



8 May 2022

newsletter



Fourth Sunday of Easter

From the Rector

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." -John 10:27-28

This week, on the fourth Sunday of Easter, we celebrate "Good Shepherd Sunday." Each of the three years of the lectionary offers us a different passage from John 10, in which Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who cares for the sheep. He says he is the good shepherd who calls the sheep by name, and that his sheep know his voice. He also tells us that the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep, and that he does this of his own will. Finally, in the passage we hear this year, Jesus insists that his sheep have been given to him by the Father, and no one can snatch them away from him.

Metaphors about sheep and shepherds likely worked very well in that part of the world in the first century. Yet in our own context, few of us are very familiar with the process of tending sheep. When I talk to my children about Jesus as a shepherd, I try to relate it to their own experiences of caring for pets. Did you ever have a beloved dog, cat, guinea pig, or fish? Regardless of the species, many of us become extremely attached to our animal companions. When we love an animal and feel a responsibility for it, we're willing not only to give our time and resources to feed and care for it, but even to take risks or make sacrifices for the sake of the animal's welfare.

As Jesus' sheep, we have already received the benefit of his steadfast, loving care. He has guided us in our lives, in prayer and in the voices of others. He feeds us in the sacrament of Holy Communion. And most importantly, he chose to lay down his life for us. Of his own free will, he chose to lead us in the way of love, even in the face of suffering and death. And then after showing us the path of self-giving, of self-offering, he picked up his life again and promised us a share in that eternal life.

As we celebrate this Good Shepherd Sunday, let's consider the ways Jesus has already shepherded us through our path in life, and where we still feel

ourselves in need of his guidance and peace. May we rest in the knowledge that he is always leading us toward green pastures, and that his goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

Mother Terry+

Reflections by the Rev. Canon Herb O'Driscoll

THE FIRST READING ACTS 9:36-43

We are witnessing the return of countless ministries of healing in today's church life. The ancient rite of the laying on of hands with prayer is being widely practiced again. We are seeing the spreading of pastoral care teams, many eager to take training to carry out their newfound commitments. This development is even more remarkable because it is happening at a time when the church is desperately struggling to remain relevant and creative in a vastly changing society. It would appear that even while the institutions of religion are undergoing threat and turmoil, certain gifts of the Spirit are being given again more richly than they have been experienced in times when church structures seemed strong and confident.

"Peter showed her to be alive". There is something about this simple statement that made me thoughtful. What level of new life do we need to show within and beyond the Christian community these days? Where are lives being changed? Where are healings of many kinds - relational, congregational, personal? The sad reality is that much of the work of the Holy Spirit remains hidden and unrealized because of the unwillingness of many of us to witness, even among our friends, to what Christian faith means to us and to the grace we have received from it.

THE PSALM 23

"The Lord is my shepherd." In our Lord's world, shepherding was very low on the occupational scale. Shepherds did a lonely and even dangerous job that needed to be done, but very often one paid a price for taking it on as a job. Shepherds were generally regarded as misfits, loners, on the edge of society, usually mistrusted and even - because of their toughness - feared. Once again, as he has associated himself with tax gatherers, prostitutes

and Samaritans, Jesus identifies with shepherds, thus elevating their role by adding to it the qualities of caring and responsibility.

It is easy to forget that this Psalm is one of the world's great literary works. Every line speaks to a deep human need. *The Lord...makes me lie down...leads me...revives my soul...guides me...comforts me.* Every line reassures the mind and soothes the spirit. At the end there is even a gesture of welcome and hospitality. *"You spread (me) a table... you anoint my head with oil..my cup runneth over"*

In other words, the traveler has come home. How beautiful that thought is - to come home! It is beautiful and healing and empowering on so many levels.

THE SECOND READING REVELATION 7:9-17

John was writing his Revelation near the end of the first century. Many Christians had already had to pay a high price for their faith. Persecution was widespread. Many who read this passage in John's book would either themselves have suffered or would have friends and family who had.

It is easy to forget that always, somewhere in the world, there is great suffering, and that in the face of that suffering, somewhere the love of Christ is being shown. This week as I watched people helping the hundreds of women and children out of the three-month long darkness and terror of the steel factory in Mariupal in Ukraine; guiding the elderly - many half blinded by being unaccustomed to light for so long - taking a baby from an exhausted mother, offering food and drink, doing all of this while themselves risking their own lives from constant unpredictable shelling from Russian guns. As I watched I realized I was seeing a level of human concern, self-sacrifice and love that was nothing short of Christ-like.

How salutary it can be to recall this Biblical text while watching such a scene. *"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore, for the Lamb - our Lord Jesus Christ - will be their shepherd and he will guide them. And God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes."* We are seeing Our Lord as Shepherd;

our Lord as Guide; our Lord as Comforter. All being shown to us in real time before our own eyes in our own suffering war-torn world!

THE HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 10: 22-30

In 1993 Paula and I were in Jerusalem from January to early April. One bitter morning we were standing where the Temple had once stood long ago. You could see where the Portico of Solomon had once been. We listened as someone read this passage for us. As the reading went on we could clearly understand why Jesus sought refuge in the small sheltered area that gave at least some protection from the bitter cold. Probably the reason John recalled the moment years later as he wrote his book was that he never forgot how frozen they had all felt!

We need to remember that this same morning was tense and stressful for Jesus. Questions being hurled and demanding answers. "Who are you anyway? What authority have you to speak like this? Why should we listen to you?" Even the short sharp reply we hear from Jesus indicates the tension and even fear that he was under. It probably frustrated and annoyed those listening. "I have told you" Jesus says, "and you do not believe".

He then adds something very important for us. Jesus implies that it is not so much his words as his actions that matter. "*The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me*". What is important about this is that the same applies to all of us. Who we are shows far more in our actions than in our words. Jesus then adds something more. He says "*You do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep*." Jesus seems to be saying that our ability to hear him and believe in Him grows out of a relationship with him, and the relationship with him grows out of our commitment to follow him.

Memorial for Beah Rudersdorfer

The memorial for Beah will be held on Saturday, May 7th at 3pm with a reception in the Trendell Lounge to follow. It will also be [live-streamed](#).





Beah with the knitting ladies, October 2016

The Common Cup is Back!

Whether you are a “sipper” or a “skipper” (no “dipping” allowed, per diocesan regulations!), the common cup has returned and is available to you. If you prefer not to drink from the chalice, that’s absolutely fine, and you’re still encouraged to remain at the altar rail until it is offered to you, so that you might hear the words, “The Blood of Christ, shed for you.” At that time, you can simply touch the base of the chalice or look upon it reverently. This is a perfectly valid way to engage with the consecrated wine, if for any reason drinking from the chalice is not the right choice for you. In fact, many people in recovery have been doing so for years-- long before the recent pandemic!

Now that the chalice has returned, we are in need of more lay ministrants to offer it to the congregation. This is an extremely important ministry, and we would love for you to join us. It is not a difficult task and training will be offered. Many people describe administering the chalice as one of the most moving spiritual experiences they’ve had in church. If this is something you would enjoy, please reach out to the clergy or to Janet in the parish office.

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.

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 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>

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.

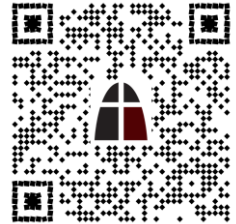
Podcasts

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. 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.

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.

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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www.sjs.net



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

