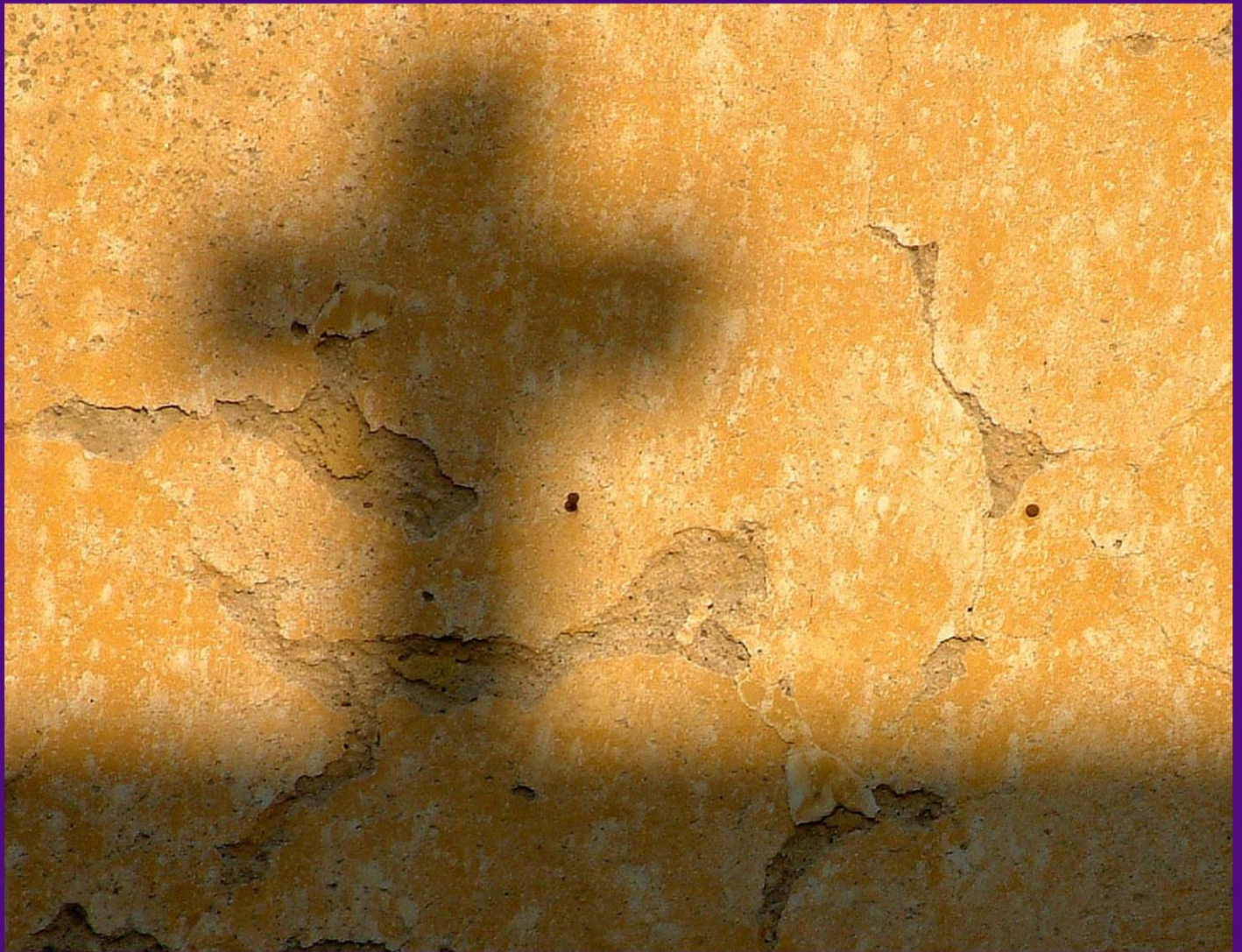




20 March 2022

newsletter



Third Sunday of Lent



From the Rector

Celebrations in the Season of Lent

“Lenten celebrations” sounds like a bit of an oxymoron, doesn’t it? It’s not as inconsistent as it sounds. There are a number of occasions during the season of Lent in which we engage in various kinds of (usually slightly restrained) celebration.

All Sundays are feasts of our Lord, and as such they are not actually part of the “40 days” of the season of Lent. If you count up the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, you’ll find that the math doesn’t quite check out. This is because when Christians first began observing the season of Lent, they only practiced it for the six weeks prior to Easter. But six weeks, times six days in a week (because we don’t fast on Sundays), only works out to thirty-six days. Because of the desire to evoke Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness, the Church decided to extend the Lenten season by beginning the Wednesday before the first Sunday of Lent, which is why we now observe the season beginning on Ash Wednesday. But I digress... the point is, Sundays are intended to be a day of celebration, even in Lent.

There are also two (or three, depending on where you live) major feasts that often take place during the Lenten season. The most prominent among them are the feast of St. Joseph, on March 19, and the feast of the Annunciation, on March 25. We remember St. Joseph as the earthly father

of our Lord, and at the Annunciation we celebrate the proclamation of the angel to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God.

These feasts are considered “solemnities” —days so significant and celebratory that they take precedence over the Lenten fast. Worship services on these days are joyful and festive, including the singing of the *Gloria* (which is ordinarily prohibited during Lent). The only thing we wouldn’t do on these days is say the *alleluia*.

But wait, what was that third possible feast? Depending on where you live, St. Patrick’s Day (March 17) may be celebrated to a greater or lesser extent. In Ireland, it, too, is a solemnity and an exemption from Lent. In parts of North America, many Roman Catholic bishops issue dispensations to the faithful if St. Patrick’s Day falls on a Friday, so that the prohibition on eating meat on Fridays doesn’t preclude the traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage. If St. Patrick’s Day holds some significant personal connection for you, then as an Anglican you may feel free to make your own decisions about how “Lenten” or how celebratory a day it might be.

In next week’s newsletter, I’ll talk about two other kinds of Lenten celebrations. In the meantime, I encourage you to enjoy the moments of joy and gratitude in the midst of this season of repentance and reflection.

Love,
Mother Terry+

SJS Hospitality back this Sunday – Bring your Vaccine Passport

People intending to attend Coffee Hour after the 10am service this Sunday must be prepared to show their **vaccine passport**, as per the PHO's and the Bishop's recent letter about updated Covid protocols.

Are you interested in volunteering with hospitality? Training is being offered this Sunday. The coffee and snacks are purchased by the church, and the vergers do all the set-up. We have volunteers for March but need many more volunteers for April.

From the Assistant Priest

Hello Everyone! Happy Spring Break!

I hope you are adjusting to the time change and getting out to see the baby cherry blossoms!

I wanted to keep you updated as to what is happening at St. John's in next few weeks for families, children and youth!

Sunday School

Mother Terry and I are both keen to get Sunday School going AND also have our kids in church. Being in church with everyone provides our children with community, and a sense of belonging in a very different and important way- they are formed and participate in a different way. I'm thrilled we have children and youth in the choir, serving, running the livestream, and reading. Not as a one off, but as regular members of our congregation.

Sunday School too provides formation and worship during the times in the service that are really not focused on the needs of children (are usually boring for them and quiet), and instead gives them worship, connection and formation in a more craft and ruckus sort of way!

So... while we are still looking for a coordinator, and also to support both formation of children in the church service and in Sunday School we will be having Sunday School on the 2nd, and 4th Sunday of the month! The other two (or three) Sundays, crafts, colouring sheets, crayons and books will be available in the children's area. They can stay there or take them in to the pews. Thank you for bringing them, I know how much work that is (especially some days!).

Confirmation

Our next Confirmation Class is **THIS SUNDAY@ 1pm** in the Trendell Kitchen. Which means we can have coffee hour and say goodbye to our Verger Regan as he heads off to St. Mary's, before working with Kerrie Basiley and the Rev. Laurel Dyskstra of Salal and Cedar to make the holy oils for the Diocese.

Good Friday Family Service

Friday April 15th 10am. We will have a child-centred (more sensory based) stations of the Cross service to retell Jesus' story.

Easter Sunday: Easter Egg hunt! After the 10am service

We are once again (PHO and Bishop willing) able to have our annual Easter Egg hunt following our joyful celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Please bring a bag! For those with allergies, please let me know, and we will have special candy (specially coloured plastic eggs) to keep Easter safe and fun!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email, or call either myself or Mother Terry!

It remains a joy to be part of this amazing ministry, and raising children is ministry! I really appreciate all you do!

God Bless,
Mother Liz

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 FIRST READING Isaiah 55: 1-9

It's a magnificent passage. But then Isaiah couldn't write badly even if he tried. *"Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread?"* he asks. I think he is pleading for a new set of values in his own society and, of course. When we hear his voice across the centuries, as we do this morning, I think he wishes us to understand that there is something that can make all the difference if we only choose to acknowledge it. This

something is a relationship with the mystery we call God. Isaiah's world for such a relationship is "covenant". From that covenant or relationship between each one of us and God there flows an Energy, a Force, - yes, I saw Star Wars long ago, too! This Energy or Force gives meaning to our lives, and among Christians the term we use for it is Spirituality, understanding it as a Holy Spirit.

For me there is a single sentence that grasps this great truth. I sometimes think if I had to choose one statement that more than anything else shaped the rest of my life, it would be this deep insight of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

*"We are not human beings on a spiritual journey:
We are spiritual beings on a human journey."*

Isaiah now addresses his society as a whole. When he speaks of God offering us an everlasting covenant, he means that every part of the society also makes covenant - is linked - with every other part. If Israel wants to become a witness to (other) societies, it will only be so if it becomes a society that treasures Justice in its thinking, its decisions, and its actions. God's demand for social justice is as strong in our own 21st century society as in that long ago world of 500 BC. What are the values and moral standards of the society we are building? To make the accumulation of wealth as life's primary purpose is eventually to create immense imbalances of poverty and affluence that can eventually wreck society if they go unchecked. In the last few days, two giant yachts of a Russian oligarch have reached the Maldives to escape being impounded. The larger of these yachts is valued at a billion dollars! Of course there have been many examples in history of gross imbalance in wealth distribution. We know two things that always happen. Extreme imbalance cannot last without eventually being challenged, a challenge that can sometimes end in social upheaval.

PSALM 63:1-8

You are my God. Eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. We are overhearing a person who has been going through a difficult and testing time. She thinks of it as being in a barren and dry land where there is no

water. Longing for the grace and presence of God in her life, she expresses the deep feelings and thoughts that can come at such times. Notice what the poet tells us she does to reach for the presence of God.

She involves herself in worship with others. (*I have gazed upon you in your holy place*)

She meditates on the glimpses of God's glory that have given her joy, perhaps in nature's beauty or in her relationships. (*Beholding your power and glory*) She has joined others in praise (*My mouth praises you with joyful lips*).

She thinks of God as her strength even in the night hours when she (and all of us) feel most vulnerable. (*I meditate on you in the night watches*).

She readily acknowledges her dependence on God (*my soul clings to you.*)

She joyfully reaches out for a strength beyond her own (*your right hand O God holds me fast*)

THE SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

The tremendous value of having Paul's letter to Corinth in the Bible is that it removes any illusions we might have that life in early Christian communities was all moonlight and roses! The community in Corinth is a mess! Snobbery, arrogance, sexual misbehavior, probably financial goings on. As a consequence, there are huge divisions. Paul is trying to deal with this in this very stern letter.

He begins by reminding them of their own history. Centuries ago, he says, on the long wilderness journey they had from Egypt, they managed to stay together in spite of everything. Here in Corinth its become the very opposite. Division and disagreement is everywhere. Why were they able to stick together ? Because they drank from the spiritual rock..,(that is) Christ. If a community in our 2022 world has Christ as the prime focus of its life, then it will stay united.

Paul is utterly realistic. Things happen. Things go wrong. We are all human. This is true always, long ago or today. We today are on a wilderness journey where everything is continually changing. This creates stress, in organizations, in groups, in relationships. Paul knows this, and he writes sensitively about it. " *No testing has overtaken you that is not*

*common to everyone. God is faithful and God will not let you be tested beyond your strength"...*This is a wonderfully enabling insight. It's so easy to think we are alone in the stresses of our lives. To realize that many others share the struggle is immensely strengthening. I treasure a line sent by a friend years ago. "Be kind, because everyone you know is fighting a great battle". The other thing Paul reminds us of is that grace is available as we struggle, either as individuals or as a community.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 13: 1-9

Some people have just mentioned to Jesus a piece of news from Galilee, his own part of the country. There has been another of the constant clashes with Pilate's Roman military police. People have been killed. Others have been killed by a building collapsing.

Jesus immediately uses this item of news for teaching. He deals with a timeless human temptation to link a disaster in human life with a sense of guilt. I remember a conversation years ago with someone who had had to bear a great deal of suffering. It was some time since we had met because I was now in another parish. "Maybe you've heard", she said, "I have another tumour". Then, mustering up a bit of light heartedness, she added. "I must have done something bad in a former incarnation". Her tone was light but there was still that instinctive assumption that somehow something blameworthy in her life was the reason for her suffering. To this idea Jesus says a resounding "No. I tell you". But then he adds an aside that gives us a jolt. *Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.*

It sounds harsh. Suppose however he said that with a smile. What does the term *repent* mean? It means to change direction. Suppose Jesus is saying that there are things in all our lives from which we need to change direction, This could be a habit, an attitude, an obsession. and that if we don't we will pay a price of some kind. Something in our lives could "perish". . It could be a job, a relationship, our own health.

Maybe Jesus saw a glazed look in some eyes. A "what does he mean?" kind of look. So he tells a story. An estate owner and his head gardener are going through the garden . They come to a fig tree. Not a single fruit even

though this is the third year! The owner decides he's had enough. But his gardener suggests they give it another year.

Jesus sees the gardener as God, each of us a plant. We are here to bear fruit, in other words to live beyond just ourselves. To help us turn things around in our lives the Spirit guides, encourages, nurtures. But there can come a time when we have made our choice and something in us dies.

When Jesus says "unless you repent you will all perish", I think he is telling us that the longer we postpone changing direction in our lives, the harder it will be to do it. In time it becomes impossible. If this sounds harsh, at least God pays us the compliment of making us active participants in our own spiritual formation.

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

This Tuesday night on [Zoom](#), our Psalms series continues with a focus on psalms of lament. As we consider how the people of God have expressed their sorrows and struggles, we invite you to reflect on your own experiences of grief. Have there been particular songs or poems that have carried you through a difficult period in your life? These could be religious or secular. If you feel comfortable sharing these significant songs or poems with the group, please send an email to Mother Terry with the title and artist, or perhaps a link to a Youtube video that represents it well. Please send songs by Sunday evening, March 20. You can reach Mother Terry at terry.dirbas@sjs.net.

Please join us this Tuesday March 22 [Zoom!](#)

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





Join us online or in person

Sunday

8:00am

10:00am

April 10 Palm Sunday

Holy Communion (BCP)

Palm Procession and Sung Eucharist

Thursday

6:00pm

7:00pm

April 14 Maundy Thursday

Homemade soup and sandwiches - all welcome

Last Supper Eucharist with foot washing

A meditative watch will be kept until 9:00pm

Friday

10:00am

12:00noon

April 15 Good Friday

Families Stations of the Cross

Solemn Liturgy of the Day with Sung Passion

Saturday

8:00pm

April 16 Holy Saturday

Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday

8:00am

10:00am

April 17 Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Day

Holy Communion (BCP)

Celebration Eucharist and Easter Egg Hunt

Please contact the office for more information

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 join us at church on Sunday, March 20, when Regan will be on hand to say goodbye.

Neighbourhood Ministry Report

February 26, 2022. For privacy reasons, the full names of people the Street Outreach team met are not given in this report:

A team met Ken Pepin at St John's at 9.30am on Saturday, Feb. 26. They received packages and lunch bags containing an egg, a banana and either a PBJ or a tuna sandwich. They then headed over to St Philip's to collect clothing and camping supplies.

They proceeded to St Helen's but didn't see B (one of our street friends who sleeps beside that church) but saw his belongings and left him a package. Further along, there was nobody at the Highbury fence (a regular hangout), so they headed over to 4th and Vine, where they met P, who took a package and a lunch bag. He related that he enjoyed his trip up the Fraser Canyon with his family on the weekend.

D was outside Whole Foods. During their last meeting with him, he had been shaking, and he thought it was because he needed a drink, but it transpired that it was the onset of a seizure. He had not had medical attention. He asked for a sleeping bag as he recently had to leave the shelter because he had reached the three-month stay limit. He won't be able to stay there again for another three months.

L, who has housing downtown, was outside Shoppers. They gave her food and a toothbrush.

There is a large encampment at Windsor Plywood, and there they encountered R. He said that only he and H are currently living there. He took a pair of boots and food for both of them.

Next, they parked near the VSB. J wasn't there, but they saw E at his usual spot at the back of the park. He has been sleeping at the Odd Fellows shelter, but it seems that it is no longer open. He took the food but didn't want any clothing.

Outside Chapman's on Granville Street, they saw M cooking noodles on a little camping stove. He didn't want any food but was very happy to receive a jacket and a pair of socks.

On the Southside of Broadway, just West of Granville, the team saw a young woman named K. She was in a tiny shelter made out of a sleeping bag and an umbrella. It seemed that someone else in there called D. They gave her food and a camping mat.

At Wawanesa on West Broadway, they saw J, who complained of back pain. He is scheduled for cataract surgery. They gave him food for both he and J and a pair of track pants.

Further West, at the Subway, they saw S and D. S said that he always looks forward to seeing them and not just for the food that he receives. They gave D a sleeping bag, mat, jacket and gloves. They also received food, masks, hand sanitizer and can openers. D has applied for housing through the Carnegie Centre but needs a phone to stay in touch with them. They promised to have one for him the following weekend.

Outside of Shopper's Drug Mart, they met B, new to this street area. He has his housing application in with BC housing. He accepted food, a pair of rain pants, gloves and a sleeping bag.

The team made 13 connections on their outing. Thanks to the Indoor Team at St. John's for providing the packet supplies for distribution.

Submitted by Joan Stewart, co-chair BoM, Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry

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 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.

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 and 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 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.

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

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

1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, BC, V6H 2E2

604 731 4966 (ex 1 office, 2 Rector)

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!

