



13 March 2022

newsletter



Second Sunday of Lent



From the Rector

“How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

Last week, we celebrated International Women’s Day, and my social media feed lit up with all kinds of messages of women honoring their mothers, sisters, daughters, best friends, role models, and more. It seems a fitting coincidence, then, that our lectionary this week highlights one of the most famous verses of Scripture that associates the divine with the feminine.

So much of the imagery our faith has promoted for God, through Scripture, art, and language, is what many of us would call masculine. But our tradition actually contains many references to the divine as feminine, as well. In ancient Syriac, the word for the Spirit (*ruach*) is grammatically feminine, and imagery of the Spirit as a woman abounds. Likewise in Proverbs, Wisdom is depicted as feminine. In Hosea, God compares Godself to a mother teaching her child to walk and lifting her infant to her cheek. (11:3) In Isaiah, God is described as a nursing mother and a woman in labor. (49:15; 42:14) And then, of course, we have this passage from the Gospels, in which Jesus compares himself to a mother hen protecting her chicks.

I came home from work last night, and when I sat down on the couch, all five of my children came over to try to snuggle with me. While the warm, fuzzy feeling didn't last long before they all started arguing about who got to be on my lap and who got to be under which arm, for a brief moment I had such a deep sense of peace and gratitude, with all my chicks gathered under my own wings, so to speak. Hearing the words of Jesus, then, this morning as I prayed through the lectionary for my Sunday sermon, I felt a renewed connection to Jesus, who longs to hold us close, to love and protect us.

But if there's one thing we're learning in the continued revelation of the Spirit in our own day, it's that gender identity is more complex than humans have understood in ages past. And we are still learning. These days, we recognize that manhood and womanhood are not necessarily synonymous with fatherhood and motherhood, nor are they categories that speak for the experience of every child of God. Yet the characteristics that we typically define as masculine and feminine are present in all of us, in varying degrees in particular circumstances. So this week, as we remember International Women's Day and the divine feminine in the Christian tradition, I invite us all to consider how we might become more like Jesus, acting as a mother hen gathering her brood under her wings. Who are we called to nurture and protect, in our own lives? May God bless us as we undertake that holy work.

Love,
Mother Terry+

Special Vestry Meeting

April 3 at 11:30pm on Zoom

On April 3 after the 10am Mass we will have a Special Vestry Meeting at which members will be asked to approve our financial statements. Copies will be sent out to members of SJS prior to the meeting. All members of St John's Shaughnessy are invited to attend (those over 15 who attend St John's and give financially and in other ways to the parish are able to vote). Zoom link will be sent out the week before the meeting.

Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

THE PANIC ATTACK (REV)

A reflection on Genesis 15. and Genesis 21 1-7.

Abraham is the father of three of the world's great religions, Judaism, Islam and Christianity. Yet there is an occasion when we see this towering figure consumed by abject fear and doubt.

The occasion comes at the height of Abraham's eventful life. He has followed what he understands to have been a divine call to emigrate southwest into an utterly unknown future. Here in what would one day be called Palestine and Israel, his extended family is now a powerful tribe, unchallenged in the area.

Yet it is precisely at this juncture that Abraham suddenly plummets from the height of confidence to the pit of despair. It happens in the early evening hours...

He knew that he was exhausted, that he was desperately worried about a number of things, but this was different. Suddenly he knew he must be alone. Walking as quickly as he could without attracting attention, he left the encampment, his mind in turmoil, trying to get a grip on his feelings, to regain confidence.

He had every reason to be satisfied with his life. He had large tracts of lands and herds, a huge community that trusted him and looked to him for leadership. Above all there was Sarah; magnificent loving Sarah, a woman far beyond his deserving.

But the dark shadow gripped him with chilling power, forcing him to his knees on the still warm sand. Behind him the evening campfires were being lit. Dreading that he might be seen, he scrambled to his feet and walked further into the desert. He felt the weight of vast responsibility. So much was at stake for this people who looked to him for a future. Yet one supremely important thing was missing. He and Sarah had no family. He knew all too well the iron law of the desert. No son meant no future.

He had always had a stubborn sense of destiny about his life. He had always been certain that the God to whom he had always sacrificed and prayed had a future for him, that there would be – there had to be! - a son

and heir. Standing still for a moment, he listened for the echo of that promise, hearing nothing but the silence of the wadi.

Doubt gripped him. Could he really trust this God who had promised? What if his sense of destiny was only a pathetic illusion? Torn between trust and doubt, he looked up to where the stars formed a glistening carpet of light. He had felt himself destined for so much. Was he a deluded fool to have left everything familiar? Was this trek southwards to end only in disaster and failure?

As he doggedly walked on, the peace of the desert calmed him. After all, his God had brought him to this point. His people were strong. Morale was high. But once again the thought of the childless marriage swept over him. What proof had he that the future was assured? He was appalled to hear himself sobbing.

The sound of a small animal gave him the idea of making a sacrifice. He knew there would by now be youths on night guard duty not far away. Gathering himself he walked to the end of the wadi and called. Two of the youths came and assisted him without question. The small wooden pile was set alight, the animal quickly and efficiently slaughtered; the smoke ascended to the night sky. He knew he must not show any symptoms of weakness before these young men. His desperate prayer was made silently. He was appalled to see a terrible omen appear in the shape of carrion vultures alighting out of the shadows, greedy for the burnt flesh he was offering to an absent God.

He would never be sure what happened after he had dismissed the two young sentries, ordering them back to their posts. He must have slept from sheer exhaustion. Dreams had come, nightmares interspersed by what seemed short visits from a Presence that spoke of a future where suffering and sacrifice would have to be paid for the future he and his people hoped for. Afterwards he recalled a flaming torch, perhaps the last flames of the sacrifice beside which he had fallen asleep. And somewhere in his dreaming he had heard a promise made once again *"to your descendants I give this land..."*

In the years ahead there would be other such wrestling between faith and doubt. But there would come a day he would never forget. His beloved Sarah would come to him with the news he had thought he would never hear. "Who would have ever said to you" she asked him, "that I would nurse children? Yet I am about to bear you a son...". And her laughter, joined by his, would echo across the hills and valleys where a people dwelled.

Psalms in the Wilderness Lenten Studies: 7pm Tuesdays on Zoom

March 15th with Deacon Pitman, Mother Elizabeth, and Deacon Karin.
Please join us for the second of five sessions this Tuesday night!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86230787192?pwd=N2twdXBYM05qV3RDNmVtSnJTYlJPQT09>

Psalmen Gesenge. CXLVII

Inhalt. Ein Bett vñ Trost Psalm / von der gewaltigen vñ allweg bereiten hilff Gottes aus den sünden / von feindt vñ allerlei gefahr vñ übel / zum preis vñ ewigen lobe Gottes.

Adam Reissner.

Du dich hab ich gehoffet, Herr

hoffet Herr / Hilff das ich nicht zu schanden werd / Noch ewiglich zu spotte / Des bitt ich dich / Erhalte

Psalmen Gesenge. CXLVIII

mich / In deiner trew Herz Gotte. II

Dein gnedig ohr neig Herz zu mir / Erhöre mein bitt / thu dich herfür / Eil bald mich zu errette / In angst vñ weh / Ich lig vñ steh / Hilff mir in meinen nöten. III

Ein Gott vñ schirmer steh mir bey / Sei mir ein burg darin ich frey / Vñ ritterlich mög streitten / Wider mein feind / Der gar vil seind / An mir auff beden seiten. IIII

Du bist mein sterck / mein fels / mein hort / Mein schilt / mein krafft / sag mir dein wort / Mein hilff / mein heil

Text and melody of the hymn "In dich hab ich gehoffet, Herr"
from *Das Gros Kirchen Gesangbuch* (The Main Church Hymnbook), Strasburg, 1565

Lenten Studies: Praying the Psalms

The penitential season of Lent invites Christians to prayer and reflection as we prepare ourselves for the passion and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Our Lenten study sessions on praying the Psalms organized by Mother Liz continues on Tuesday March 15 at 7:00 by Zoom. This session will focus on Psalm 31, Verses 1-5.

Psalm 31: 1-5

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

² Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.

⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

We will pray these verses and reflect on their impact and meaning for us through *Lection Divina*. We will then do a bit of "illumination" by which we decorate a selected word or phrase to express its impact and meaning for us. Participants are asked to bring a sheet of paper and writing implements such as an ordinary pencil, coloured pens or pencils, crayons, or painting supplies.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86230787192?pwd=N2twdXBhYm05qV3RDNMVtSnJTYlJPQT09>

Best wishes to Regan

After three years of devoted service, our verger, Regan Gorman, will be leaving St John's Shaughnessy. Regan has accepted a position at St Mary's Kerrisdale, and he will begin his work there on April 1. While we are sad to see him go, we are grateful for the good work he has done here, and we wish him all the best on the next stage of his journey. Please see below for a farewell letter from Regan, and please join us at church on Sunday, March 20, when Regan will be on hand to say goodbye.

A fond farewell

As you may have heard, I have decided to leave my position as Verger / Caretaker of St John's Shaughnessy. I will have you know that it was not an easy decision.

I was hired to start at St John's as of April 1st, 1999 and it will be exactly 3 years to that day that I will take on a similar position at St Mary's Kerrisdale. I'm hoping my starting a new job (again) on "April Fools Day" turns out to be as much of a blessing as when I joined St John's. In my 3 years as Verger, I have met so many wonderful people, had dedicated co-workers and had the opportunity to make this glorious property my home. It was nice (for a change) to have a landscaper look after my lawn. It was also a time for me to learn, grow and transition into the person I am today. I remember telling some of the St John's people that "my next move would be into the memorial garden". I guess I need to take that back.

Together we have weathered the smoke from Forest Fires, atmospheric rivers, a Pandemic and now a gut-wrenching invasion of a country by a superpower. Through it all, St John's never skipped a beat, and I am proud to have been a part of that. So many have - and continue to - rally around the word of the church and take solace in the fact that there is a grand plan and ultimately a reason for it all.

The good news to some (and perhaps not so good to others) is that you are not getting rid of me entirely. In addition to my duties at St Mary's I will be remaining the building manager of the Diocese of New Westminster so I will still be on the property on (almost) a daily basis. I'm certain that

Monday's will be one of those days and it is always a delight to see the garden group and share a few stories - more colourful ones when Mr. Prescott joins!

I look forward to forging a cooperative relationship with the new Verger of St John's and will always look back on my time here fondly.

One final thought. Those of you who have received emails from me before may have seen the following quote in my signature line. For those of you I don't email, allow me to share it.

Greatness lies not in being strong, but in the right using of strength.

And strength is not used rightly when it serves only to carry a man above his fellows and for his own solitary glory.

He is the Greatest whose strength carries up the most hearts by the attraction of his own.

Henry Ward Beecher.

With Love and Gratitude.

Regan

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.

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 more volunteers to make it happen. Our first day back for hospitality

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@sjc.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!



Lenten Bach Series with Michael Dirk

March 17

Michael will be performing with Belle Voci and members of Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra next Thursday at 7:30pm at Holy Rosary Cathedral downtown, 646 Richards Street. <https://bellevoci.ca/tickets-concerts/>

Remember to move your clocks
ahead on Saturday night!

St. Mary's Kerrisdale Elders Group presents

Are You Ready for Tomorrows Decisions?

ADVANCED CARE PLANNING
WORKSHOPS (ZOOM)

Session 1: Saturday March 19, 2022

(9:30am to 12:30pm)

This session is designed to:

- provide an opportunity for participants to learn about advanced care planning (ACP), so that they are aware of their options
- increase the comfort of participants to discuss ACP with family and their healthcare providers
- increase awareness of available resources to support participants in their ACP
- How to create an information binder and emergency notices

Session 2: Saturday, April 2, 2022

(9:30am to 12:30pm)

The second session will feature a guest speaker from Seniors First BC and will cover:

- Representation Agreements
- Power of Attorney
- Wills
- Supports available from Seniors First BC

Please note that while the two sessions are linked you may come to both or just one of them as they are designed to be stand-alone. Materials will be made available to participants after each session.



Using materials and a facilitator trained by the BC Centre for Palliative Care, this is a two-session workshop about the Advance Care Planning (ACP) process of "Think, Talk, Plan" that prepares participants and their families to make decisions about their future health care and personal care.



REGISTER ONLINE

March 19 <https://bit.ly/3K15CVd>

April 2 <https://bit.ly/35lw9O9>



This project is funded in part by the Government of
Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program

Canada

St. Mary's
KERRISDALE

**St. Mary's Kerrisdale Elders Group presents
Are You Ready for Tomorrow's Decisions?
Advance Care Planning (ACP) Workshop**

Using materials and a facilitator trained by the BC Centre for Palliative Care, this is a two-session workshop about the Advance Care Planning (ACP) process of "Think, Talk, Plan" that prepares participants and their families to make decisions about their future health care and personal care.

Session 1: Saturday March 19, 2022, 9:30am to 12:30pm via ZOOM

Register at <https://bit.ly/3K15CVd>

This session is designed to:

- provide an opportunity for participants to learn about ACP, so that they are aware of their options
- increase comfort of participants to discuss ACP with family and their health-care providers
- increase awareness of available resources to support participants in their ACP
- How to create an information binder and emergency notices

Session 2: Saturday, April 2, 2022, 9:30am to 12:30pm via ZOOM

Register at <https://bit.ly/35lw9O9>

The second session will feature guest speaker from Seniors First BC and will cover:

- Representation Agreements
- Power of Attorney
- Wills
- Supports available from Seniors First BC

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This project is funded in part by the Government of
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Canada 

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

Verger/caretaker Regan Gorman 604 441 5399

Social Distancing
Please keep
one bishop-length apart.



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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church@sjs.net

www.sjs.net



Offices are closed, but staff are working from home.
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

