



1 May 2022

newsletter



Third Sunday of Easter

From the Rector

Did you ever notice that in the stories of the resurrection, Jesus is incredibly difficult to recognize? Mary Magdalene thinks he's the gardener until he calls her name. Thomas and the other disciples don't really know it's Jesus in the locked room with them until he shows them the marks of the crucifixion. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus walks with some of the disciples and opens the Scriptures to them, but they don't recognize him until he breaks bread. And in this Sunday's Gospel, we'll hear of the disciples' miraculous catch of fish, prompted by the advice of a stranger on the shore whom they do not recognize, at first, to be Jesus.

On one level, this tells us that something about Jesus' resurrected body was different from the one he had in his earthly ministry. It was still a physical body—he ate and drank, and he still had wounds—but it had been transformed somehow. Perhaps we're to think of Moses, who came down the mountain, having seen God, with a transformed appearance—shining with glory. Perhaps we're to think of the Transfiguration, in which Jesus, too, manifested God's glory as he talked to Moses and Elijah. In any case, we know that his appearance during his forty days on earth following the resurrection was somehow a surprise, even to those who knew him best.

This Easter season, I find myself wondering, when, in our own lives, do we see Jesus and fail to recognize him?

There is a monastic tradition of welcoming guests as Christ himself, remembering that Jesus said when we welcome the stranger, we welcome him. (Matthew 25:35) In that same discourse, Jesus also urged us to identify him with the hungry, the thirsty, the poor, the sick, and the prisoners.

How are we doing at recognizing Christ in the vulnerable? How are we doing at recognizing him in those who make us uncomfortable, or in those with whom we disagree?

At the Easter Vigil, we renewed our baptismal covenant, in which we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

May we take some time, this season, to reflect on these promises, and to truly look for Jesus in the faces of others. In his name, let's show them kindness, respect, and hospitality in whatever ways we can. And most of all, let's turn our attention toward the poor, the sick, and the suffering, mindful that Jesus tells us if we are looking for him, it is in their presence that we will find him.

Mother Terry+

Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

OVERALL THEME IN THESE READINGS.

In very different forms and through the eyes of very different people, we are given three visions of the risen Jesus.

THE FIRST READING ACTS 9:1-6 (7-20)

Saul, driven relentlessly by his determination to root out the new faith, which he believes is contaminating Judaism, receives what is quite literally a blinding vision of the Christ he hates.

I cannot help thinking that Paul's obsessive hatred of the new Christian community is being acted out at the cost of his increasing stress. We also need to recall Paul's part in the recent concocted trial of Stephen resulting in the latter's brutal execution by stoning. Recall the moment that Luke tells us of Paul moving around the edge of the crowd while the ghastly killing is done. I have often thought that we have here a brilliant legal mind who has to witness for the first time how his clever legalities can turn into appallingly lethal reality. It may be that Paul's watching Stephen die horribly has had a far deeper effect on Paul than he realizes. What more natural than that this increasing stress should trigger some kind of mental breakdown as Paul rides to Damascus, bent on further attack on the christian community there. I offer this as a possible reason for Paul being thrown from his horse and sent blinded and grovelling on the

roadway, a blindness that will prove temporary but no less frightening for that.

Sometimes in scripture there can be so much in a single word, in this case the word "but". Confused and traumatized Paul asks "*Who are you Lord*" ? The voice says to him, "*I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but...*" Look at that simple "but". What follows? Paul is told to "*Get up. Enter the city, and you will be told what to do*". Its as if the risen Christ is saying - "Paul, the fact that you have persecuted me is past now. What matters is what happens from here on."

How powerful such words could be for many of us. To hear our Lord say - "What's past is done. Its forgiven. What matters now is what you can now be in my service and with my grace." Perhaps we should ask ourselves if we can be prepared to consider such forgiveness possible in the many situations we come across and hear about these days.

THE PSALM 30

This song is the language of doctors' offices, hospital corridors, of solitary walks with one's deepest fears. At such times we come to realize how we can take so much of life for granted, to rely on ourselves. "*While I felt secure, I said, I shall never be disturbed.* "

" *Then you hid your face*". Life changes, as we say, on a dime. A phone rings, a letter arrives, a trust is betrayed, a carefully measured voice gives us a diagnosis. We cry out with this poet "*I go down to the Pit! Lord be my helper*".

THE SECOND READING Revelation 5:11-14.

Johns great gift for language communicates a sense off infinite space,light, power and splendour. At the same time he focuses our eyes on an utterly simple image - a Lamb. This is how he wishes us to think of Jesus. Nothing embodies the concepts of vulnerability and sacrifice more than this animal. For John, Jesus is the one who has sacrificed himself utterly, who took on human nature, who bowed to every human experience, even death itself. We have seen something of this in lives around us. To sacrifice oneself for

others, even in small ways, can be mysteriously the door to a glory we do not understand but we know to be true.

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 21:1-19

"I am going fishing" says Peter. The statement is full of feeling. Anything to escape the immobility that deep loss brings. The longing to exert some control over one's shattered life. So they do, but nothing is gained. Their nets are empty. In the dawn light an unseen voice suggests they try in another location. Suddenly there are fish everywhere. John intuitively that it is the risen Jesus. Peter typically says nothing but tries to wade ashore.

Bring me some of the fish you've just caught, says Jesus. Our Lord says to us many times. bring me what you do, what you make, what you achieve. Bring me the best of yourself and see what I can do with you. Sometimes this can make possible things far beyond anything we have ever expected.

"Come and have breakfast " Jesus says. Simplest of invitations. Let's remember it when we kneel before a familiar altar, bowing our head to the mystery of Jesus' presence, never nagging at the mystery, never trying to explain it, always bowing one's head and saying to oneself simply what John said all those years ago - *"It is the Lord"*

The last section is magnificent. For weeks Peter has lived with the shame of betraying Jesus in the crowded outer hall of the High Priest's house. Now he has to meet Jesus again. To Peter's utter surprise - and relief - Jesus ignores any past betrayal . Instead Peter is given back his self-respect, his dignity and his leadership. Three times Jesus directs Peter to look after his sheep. Who are the sheep.? The circle of disciples around the fire on the beach.

Why give Peter back his place in the circle? Because Jesus knows human nature. He knows that those who have faced their own weaknesses are often ideally prepared to lead and care for others. Having accepted themselves they can have a new sense of self-worth and confidence that makes leadership possible.

An awful lot happened in that morning conversation on the lakeshore! Jesus put Peter back together again! It can happen with us.

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. If you would like to bring individually-wrapped snacks to share with others, please contact the office.

Greeting volunteers needed at the 10am service

We could use several more greeters. Please contact the office for more details if you are interested in greeting on Sunday mornings.

Virtual Organ Link up with Perth Australia! April 28 and 29

1. This Friday and Saturday, come and witness a virtual midi link being created between our SJS Hallman organ and Perth, Australia!

In the spirit of the success and theme of last Saturday's international Organ Day, Michael Dirk will host a virtual organ link up to Perth, Australia, this Friday and Saturday, culminating with performing on the 109-stop organ of St Patrick Basilica at a future date. <https://fremantlestpatricks.org.au/basilica-organs-specifications/>

Doors will be open to the public at St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church this Friday April 29th 6-8pm, and Saturday April 30th 11am-noon (see detailed schedule below), while we link up and experiment with Australian correspondent Matt Bray's digital studio. (The link up with St Patrick's will be at a later date once we confirm the midi link success). SSOS technician Steve Miller of Calgary will be coordinating the Midi capability of the SJS Hallman.

This initiative is funded by a Canada Arts Council grant, and spearheaded by BC interior organist/composer Gilles Parenteau.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw7oPL0ZwBSi-uU2OMeH1nw>

April 29th - 6 pm

-Michael, Steve and Gilles play music samples for Matt to play back

-improvisation over a pulse : loops of quarter notes and an eight notes triplets of single note (G4) will be sent from Perth and assigned to the Positive manual

-we will adjust the tempo so that a triplet eight note will be the latency value

-this will be recorded in Vancouver and Perth on Ableton for archives

In a dream world... play SJS and Perth organ simultaneously...if not this time hopefully in the near future!

April 30th - 11 am

- pairing pipe organ and other music software
- stacking pipes with orchestral samples and control their articulation through the organ expression pedals
- mapping and creating sustain pedal (from an organ foot pedal) to play piano and other sound banks (while playing from the organ)
- controlling expression pedal or pistons from a wireless midi finger ring!

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@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.

Neighbourhood Ministry Outdoor Team report from March 26

Joanne picked up packages, lunch bags and clothing from Michael at St John's at 9.15. Thanks to all involved in preparing these supplies and to the parishioners of St John's for their donations. She then picked me (Rhona) up from St Philip's; I had picked up camping supplies there.

Our first stop was St Helen's where we saw B who took a package and a lunch bag. We looked along the 4400 block of W 10th where Hepsi from St Helen's has seen a homeless many several times. We didn't see him but will ask next week's team to look out for him. At the fence we saw T. He is camping out for a few days. He seems to alternate between his residence and camping in Jericho Park. As always he has everything that he needs for sleeping outdoors and keeps it well organized on his bike trailer. We gave him a package and a lunch bag.

At 4th and Vine we saw P. He took food, masks and hand sanitizer. Joanne bought a Megaphone. We didn't see anyone else at that stop.

At the Northeast corner of 7th and Fir we saw R with a lot of bags, some of the bags belong to M and maybe even to H. They have been moved on from the underground parking lot at Windsor Plywood. We gave him food for himself and M, pants and a small backpack. H is still in Vancouver Hospital. R told us H's last name in case anyone wants to visit him. We will share that with any volunteer who would like to do so. R then pointed out to us that there was a young man behind a pillar on Fir along the side of the MPA building. His name was J and he was very happy and grateful to receive food and toiletries. MPA is helping him with his housing application.

We saw E in his usual spot at the VSB park. We had a nice chat, he told us that he attended scouts at St John's Shaughnessy. He took food, pants and a jacket. He still goes to the MPA resource centre. In the alley behind McDonald's we were surprised to see D who we usually see further West. He is always happy to talk though he didn't want much, just socks and canned meat. He attends Raven Song clinic and they are helping him with his housing application. He is also considering going directly to the BC Housing office to pursue his application. He was watching the belongings of another man who was in McDonald's so we left a package and a lunch bag for him. We didn't see anyone else in that neighbourhood.

At Wawanesa we saw J and gave him food for both him and Je and a pair of pants. He wasn't very talkative but did ask us for extra-large underwear and t-shirts, unfortunately we didn't have any for him.

Outside the Subway where we usually see S we saw two young men, D and G, and a young woman named K. They had met our volunteers before, and D said that he really appreciates how compassionate and non-judgmental we are. They knew S, G was asking if we had seen him recently. K and D have been in contact with Kettle Society to apply for housing but haven't had any luck and seemed to be quite discouraged by this. G hasn't applied for housing. We gave them all information cards, gloves, food and toiletries and we gave K a sweater and a jacket). We also

gave them a sleeping bag (unfortunately we only had one as it was the last one in our current supplies), two mats and a tarp. K and D were hoping to make it to Christian Life Assembly in Langley on Sunday evening as they have a service for people with addictions.

We didn't see anybody at Shoppers on Dunbar so Joanne dropped me home. After that she saw a man called D in an alley in Kerrisdale between 42nd and 43rd. She gave him pants, food and toiletries. He lives near Whole Foods so she told him that the NM is in that neighbourhood on Saturday mornings and that he might want to look out for us then.



Julia invites her class to church, photos by Michael Dirk



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

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Offices are open by appointment only.

Email and voicemail are checked regularly and often,
so please reach out. We want to hear from you!

Cover: Jesus and the two disciples *On the Road to Emmaus*, by Duccio,
1308–1311, Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Siena

