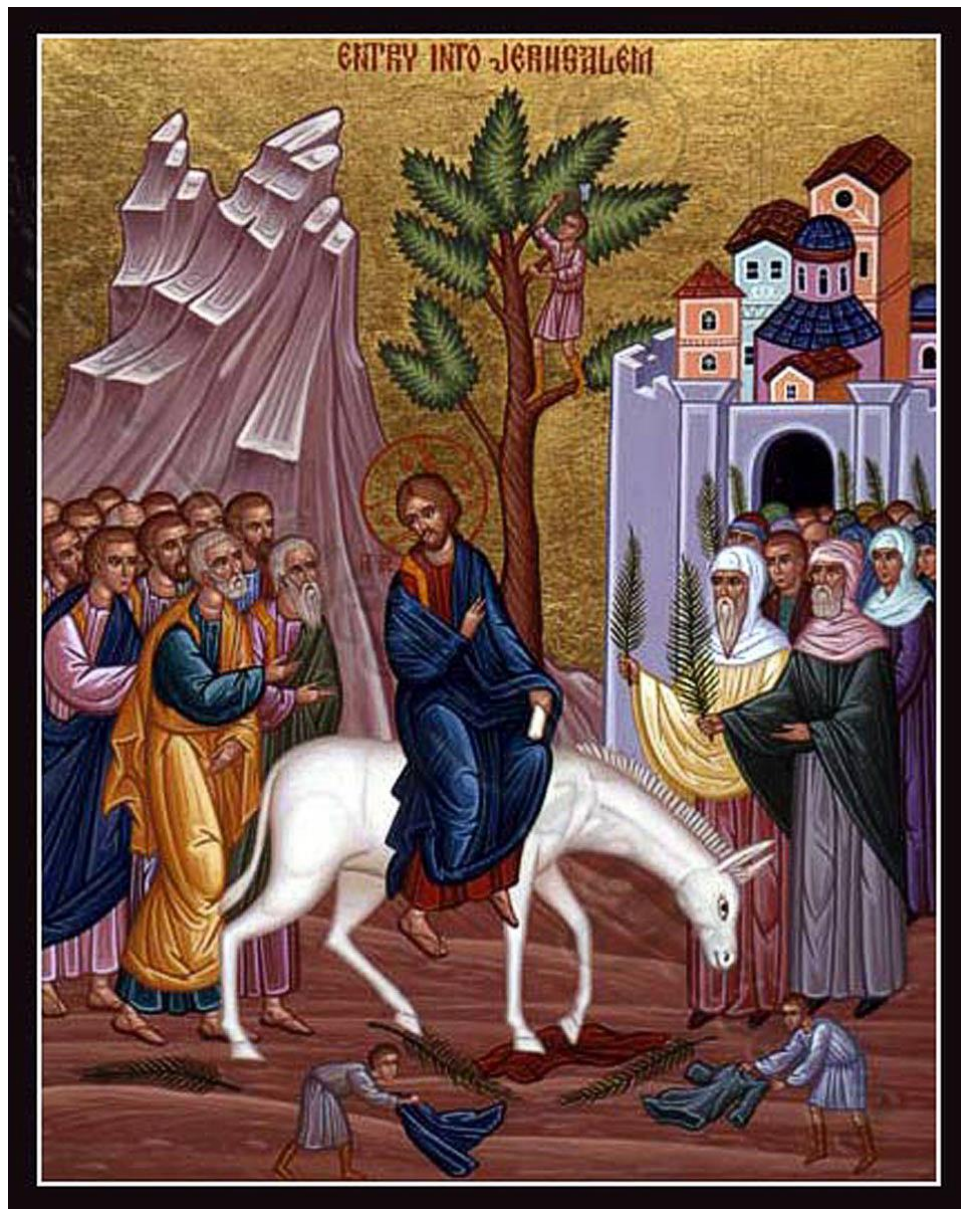


10th April 2022 newsletter



Palm Sunday of the Passion

From the Rector

Dear Ones,

We have made it to Holy Week! I can't decide if this Lent passed quickly or slowly. In some ways it feels like ages ago that we held our vestry meeting on the last Sunday of Epiphany. In other ways, I feel like I blinked and found myself standing on the cusp of this most solemn and holy time. When I was growing up, I never attended any Holy Week services. In my hometown, spring break always coincided with Holy Week, so my family would spend our time at the beach. It wasn't until I was a teenager that I finally experienced these amazing liturgies. Once I did, though, I couldn't imagine ever not attending!

I love Holy Week because in these services, we get to enter into the drama of the Last Supper, the crucifixion, the story of God's saving history with God's people, and the celebration of the resurrection. We don't just hear the lessons read and have a sermon about them. We put ourselves in that Upper Room, and at the foot of the cross, and in the darkness of the wait for salvation. And these experiences are extraordinarily concrete and sensory—the washing of feet, the tasting of bread and wine, the visual of the altar being stripped, the feel of the hard wood of the cross, the sound of exquisite music . . . It is a solemn time, but it is a feast for the senses! In all that we do during Holy Week, we remember these momentous events of the Paschal Mystery not simply in the sense of recalling that they took place, millennia ago, but of “re-membering” them—making them a reality for us, in our own day.

If you have never been to church between Palm Sunday and Easter, I urge you to make this the year. Join us on Maundy Thursday as we wash one another's feet and celebrate the institution of Holy Communion. Come on Good Friday as the choir offers a beautiful sung setting of the Passion, and then, come forward to the large wooden cross in prayer and meditation. Come to the Easter Vigil—join us in the Memorial Garden, in the dark by the New Fire, as we prepare to process into the church carrying the Light of Christ with us. Listen with us, to stories of God's saving deeds on behalf of humanity. Renew your baptismal vows with us. If you have bells at

your house, bring them with you, and ring them joyfully during the Gloria in Excelsis. And share with us in the first Holy Eucharist of Easter.

This will be my first holiday with you as your rector, and I am so excited for us to walk this path together. Whether you join us in person or online, I pray that this Holy Week will be a time in which you're able to connect deeply with the story of our faith, and that when Easter comes, you will find your hearts and spirits renewed in love and hope and joy.

Blessings,

Mother Terry+

Hospitality volunteers needed

Are you interested in volunteering with hospitality? The coffee and snacks are purchased by the church, and the verger does all the set-up. We need a lot of volunteers until we hire a new verger, so if you can help one Sunday in April, please let us know.

Please contact the office if you would like to participate in the **Maundy Thursday potluck**. Soup and sandwiches to keep things quick and easy, and helpers for clean-up, please. A St John's tradition that we welcome back this year.

Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4-9a

We are beginning the holiest time in the cycle of the Christian year. We step out on a path that leads us through the most intense days in our relationship with Jesus, a path that takes us through many locations. In those settings we have sometimes searing encounters with many people, most of whom are quite unaware that they have become caught up in a great drama that has implications for all of humanity and for all subsequent human history.

We simply don't know of whom Isaiah is writing. It could have been his own difficult experience trying to reach his own people while they are in exile.

We do know that this passage is read on this Sunday to point to the cost of Jesus' own ministry. Whoever is being referred to, he is being met with resentment and even violent rejection. In spite of everything, this unknown servant of God simply refuses to give up. "morning by morning God wakens my ear to listen". Rejection and violence seem only to make him stronger. All of this also points us to the stresses and suffering of Jesus' ministry.

What makes it possible for this unknown person to persevere in spite of everything? He tells us again and again. It is God's unfailing grace...verses 4,5,7,9.

THE PSALM 31:9-16

Much of life is a struggle. Sometimes we are resolute and confident as we face this or that. In this we are like the unknown messenger in the first reading. But there are times when life overcomes us and can seem hopeless. The Psalmist says "I am consumed with sorrow...my life is wasted with grief ...my strength fails.". At some point this hopelessness becomes fear. " the crowd put their heads together against me". Again, all of this Jesus will feel approaching the cross.

THE SECOND READING Philippians 2:5-11

"Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus". At first it sounds like a reasonable, even manageable, demand from Paul. Only when we look again at the ministry of Jesus and it's terrible cost do we realize the terrifying standard we are being set. "He emptied himself. He humbled himself. He became obedient to the point of death".

But it is the depth of sacrifice in Jesus' obedience that leads to the glory Jesus attained, and that makes him the Christ for us who worship Him. The thing above all else to learn from this beautiful - and also terrible - passage is that in the domain of the kingdom of God, power emerges from humility.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 22: 14 to 23:56

This passage is the core narrative of our Christian faith. It cannot possibly be taken in by one reading or one listening. I suggest our best way to come to grips with its vivid and powerful narrative is to come to it as a film with its different locations and scenes and what they can mean for us. There are seven locations.

The Upper Room - the Place of Community.

The Garden of Gethsemane - the Place of Vulnerability.

The High Priest's House - the Place of Confrontation.

Pilate's Hall - the Place of the Powers.

Herod's townhouse - the Place of Decadence.

The Via Dolorosa - the Place of Suffering and Loneliness.

The hill called Calvary - the Place of Dying.

Think about these places. What did they mean for Jesus? Then think of our own life.

Where have I felt the grace of community?

Where have I felt overcome by a sense of my vulnerability? Where was I forced to be confrontative or to face it?

When did I feel in the grip of forces that made me feel helpless?

When or where did I realize I was in a sinful situation?

When have I experienced loneliness or suffering?

I think it would be possible to do an effective homily by asking the congregation each of these questions in turn. Asking the first question, have everyone reflect silently about their own experience, then asking the next question. And so on.

Easter Sunday Flower Dedications

Please email the office your dedication by **Monday, April 11th**.

Every Easter St John's is adorned with beautiful flowers, especially lilies, and fine music. We are collecting flower dedications - a wonderful way to celebrate the resurrection and remember loved ones. For every ten dollars (tax deductible) we can display one six-inch pot of lilies. Please send in your special flower dedications, which can be made in honour or in

memory of a loved one to the office by **Monday, April 11**. Like all flower dedications, the Easter flower dedications will be printed in the Easter Sunday leaflet. Special Easter envelopes have been placed in the church for this purpose. You may also put your cheque in the mail, and **email the church office your flower dedication**.

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 at the end 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.

SJS Garden Club Needs New Volunteers

It is time for the Garden Club to renew their efforts at St Johns. We hope we have some new volunteers who could join us from time to time. Or every week! Weather permitting, we meet on Monday mornings but the day/time can be adjusted to accommodate other schedules. We do watering, light pruning (no saws or ladders), weeding, dividing, planting, etc. We enjoy wonderful chit chats in the safety of the outdoors. You can bring your own gloves and tools if you want to, or you can borrow ours.



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

1490 Nanton Avenue (at Granville St)
Vancouver BC V6H 2E2
604.731.4966 / www.sjs.net

欢迎

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*.

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

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!

