



17 April 2022 newsletter



Easter Sunday



Maundy Thursday

April 14

6.00pm

Homemade soup and sandwiches

7:00pm

Last Supper Eucharist with foot washing

The Eucharist is followed by the ceremonial stripping of the altar and a procession through the church to the side chapel where the Blessed Sacrament will be kept overnight, reminding us of our Lord's anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane. A meditative watch will be kept until 9:00pm.



St John's

SHAUGHNESSY

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欢迎

From the Rector

What a journey we have been on, through this season of Lent! It seems so long ago, now, that we began by marking our foreheads with a cross of ashes, symbolizing penitence, humility, and mortality. Throughout the season, we took time to pray, fast, and give of our time and resources as we sought to reorient our hearts and our wills to align with those of our loving God.

And then, at the culmination of Holy Week and the transition into the season of light and life, at our Easter Vigil we renewed the vows we made at our baptism—the time at which many of us were signed with the cross of chrism. This holy oil calls to mind biblical images of the anointing of kings, the royal priesthood, and the eschatological seal of the saints. It also connects us to *Christ* (the anointed one)—by our own anointing at baptism, we have been joined to our Lord and have been given new life.

The cross is such a rich symbol of our faith. The same sign that came to us in ashes forty days ago, now comes to us in water and the Spirit. But that makes sense, in the context of the journey of Lent and the journey of our own lives. In Lent, we move from recognition of our failings, toward a proclamation of Christ's victory—a victory over death, but also a victory over the power of sin. And in our own lives, we bear witness to that victory as we experience God's power to transform us, to help us turn away from habits and thoughts and actions that lead us away from love. Thanks be to God, sin cannot hold us! The journey might be difficult, just as the journey to Golgotha was for Jesus, but the promise of the story is that the cross that the world saw as a sign of torture and shame has now become the symbol of love that is stronger than sin and death. There is nothing beyond God's power to save, to restore, to redeem.

I hope this Lent has been a time of transformation in your own life. Whether you've found greater self-awareness, clarified your values,



deepened your spiritual practice, or simply heightened your awareness of God's love for you, I hope this has been a season of growth in your life of faith. And now as Easter dawns and we see the transformation that has taken place—the signs of new life in ourselves and in the world around us—our task is the same as the one given to the disciples that first Easter morning. We are to go and share the good news with others! May we share with them the story, not just of that first Easter, but of the new life we have experienced in our own journeys. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Blessings,

Mother Terry+

Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

THE A NOTE ABOUT A CHANGE IN THE FORMAT OF THESE NOTES

On this, the greatest day of all for Christians, I want to do these notes differently. First, I want to spend a few moments recalling the time when John the disciple and evangelist, by now an elderly man, decides to write his Gospel. He looks back over sixty years or so, recalling the events that utterly changed his own life and that of all those who had known Jesus of Nazareth.

Let's imagine that he has been working on his gospel for some time and is now coming to where he must find words to describe the final events of Jesus' earthly life. Above all he must find language to describe the utterly mysterious events that followed Jesus' death, especially the encounters that he and others recalled with a vividness and intensity that they themselves would never forget, and that would impel them to pass on their experiences to all future Christian generations, including our own.

What John decides to do is to concentrate the mysterious and wonderful moments of the day following the crucifixion into the immediate experience of one young woman who has been part of the growing community around Jesus before his death. Her name is Mary and her home has been in the small lakeside village on the west shore of the Lake of Galilee. Her visit to the tomb is mentioned by all four gospel writers,

but it is only John who tells of the garden encounter. Being John, he relates it to us vividly and sensitively.

I would suggest that the decision of John to use Mary's personal experience to tell future generations of the mystery we call Resurrection was nothing short of divinely inspired. As we all know, nothing in our lives is as convincing as our own personal experience. I believe that's why the encounter in that long ago garden has for countless people over the centuries been the most powerful telling of the resurrection of our Lord. Here is my own telling of this encounter. Offering it to you is also an invitation to you to consider how this passage in John's gospel speaks to you across the centuries.

MARY'S STORY

I would like us to meet a young woman, probably in her mid-twenties. There have been tough times. She has known emotional storms and failed relationships. But about two years ago something happened. She met an unusual person.

Life changed when she met this man. There was no sudden passionate love affair, although she probably loved him deeply. Somehow when she was with him, she felt herself being gradually healed. If you had asked her what he gave her she probably would have to search for an answer. In her groping response she might have used the word *dream* or *vision*, perhaps even the word *kingdom*. She would look far away and say quietly "He gave me a vision of a new world, where I was different and people and relationships were different; and when someone would ask her "Different in what way, Mary" she would grope again for words and say "He seemed to be asking me to imagine what the world would be like if God's will was always and everywhere obeyed. H called it a *kingdom, the kingdom of God*".

Time went by for this young woman. By now there was a community who had begun to share this man's vision of a new kind of world. So, Mary - that was her name - left the fishing village of Magdala and followed him and the others. For about two years things went smoothly. Sometimes there were unpleasant moments as the man from Nazareth became more

widely known. There were arguments, disagreements, sometimes an insulting voice from a listening crowd. He moved through it all, though not without stress and cost. Gradually things began to change. Gradually there were more enemies than friends. The dangers became more immediate, sometimes even frightening. Afterwards she would remember these months as if they had been a dream, a sometimes-terrible dream.

There came the day she would remember for the rest of her life. She was on a slope across from a small hilly field. On the hill stood three of the obscene crosses the Romans used to execute criminals. On one of them the man she loved was writhing and moaning like a wounded animal. His body was naked, his face drawn, white, bloodstained. He had lost all control because of unbelievable pain.

She stayed until late afternoon until she saw his body taken down by a small group of friends whom she recognized from the community. She watched where he was laid to rest. She then left the hill area, went to a friend's home, and tried to get some sleep.

It is at this point that we join Mary here in church on this very early morning that will in an hour or two become the wonder we call Easter. It is the first day of the week, not yet dawn. She has come from her lodging - as we have from our homes - and has reached the rock wall where she saw him placed. To her astonishment the rock has somehow been opened. The great stone is rolled back. Mary backs away terrified and runs for help.

She runs where she knows there are friends. She bursts in and shouts "They've taken him. They've taken him". One of them holds her until she gains control. As soon as they understand, two of them rush from the house, she with them.

John, who may well have been younger than Mary, runs quickest. Peter keeps pace with her. John hesitates at the opening in the rock. Peter rushes past him into the walled tomb. The three of them stand in the shadows, staring at the stone shelf. They see the linen wrapping for a body. A slight distance away is the piece of linen that would have been around Jesus' head. Both lie empty. There is no body. Speechless they come out into the

dawn light. They move aimlessly, in shock. They seem unaware that Mary is present.

She waits in the silence, her sobbing the only sound. She moves again to the entrance. This time instead of shadows there is a blaze of light. It seems focused where the body would have been. Mary steps back from the entrance, hears a movement, and turns. The figure in the shadows could be anyone. She pleads for pity. If his body is available, could she please be taken to it. Then she hears her name, and her world explodes with joy. She runs to embrace but a quiet gentle gesture tells her that it cannot be. She realizes she must return to the others. This time there is no running, no frantic calling out. She looks at them and they at her, and she says simply and quietly "I have seen the Lord", and her face and her voice are such that there is no questioning.

All this happened a long time ago. Mary of Magdala would never be the same again, as indeed Peter and John and this whole community would never again be the same.

Time has passed, not only years. Centuries, even millennia have passed. As Christians we ourselves continue to be changed. We are becoming what Mary and Peter and John and all those others down through time have become. We are becoming Resurrection people.

Livestream services this week

This week we will have the 12 noon Good Friday, Saturday Vigil and 10am Easter Sunday services online, as well as in person.

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.

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.

Nanny Wanted

We are looking for a full time nanny (9-5 Mon-Fri) to look after our 5 month old girl. We are located in the Shaughnessy area (Granville/King Edward). Please contact Carys on 604 906 8898 for further info.

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 or May, please let us know.

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=Z0hoSlg0SlU5a21XRjhYRHUyN1VtZz09>





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

WNM items for Homeless Needed

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

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*.

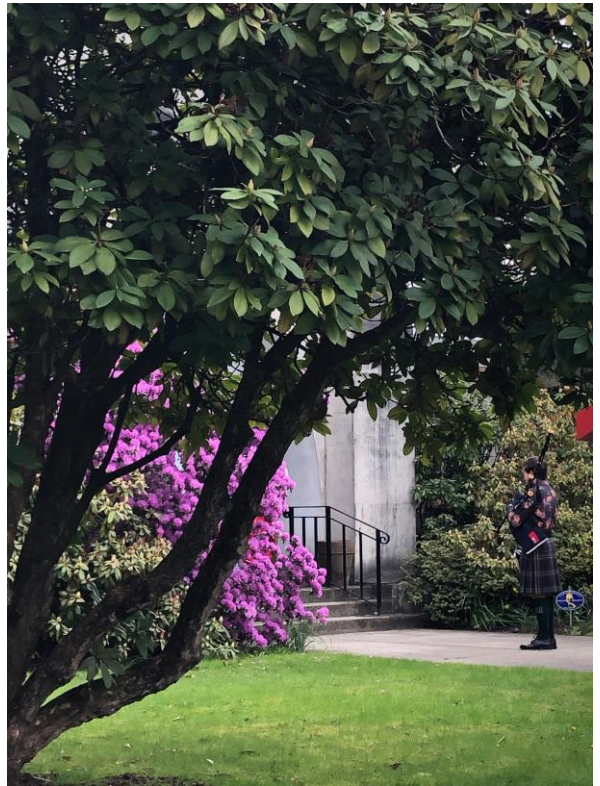
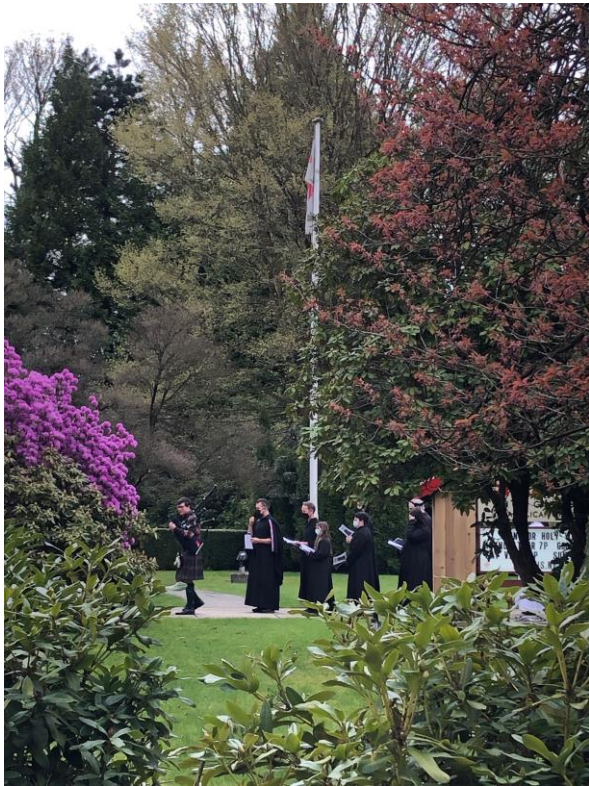
Financial Support - Stewardship

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.

Palm Sunday photos by Rose Desrochers



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

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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: *The Resurrection*, San Marco, Florence. Fra Angelico

