

Message from the Rector

As we have entered a new season of the church year, a number of elements of our worship will work together to reflect the more solemn, penitential character of Lent. Much of what follows is from a newsletter article this time last year, but I thought it would be useful to share again.

As we marked the transition into the season of Lent, we began last week's service with the Great Litany. It is called the "Great Litany" to distinguish it from the other litanies found in our authorized liturgical materials, such as the litanies we might use at the Prayers of the People, the Litany of Thanksgiving, or the Litany of Penitence we pray at our Ash Wednesday service. The Great Litany is appropriate at any time, but it is most commonly used as the Entrance Rite for the Eucharist to begin the church year on the first Sunday of Advent, and the first (and sometimes fifth) Sunday in Lent, to frame our season of penitence in fervent prayer.

The Great Litany was the first rite to be published in English, prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in 1544. King Henry VIII ordered its use in all English churches at a time when England was at war with Scotland and France. It was later included as an appendix in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer, and it has been with us ever since. Though some of its petitions may seem archaic to us, it is a beautiful and comprehensive prayer that serves as a connection with our historic Anglican roots and offers a reminder that in all things, we are utterly dependent on God's providence.

As the Great Litany is such a full expression of our prayers and our penitence, when it begins the liturgy, there is no need for the Prayers of the People or for a confession of sin later in the service. This slight change in the order of worship may feel a bit awkward, but that very discomfort is a part of what helps us mark the Lenten season as distinct from others.

You will likely notice some other changes this season, as well. Our vestments and other liturgical hangings are violet, emphasizing penitence. There are no flowers on the altar. Beginning this week and continuing throughout the season, our service will open with the Penitential Order—a format especially suited for Lent, in which the confession comes at the beginning of worship, rather than just before Holy Communion.

Throughout the season, instead of a “Gloria” we will sing a “Kyrie”—a song of petition for God’s mercy. Likewise, we refrain from the use of “alleluia” and the collective “Glory to God” at the conclusion of the service, reserving the shout of praise and our beloved communal doxology for an even more joyful expression at Easter. Finally, instead of a blessing at the closing to the service, the Celebrant will offer a “solemn prayer over the people.” It is appropriate during this prayer to kneel or to bow, as you are able.

Our mass setting for the season is *New Plainsong*, by contemporary composer David Hurd. Dr. Hurd is the retired Professor of Church Music at General Theological Seminary, where I got my Master of Divinity degree, and he currently serves as Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary the Virgin in New York City. This setting’s simplicity lends itself particularly well to seasons of penitence and restraint.

As Anglicans, we have a rich liturgical heritage, and a sincere belief that “praying shapes believing.” It is my hope that the worship we offer throughout the season of Lent will be authentic, beautiful, and transformative for us all.

Love,
Mother Terry+

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.

Staff Transitions

Please make sure to give a warm welcome to our new Interim Parish Administrator, Ann Houghton. Ann has many years of experience in parish administration in both Anglican and United Church congregations, and she is already a great addition to our ministry team. She will be in the office Monday to Thursday from 9am to 4pm. Please read below to learn a bit about her.

Blessings,
Mother Terry+

From Ann Houghton:

“Ann is delighted to be working with the congregation of this nearly 100-year-old church. She lives in Vancouver with a growing collection of books and dvds and a dwindling supply of chocolate. When not reading or watching films she can be found exploring the great indoors of thrift stores and book shops.”

Notice of Annual Vestry

Our annual vestry meeting has been postponed and will now be held this Sunday, March 5th, following the 10 a.m. worship service. Please plan to join us as we reflect on our ministry in 2022 and look forward to the year ahead.

Do You Have Questions?

About Faith
About Jesus
About Liturgy
About Life
About St. John's

Then this may be the Course for YOU!

Transforming Questions is for anyone: young or old, cradle Christian or new to church, a believer or an explorer.

A place to join with others and ask the questions that have been burning in your brain and/or heart!!

Beginning Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. here at the church and for 8 Tuesdays following (we shall take a break for Holy Week) we shall meet for fellowship, conversations and questions – and perhaps some answers!

Video presentations, small group discussions, and a time to get to know each other better – Please join us.

But PLEASE RSVP to:

Deacon Karin Fulcher –
fulcher.karin@gmail.com
Father James Hwang - jhwang@sjs.net

Acolyte Training – Postponed

The March 5th Acolyte training has been postponed, and we will advise the new date when available. Stay tuned for more information!

Community Engagement Committee (Formerly Outreach) Meeting Tuesday, March 7 at 7pm

[Zoom link](#)

Our Outreach Committee has a new name! We will now refer to ourselves as the Community Engagement Committee, for clarity of purpose. If you'd like to talk about how we can connect with our neighbours, please join us for a Zoom meeting this Tuesday at 7 p.m.!

A separate working group is being formed to focus on our efforts to respond to community service, justice, and advocacy. Stay tuned for more information!

WNM items for Homeless Needed

Thank you so much for your kind donations! We are a little low on pudding cups, protein (small cans of tuna or chicken), fruit cups and as always socks. We are quite well stocked at the moment for other items.

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.

Pulling Out All The Stops

On March 4, 2023, Master Musicians from three continents will give the first of its kind, cross continental Pipe Organ performance and education workshops in Africa.

As part of a collaborative effort to bring the pipe organ to places the instrument does not exist, pipe organist (Michael Dirk, UBC and VSO instructor of organ and vice president of Vancouver RCCO) will perform at Vancouver St-John's Shaughnessy (3700 pipes) an arrangement of a Rwandan traditional song (Humura Rwanda) written by Vancouver composer Denis Bédard. This performance will be broadcasted through live streaming to Rwanda providing the accompaniment to a Rwandan choir singing an arrangement of a traditional song called Humura Rwanda.

Where this project gets bold is where a Rwandan music student will be performing specific parts of the song on a digital keyboard to activate and be heard back on the Vancouver pipe organ!

"I can't wait to see the look on their faces when they play the real thing for the first time!" exclaimed Gilles Parenteau, project coordinator and retired Selkirk College music instructor, Nelson BC.

Since there are no pipe organs in Rwanda and considering the sheer size of the instrument, this world premiere will give the opportunity to Rwandan musicians to experience the pipe organ's magnitude and play in real time (across continents) our cherished patrimonial instrument. This will be possible via telemidi technology under the direction of Matt Bray (PhD student Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia). The telemidi

signal (musical instrument digital interface) will be traveling near the earth circumference through over 35,000km of internet links.

The performance is scheduled for March 4th and will be live and available on the internet. (links and info can be found at virtualsymphony.org/rwanda). Six other African countries will be invited to view the performance, with promotion made by SAGE Colleges & Institutes Canada, office located in St-Lucia, Caribbean.

Parenteau and Dominique Soutif (former Juno awarded CBC producer, Ottawa, Ont) are coordinating and producing this new music merging the organ with traditional and original songs from Rwanda. Jacques Murigande (artist name Popo and former Canadian Juno recipient) is the director of the School of Creative Art and Music in Rwanda.

Funding for this project is provided by the Canada Arts Council.

For more information or to line up an interview, please contact Gilles Parenteau e: gilles_parenteau@hotmail.com t: 250-505-5739

Introducing the pipe organ in Rwanda
Facebook

Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090374703368>

Website: <https://www.virtualsymphony.org/rwanda>



Michael Dirk - Vice president Vancouver RCCO and Pipe Organist



Rwanda, Africa: Music students who will be playing a pipe organ in Canada



Gilles Parenteau (Canadian composer and retires Selkirk College music teacher) with Jacques Murigande (artist name Popo and former Canadian Juno recipient) in Rwanda

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.office@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.

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* jhwang@sjs.net
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
Ann Houghton, *Interim Parish Administrator* church.office@sjs.net
Patrick Mahon, *Verger*

Trustees

Ken Pepin, *Rector's Warden*
Maggie Sanders, *People's Warden*
Mike Dezell, *Property Trustee*
Donald Wood, *Treasurer*



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