



24 April 2022 newsletter



Second Sunday of Easter

From the Rector

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

We made it through forty days of Lent—forty days of special emphasis on prayer, fasting, and giving of ourselves, in remembrance of the sacrifice Christ made for us. We made it through a glorious and emotional Holy Week, throughout which we witnessed, again, the love of Christ made known to us at the Last Supper and ultimately on the cross. We witnessed the joy of the resurrection—the resurrection of our Lord, and the resurrection of our communal celebration of the Good News of Easter, as we were once again able to gather for worship and fellowship on this great feast.

There is such a build up to Easter Day. We gather for church. Families come from all over. We dress in our best, we take photos, we go out to brunch or special dinners. (Unless, of course, we just finished four straight days of nonstop church... in that case, we nap!) We celebrate Easter Day with love, joy, and renewed hope that God is making all things new and that God's perfect love is stronger than all the darkness of this world.

And then what? What does Easter Week look like? Do we remember the resurrection we celebrated on Sunday? Or does Easter get forgotten once the last of the candy and coloured eggs have been consumed?

For Anglicans, Easter is not over. The season of Easter has just begun, and will last a full fifty days, to the day of Pentecost. It is an extended period of rejoicing, in which we feast on stories of resurrection, forgiveness, and love. At worship, our penitential season is now concluded and we refrain from the confession of sin. We read from the Acts of the Apostles, hearing stories of the disciples' ministry in the time that followed Jesus' ascension and the coming of the Spirit. In this year's lectionary cycle, we also read from the Revelation to John, reflecting on the vision of Christ enthroned in glory, and the promise of the new Jerusalem in which death and mourning will be no more. And at every service throughout the season, we light the Paschal Candle—the large white candle that represents the light of God breaking forth from the darkness at the resurrection.

This extended Easter season points to the reality that Easter is upon us all the time. The resurrection is the good news we experience every day. We encounter the truth of the risen Christ in our lives, and we discover the ways in which Christ raises us from the dead and lifts our hearts to new and deeper understandings of the promise declared through Christ for us and for all God's children.

We are a resurrection people. The occasion of Jesus rising from the dead is an event which lives daily in our hearts. We must carry that truth within us, proclaim it to the world, and invite others to come and experience the love of God that we have come to know in Jesus Christ.

Happy Easter!
Mother Terry+

Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

Sometimes when we wonder and wonder at our Lord's resurrection, asking the questions about it that people have asked since that day of days, and will ask until the end of time, I find it helpful to come at it from a different direction.

Let's start at something wonderful that we do know. Sometime in the hours between sunset on the Friday of Jesus' execution and the dawn of the following Sunday, something happened that utterly transformed a small community of men and women. From being traumatized by grief, their most heartfelt hopes and trust brutally destroyed by unimaginable human cruelty and suffering, they became a community bound together by bonds of commitment that withstood every effort to defeat them.

As years became centuries and centuries became millennia, when asked for the source of their loyalty and commitment they would reply with a statement that is uttered to this day in most of the languages of the planet. They would say "Jesus Christ is risen".

Last Sunday these words were voiced in front of broken altars in shattered churches in Ukraine, spoken by people with children in their arms, not knowing if they had only mere days to live.

I find that this helps me to join my voice to theirs, saying these words without questions or doubts.

THE FIRST READING Acts 5 :27-32

No sooner has the emerging Christian movement emerged after the events of the first Easter than they discover a kind of law in human affairs. Any new movement in a society will meet resistance from forces already entrenched. "The High Priest took action, he and all who were with him." They arrested the leaders of the new movement; we can assume those in the inner ring of the disciples.

"An angel of the lord opened the prison doors". One can only guess at the identity of the angel! Some supporter of the new movement was prepared to risk his or her life helping them to escape. But no sooner are they free than they become involved in yet another disturbance. This time it is interesting that we are told that the authorities once again brought them in "without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people", an obvious hint that the new movement already has quite a lot of public support.

THE SECOND READING Revelation 5:11-14

We are now forty years later than those revolutionary days after the first Easter. Already the movement is spreading quickly. There are no less than seven churches or communities in southern Turkey, then called Asia. Notice how this writer of Revelation writes expansively. He has no doubt that this faith will grow! Think of how wonderfully confident those early Christians were about the future.

He speaks of the risen Christ "who is, who was and is to come." That takes care of all time, past, present and future!

He then writes of seven spirits before the throne of this God. I think He is referring to the spectrum of spirituality that will be needed for the future. Today as we prepare for a post covid church we need to search for the spiritual insights we will need for that future we face.

We read of Jesus Christ as “the ruler of kings on the earth.” There is not a moment’s hesitation in believing that this new faith will sweep across the empire, as it eventually does.

Suddenly the lens changes. We now think of our Lord in terms of the individual and the personal. This same Lord, who came to us in human form in Jesus, also comes to us as friend, as source of grace when we need it, as Saviour, “as one who loves us” and forgives our humanity. This message of a personal relationship being possible with Jesus, even as we worship him as risen Christ, was a message that would draw countless lives to the new faith as time went on. Is it possible that in the post-covid church we will find that Christian community will call for a greater emphasis on pastoral care if it is to attract and sustain people in a world that is already showing signs of facing us with formidable challenges?

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 21: 1-19

Once again were back in the early days after the first Easter. No heroics here. Lots of understandable fear. John tells us “the doors were shut...” Survival is primary.

Are there times when “shutting the doors “ is reasonable? I think so. When a congregation needs to take stock and to plan. But such planning should always result in finding new ways to open the doors as wide as possible.

Suddenly that long ago community faces a mysterious reality. They become aware that beyond all understanding Jesus is among them. When we think of closing doors we need to remember that the risen Lord can come whether doors are locked or are wide open.

His first gesture is to “show them his hands and his feet.” What greater evidence of his reality and that he shares their humanity. There is no greater comfort than to know that someone you know and love is truly with you and committed to you no matter what.

John tells us Jesus “brought peace, breathed on them, then sent them out.” In other words he broke the spell of fear that had immobilized them. What does this passage mean for us? I would suggest there are times when we can for many reasons feel frozen, trapped. In such a moment we might

consider asking “where is our Lord in this situation we face? You see, just by asking this question we open a door in ourselves for Jesus to come in. The mere sense of his being with us can bring a sense of gladness, a measure of peace can be found, and we can be freed to be available to act, to become his servants, to accept the grace he offers for the task he needs us to do.

Memorial for Beah Rudersdorfer

The memorial for Beah will be held on Saturday, May 7th at 3pm at St John’s Shaughnessy.



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? If you have time to help with clean-up after you finish your coffee, please ask one of the volunteers how you can help. Even just 5 minutes is a big help.



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>

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@sj.s.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.



















Photos by Michael Dirk and Robyn Woodward



St. Mary's Kerrisdale Giant Rummage Sale

You are invited to join us for St. Mary's Kerrisdale Anglican Church Giant Rummage Sale

Friday, April 29, 5-8pm and Saturday, April 30, 9:30am-12noon

At 2490 West 37th Avenue, Vancouver (at Larch St)

Books, Clothing, Toys, Housewares, Electronics, Jewellery, Collectibles, Art, Tools, Linens, Craft Supplies, Garden/House Decor, and so much more!

With all-you-can-stuff \$2 bag Saturday from 11am-12noon.

Proceeds will go in part to the [Coming Home Society](#) and to the Mission and Ministry of St. Mary's Kerrisdale

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 Incredulity of St Thomas* by Bernardo Strozzi (c. 1581–1644)

