

From the Rector

This is one of my favourite Sundays of the church year. That might sound strange. There's nothing particularly special about it. It doesn't have the drama of the first Sunday of Advent. There are no special vestments, no rose candle, no sentimental ceremonies.

But the curious thing about the Advent lectionary is that it moves backward. The first Sunday of Advent focuses on "last things." We hear about the second coming, and we are cautioned to prepare ourselves for the day when Christ returns. Then as Advent progresses, we move backward to the words of John the Baptist and toward expectation of the coming of Jesus' earthly ministry. Finally, on the last Sunday of Advent, we shift back further in the narrative, as we look toward the birth of the Messiah.

So while I do appreciate the importance of the first Sunday of Advent, it is actually the second Sunday of Advent that captures my heart. Every year, I hear the Old Testament lessons and the hymns, and I weep. I weep with joy at the promise of comfort, forgiveness, and peace for God's people, in spite of their wrongdoing and their suffering.

And don't we all feel we could use that same comfort and peace, in our world today? War still rages in Ukraine. Our indigenous communities continue to suffer, both from physical violence and from the indignity of judgment and discrimination. The climate crisis continues to escalate, leading to poverty and famine in many parts of the world. And on a more personal level, while we are certainly blessed that much of our common life has returned to normal, many of us are still struggling with the lingering effects of so much isolation, and from the customs and relationships that haven't fully returned. The weight of the world's struggles, combined with our own, is a heavy burden to bear.

But the good news is that we can take comfort in the words of the prophets, spoken to our forebears in faith, but spoken also to us, today-- promises that our shortcomings don't define our relationship with God; promises that no matter how much seems lost, we will be restored to joy once more (though perhaps in ways that look different than what we were expecting); promises that God's kingdom will come and bring with it the perfect peace our world so desperately needs.

One of my favourite Advent hymns, "Comfort, comfort ye my people," paraphrases one of the prophecies of Isaiah beautifully:

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Do you feel the hope? Do you feel the promise? Our sorrows have been many in recent years. But God is with us. God is for us. And God longs to restore us, to set us free from our tears and our mourning and our pain. Even now, with all that seems lost in our world—with all that seems to give us cause for fear and sorrow—God is at work among us. And the Word of God proclaims to us, "Peace. Your sins are covered. Your warfare is over."

May we welcome and embrace the peace of God this season, and always. And may our darkness, our mourning, and our sorrows be no more.

Faithfully,
Mother Terry+

From the Curate

Hello, my name is James Hwang. I am originally from Korea, and I used to be a Franciscan priest at the Roman Catholic Church in Korea. After going through years of discernment, I have come to make a decision to try out a new form of life outside a traditional religious lifestyle. It is undeniable that I had been blessed with so many precious experiences living as a friar, but I felt a second calling in pursuing authenticity and integrity.

At the moment of making that decision, I was sure about what I wanted in my life, but I was not sure how it was going to unfold. However, one thing after another, stepping stones emerged and now I am here having found a new home in Canada. As it always had been before, during my time of searching for a new path, I have encountered so many people of good hearts who delivered me guiding wisdom, affirming encouragement, and most of all with caring love. As I begin a new journey, I would like to thank God and thank all those who helped me to be where I am as who I am.

And I would like to thank God and thank you all who will be part of my life and allow me to be part of yours. I left home but I arrived home, and I believe our journey of making our lives a dwelling place for all for God's glory continues. I look forward to growing together into love in this community, and I will gladly share and receive the gifts of life all coming from God.

As for my background, I have a degree in Pastoral Counseling at Loyola University Chicago, and back in Korea, I had experiences of counseling and spiritual direction over the years. After my ordination, I briefly worked at a parish and then I worked as a formation director for student friars. Aside from my religious background, I have been doing pottery for 10 years and it has become something very meaningful in my life. I love cooking, and I enjoy playing sports with rackets like squash, badminton, or tennis. I know words cannot describe a person, and I am sure there will be many occasions when we get to know each other. Once again, thank you for welcoming and receiving me as part of this community.

Father James

Do you have a question about church, liturgy, Anglicanism, etc.? Is there something you've always wanted to ask but thought you should already know? Send those questions to Mother Terry at terry.dirbas@sjs.net. All questions will remain anonymous.

Book Club Gathering

Our book club meeting ran into some technical difficulties, so we have postponed our gathering. Stay tuned for updates!

Christmas Pageant

December 24, 4 p.m.

This year at our Christmas Eve family service, we will witness the Christmas story told by our young people. This is a very simple pageant, with no lines to memorize. Children are invited to arrive at 3:30 to put on a costume. **If you have children or grandchildren who will be with you for the holidays, please consider bringing them to be part of this experience!** For more information, contact Mother Terry.

A.C.W. Christmas Open House



THE DIOCESAN BOARD OF THE
ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN IN THE
DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER
INVITE YOU TO OUR

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

DECEMBER 6, 2022
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

A.C.W. PLACE
7012 Merritt Avenue, Burnaby
604-876-3720



Come and see how the bales to the North are made and have a tour of the warehouse.

SJS chorister winter activities

Sun Nov27 2:30pm Orpheum: A Choral Feast (Jaime, Danny, Paula, Carolin)
<https://vancouverchamberchoir.com/event/a-choral-feast/>

Sat Dec 3 2pm & 7:30pm St Andrew's-Wesley: Vancouver Youth Choir (Jaime, Danny, Paula, Carolin) <https://vancouveryouthchoir.com/performances/all-is-bright-2022/>

Sat Dec 3 7:30pm UBC Chan: Brahms Requiem (Carolin, Michael)
<https://chancentre.com/events/ubc-choirs-orchestra-dec3/>

Sun Dec 4 4pm Orpheum: Vancouver Bach Choir (Jaime, Michael)
<https://vancouverbachchoir.com/events/christmas-with-the-bach-choir-2/>

Thurs Dec 7 7pm Point Grey Secondary: Gr8-12 Music Program Winter Concert (Annabelle)
<http://pointgreymusic.com/>

Fri Dec 9 7pm Highlands United: Seycove Secondary (Danny)
<http://seycovemusic.weebly.com/>

Sat Dec 10 7:30pm Shepherd of the Valley Langley: Musica Intima *Winter Patterns* (Danny)
<https://www.musicaintima.org/winter-patterns>

Sat Dec 10 7:30pm Orpheum: Handel's Messiah with Bach choir (Jaime, Michael)
<https://vancouverbachchoir.com/events/handel-messiah/>

Sun Dec 11 2pm West Van United Church: Handel's Messiah Pacific Spirit Choir (David)
<https://pacificspiritchoir.com/>

Sun Dec 11 3pm ACTS Theatre Maple Ridge: Vancouver Bach Choir (Jaime, Michael)
<https://theactmapleridge.org/bach-choir>

Thur Dec 15 1:30pm Shaughnessy Elementary Gym: K-7 Winter Concert (Michael, Annabelle)
<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/shaughnessy/>

Sat Dec 17 7:30pm Christ Church Cathedral: Musica Intima *Winter Patterns* (Jaime, Danny)

Sun Dec 18 3pm WestVan United: Musica Intima *Winter Patterns* (Jaime, Danny)
<https://www.musicaintima.org/winter-patterns>

Dec 22 8pm St James Community Square: Musica Intima *Ding Dong* (Jaime, Danny)
<https://www.musicaintima.org/ding>

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. Please also let us know if you want someone removed from the list. Email the office (church@sjs.net) anytime! Thank you.

Greeting volunteers needed at the 10am service

We could use several more greeters!
Please contact the office
(church@sjns.net) for more details if you are interested in greeting on Sunday mornings.

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. If you have old tools in your garage that you don't use any more, please let us know. **We are accepting donations of old garden tools.**

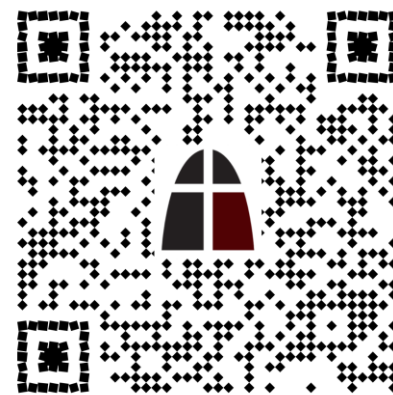
WNM items for Homeless Needed

We are very low on proteins for the packets: Boost and Ensure, and especially tuna cans. If anyone has a line of dental care items (small tubes of toothpaste, toothbrushes - perhaps our family dentists would be interested in donating to the cause?) that would be helpful. One of the regulars is looking for women's size 8 waterproof shoes or boots (not rain boots). If one of us has such a pair around the house it would be welcomed.

Other items that would be welcomed: Winter clothing, raingear, boots, sleeping bags, socks, pudding cups, granola bars (soft with no fruit/nuts), & juice boxes.

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 Cynthia in the office (church@sjns.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.

ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Please contact the parish office if you would like to be added to our mailing list, so that we may let you know about upcoming events.

Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Terry Shields Dirbas, Rector terry.dirbas@sjs.net

The Reverend James Hwang, Curate

The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, Honorary Assisting Priest

The Reverend Karin Fulcher, Deacon

The Reverend Pitman Potter, Deacon

Michael Dirk, Music Director

organist@sjs.net

Jaime Yoon, Interim Choir Director

jaime.yoon@sjsparish.net

Cynthia Jutras, Interim Parish Administrator

church.office@sjs.net

Trustees

Judith Downes, Rector's Warden

Maggie Sanders, People's Warden

Mike Dezell, Property Trustee

Donald Wood, Treasurer



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