall reply. Why this repetition?* Because in the Bible "naming" is powerful. In worship we name God. In confession we name aspects of ourselves that need to be faced. In praise we name aspects of our lives we forget about in the busyness of life. In intercession we name our concern for others. In a sense to name something is to bring it into existence in a new way. To name my dependence on God is to renew and enrich my relationship with God.

THE PSALM 91: 1 and 2. 9-16

The opening lines are among the loveliest in the Psalms. They express a deep relationship between God and our humanity. I find myself forming them into a personal prayer *"O God most High, shelter my life, that I, living in the shadow of your greatness, may always know you to be my fortress, my God in whom I trust"*. As one says this prayer, one also thinks of the hymn *"Be Thou my Vision"*.

THE SECOND READING Romans 10:8b-13

The word on your lips and in your heart. St Paul seems to be saying that faith is somehow not fully faith until it is in some way proclaimed. These days, when Christian faith is a personally chosen faith, Christians must discover viable ways to speak of their faith when a moment or a situation make this possible or desirable. There are times when doing this can be clumsy and intrusive, but there are also many suitable occasions. For instance with a friend or colleague when we may be discussing the stresses of our lives, personal and professional. Think how effective it can be when someone in a conversation says quite naturally that he or she finds strength and encouragement in the life of the community where they worship. In such a moment an invitation can be extended in a non intrusive way. Suddenly, unknown to ourselves, were doing that frightening religious thing called evangelism! - doing it in a way that makes it the most natural thing in the world!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 4:1-13

Jesus was *led by the spirit into the wilderness*. Notice he didn't wander in by accident! He was "*led...by the spirit*". Next time you or I find ourselves in a wilderness situation - a time of confusion or fear or anxiety - it might be good to ask ourselves if there is a reason for our being in it. Do we need to learn something from the experience? For *forty days he was tempted by the devil*. We are being told that not everything can be solved quickly and easily. Somethings take time. We need to plod through, searching for all the resources we can find. *Tempted by the devil* is not the kind of language we would use but that doesn't change the fact that we can experience times in our lives when we can encounter things that can be demons in how they affect us - the demon of fear...the demon of depression...the demon of anxiety....just to name some. As we know only too well, there is an endless selection!

Think of one of them as self doubt. The cold inner voice of self doubt says to Jesus "*If you are the Son of God....*" We all know self doubt. Who am I really? Am I who I think and hope I am? Can I be what I think I'm being called to be? We all know those voices.

Notice too how all three temptations are to Jesus' ego. The demon is saying "you can be this if you want to". Jesus says no again and again. What does he say yes to? To coming back from the wilderness, going back up to the lake, going down to the lakeshore and saying to four friends he already knows "Lets talk. I have a dream I want to share." They will recall that day as the day he said to them "Follow me". For Jesus it's the day he chooses community over ego.

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.

PWRDF support for Ukraine

PWRDF is supporting Ukrainians forced to flee their homes due to the Russian invasion. The initial grant of \$20,000 issued to an ACT Alliance appeal has been increased to \$50,000. The grants will fund the work of ACT member Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA).

As the war began on February 24, tens of thousands of Ukrainians fled for safety elsewhere in Ukraine or to neighbouring countries. HIA has been working in Ukraine for more than 25 years in humanitarian and development projects. It had already shipped 28 tons of food to support those fleeing to Hungary, and their staff have been working with refugees at the Ukraine/Hungary border.

Yelena was one of hundreds of Ukrainians in line at a border crossing into Hungary, waiting with her three children while her husband is on the frontlines. She told ACT, “We heard that the Polish border is completely jammed, so we decided to cross the mountains and try to make it into Hungary. My sister is still on the way, I have no idea where she or my nieces are.”

On February 27, HIA set up a 24-hour refugee support point on the Hungarian side of the border at Beregsurány, where the line of refugees trying to cross into Hungary is kilometres long, says an ACT communiqué. The support point was set up in a heated pavilion almost 4 km away in Asztély, Ukraine, near the border crossing. More tents and mobile toilets will be added in the coming days. HIA is providing hot tea, sandwiches, refreshments, blankets and basic hygiene items for Ukrainians, including many elderly and children who are waiting long hours to cross the border into Hungary.

“In addition to the tangible help at the support point, HIA also helps those arriving with information in Hungarian and Ukrainian, including how those in need can get temporary accommodation in Hungary,” says ACT. There is also support from local volunteers, such as a nearby Serbian bakery who is providing fresh bread, made with flour donated from Hungary.

“We’ve been standing here at this border checkpoint for more than five hours,” says Yelena. “It is cold and my children are freezing. It is amazing

to see that people are here to help, and even just talking to you gives us hope for a better future.”

Please follow this link to donate:

[Donation Form \(donorperfect.net\)](#)

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.

SJS Hospitality volunteers needed!

If you are interested in volunteering with hospitality, please let us know. The coffee and snacks are purchased, but we still need volunteers to make it happen.

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

SJS camera available

Do you love photography? Please contact the office if you would like to take photos during and/or after services at SJS. **No commitment required, and we have a terrific camera you can use.**

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!



-photos by Matthew Jiang





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.

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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: Artwork by John Stuart www.stushieart.com

