



27 March 2022 newsletter



Fourth Sunday of Lent



From the Rector

"For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."
2 Corinthians 4:6

This season after Epiphany is all about light. From the light of the star that guides the wise men to the baby Jesus, to the light that breaks forth at his baptism and declares him God's Son, to the metaphorical light that emanates from him as he calls his disciples and manifests God's healing power. Week by week, we see our world lit up by Jesus' presence. And this Sunday, the whole season culminates with the Transfiguration-- the revelation before Peter, James, and John of Jesus bathed in God's glory and conversing with Moses and Elijah. The light is now literally visible, radiating from Jesus himself.

The world has seemed dark for a long time. But spring is almost at hand. Covid cases are declining, and many restrictions are being lifted. There is gathering light in our midst. And the truth, for us as believers, is that the source of our light isn't in the circumstances of our day-to-day lives. Our light comes from knowing God's glory revealed in Jesus. Our light comes from the joy of knowing God loves us enough to send God's own Son into the world to teach us, to heal us, to pray with us, to rejoice with us, and even to die and rise for us.

As we prepare for a time of fasting and praying during Lent, let's take care that we remember where our light truly comes from, and that we don't lose sight of it, even in the dark times.

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.

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.

RIP Beatrice Rudersdorfer

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that Ms. Beatrice Rudersdorfer died early on March 24th. Beah was a dedicated member of our parish, a faithful presence in the front pew at our 10 a.m. worship service, and a warm and gentle spirit who was beloved by many - especially her husband, Reinhard. In her last few days, Beah was surrounded by family, and she is now at rest with our Lord and Saviour and with the countless hosts of heaven.



More details about Beah's memorial will be announced in due course. In the meantime, please keep Beah's family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of one loved so dearly.

Gracious God, our sister, Beah, was washed in baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.

Comfort Reinhard in his grief; may faith be his consolation and eternal life his hope.

Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

THE FIRST READING AND THE GOSPEL: The great significance of a meal to celebrate significant events, such as a home coming.

SECOND READING: What does it mean in one's life to discover Jesus as life companion.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Why did Jesus bring in the presence of the elder brother?

First Reading Joshua 5; 9-12

If you had been a Bedouin camel driver travelling in the barren area southeast of the Dead Sea one evening about 3500 years ago, you would have been startled to hear the distant sound of many voices, singing, shouting, laughing, dancing. When you investigated and found the source of it all, you would have stumbled on a huge encampment of men women and children celebrating the fact that they had at last escaped from the Egyptian Empire and were free to settle in this new land where they and their children could be free.

This huge celebration of crossing a border into freedom is for one all important reason. It's thanking God for being their faithful companion on this generations long Journey out of Egypt. They called that long ago meal Passover. Someday in the future they will be named Israelites. This Passover meal is absolutely central element in life as a people.

We as Christians also have a meal. Jesus shared it with his friends the evening before he died. Because he himself had grown up with the ancient desert meal named Passover he included elements of it in the meal with his disciples.

This new meal also has a name, a Greek name. We call it Eucharist, and in English and many other languages that word means simply - Thank You. For us as Anglicans, this meal is again at the centre of our faith life. The time is coming when COVID's passing will return it to us.

The Psalm 32

Someone has emerged from a heavy load of guilt. Suddenly that guilt has been lifted. They are free. For a long time this guilt was carried inside at

great cost and we don't know what brought the decision to confess it but that moment has come. "I said I will confess my transgression! The very next words tell us the result. "The Lord forgave me the guilt of my sin". Now the person relieved from guilt wants to share the joy of his release. Another moment when scripture speaks of the healing power of confessing.

Second Reading 2nd Corinthians 5: 16-21

We need to know what all Paul's letters are trying to do. He is trying to unwrap for us the meaning of Jesus' life and ministry. How does Jesus living of a human life affect us as we try to live ours?

In this particular passage for instance, when Paul writes "if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation", he is telling us that when we choose to make Jesus significant in our lives, it affects how we see everything. We see a new creation. We see life in a new way.

The second thing that happens when we choose to regard Jesus as significant for us is that we see something clearly that we were blind to before. We come to see that life is not merely about doing our own will. We do have a will of our own and there is nothing wrong with that. It's just that if we consciously try to align our will with the pattern of living that we see in Jesus, our whole experience of life is enriched. We discover what life can be about, and who we really can be.

There is a magnificent sentence near the end of the Eucharist. Let's bring out all that it's saying to us by inserting in between Paul's words things we can so easily miss. Here it is... "When we were still far off, (searching for the meaning of our lives), you (God) came to meet us in your Son (Jesus) and brought us home (to ourselves, home to the person we really are.)".

The Holy Gospel Luke 5:1-3 11b-32

Most tellings of this story end with a homecoming and a celebration. However Jesus went beyond that to tell the further story of the older brother. To read it is to realize how complex human character can be. On the surface this older brother seems utterly different from his sibling. He remains supportive to his father. He is the soul of dependability. He too

receives a share of the family money but he in no way demands it as does his brother. Fine solid man we seem to have here.

A darker side to him is revealed when he reacts to his father's warm welcome to his brother. To his astonishment everything is forgiven. No penalty is demanded.

The effect on the older brother is transformative. Far from forgiving, he wants his brother punished in some way. His faithfulness to his father changes to deep resentment that he isn't appreciated as he feels he deserves. His response to his brother's behaviour is in utter contrast to that of his father, who forgives unconditionally.

One day Jesus will pull Peter up short on this. Peter protested that he had forgiven someone for something seven times. He was astonished when Jesus replied "Not enough Peter. How about 70 times 7? In other words - always!

The fact is that forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus' teaching. It's the only conditional teaching in the prayer Jesus gave us. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us". Simple as that but also as profound as that. Do we want to be forgiven? Then forgive others!

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

How do we pray the 'difficult' psalms? Psalms that express deep rage, and hurt, psalms that seem to want God to hurt others- what do we do? Do we throw them out? Do we simply pretend they aren't there? Do they have any value to us, or anything to say to us right here, and now this Lent in this World? Come and join us as we work through "The Difficult Psalms." Bring paper, and paints, or clay or pencil crayons as we sit with the psalms that make us uncomfortable- and hopefully find new life and hope within them. March 29th on [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86230787192?pwd=N2twdXBhYm05qV3RDNMVtSnJTYlJPQT09).

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

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

Winter clothing, raingear, boots, sleeping bags, socks, pudding cups, granola bars (soft with no fruit/nuts), & juice boxes.



Last Sunday Salal and Cedar Watershed Discipleship Community worked with the confirmands and their sponsors at St. John Shaughnessy to wild craft sacred oils for our diocesan chrism mass. Growing our watershed literacy we learned about Poplar, Nootka Rose and Western Red Cedar and growing our practice of solidarity we used Palestinian olive oil. (from S+C Facebook)



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



St John's
SHAUGHNESSY

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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>

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

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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:
Welcome Home sculpture by Gurdon Brewster

