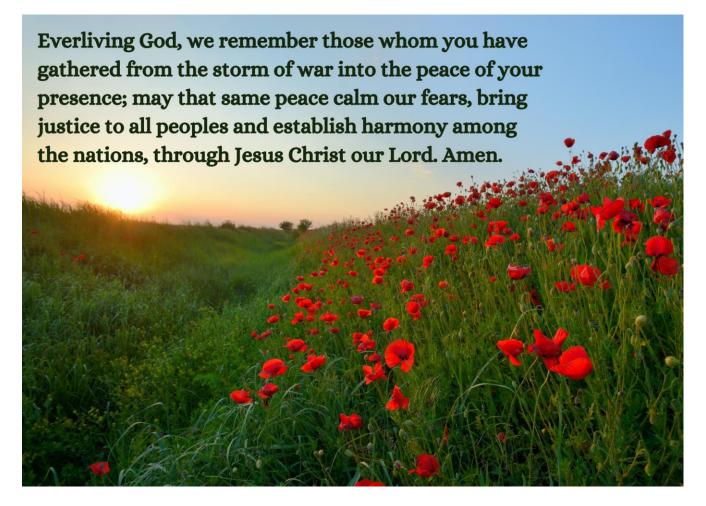


Newsletter Twenty-fouth Sunday after Pentecost November 12, 2023



# Remembrance Day Service This Saturday, November 11 at 10 a.m. Guest Preacher: The Very Rev. Peter Elliott

Join us for a service of prayer and remembrance, with beautiful music from the SJS Choir. Afterward we will have a brief time of fellowship, during which we will rededicate a pair of memorial prints which will hang more prominently now in the north aisle of the church.

#### **From the Rector**

It hasn't even been a week since we adjusted the clocks for the winter months, but for many of us the loss of that extra hour of light in the early evening has made the time seem to pass more slowly. I have often found myself looking at the clock in the evenings, thinking, "Really? It's not bedtime yet?"

I'm always struck this time of year by the intersection between the increase of darkness, in our part of the world, and the lectionary readings as we approach the end of the church year and the beginning of Advent. During these last few weeks, we see imagery of darkness featured prominently in the lessons. We hear, over and over, that in the darkness, God's presence will come at an unexpected time. This Sunday, Jesus compares that day to a



bridegroom, delayed on his way to the wedding feast and calling his guests at midnight. Next week we will hear Paul encourage the Thessalonians with the assurance that in spite of such unpredictability, they are never in darkness, because they are already children of light.

In the present, we can now light our homes and streets and public places, and we no longer fear the darkness in the same ways that our ancestors did. However, we still experience feelings of darkness in our lives. One of the things I love about the Bible is seeing how human concerns have been consistent over millennia. We may have new technology, but we have the same emotions, the same failings, and the same hope in Jesus.

These readings about darkness and light come at the perfect time of year. They are a reminder that even when things seem to be getting darker, as God's children we are destined for light. What's more, we can live in that light now, even in the darkness. That's the promise of Jesus' kingdom. Yes, it is to come. But it is also here, among us and within us today.

Wishing you light and peace, Mother Terry+



# JOIN US ON CONSECRATION SUNDAY!

#### **Consecration Sunday is here!**

This Sunday we'll gather for a single worship service at 10am, followed by our Celebration Luncheon. By now, you've heard all about Consecration Sunday, and I trust you are prayerfully considering your financial commitment to the parish for 2024. At the conclusion of our worship service, we will distribute Estimate of Giving cards, and we will have time to complete them in the church and place them in the basket at the front, as an offering.

As you pray about your own circumstances and what you may be called to share toward God's

work in and through our parish, we wanted to share a small detail with you that will be different on this year's commitment cards. In the past, we have included lines for individuals to designate portions of their offering to support specific ministries. This year, though, we want to make it easy for us to focus on a single spiritual question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give in 2024?" To that end, instead of relying on individuals to designate portions of their giving to ministries like PWRDF and Care + Share, we will include support for these ministries as part of the annual budget in 2024.

If you have given faithfully to these ministries in the past—thank you! Please know that going forward, even without designating part of your pledge to particular causes, your financial commitment and the commitments of the whole congregation will continue to support these important programs.

We hope this will put all of our minds at ease. However, if you feel very strongly about this, you can always write your particular wishes on the card. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Mother Terry. Again, thank you for your generosity!

#### Dear Abbey,

What was that chant at last Sunday's service? I don't think I've ever heard it before. Where does it come from?

Sincerely, A life-long Anglican

#### Dear Anglican,

I am frequently asked this question after we use Eucharistic Prayer 6. Last year I offered an explanation in my column, but it's been a while, so I thought I'd share it again.

Last Sunday we observed All Saints Day, which is one of the major feasts of the church year. I always think it's nice to mark special days with extra touches in the liturgy. Sometimes we use different prayers, sometimes we have special music, and sometimes we even break out the thurible and have incense!

One of my favourite "special occasion" Eucharistic prayers is Prayer 6, in the Book of Alternative Services. There's no reason we couldn't use it every week, but you might have noticed that it is quite long. It contains a whole set of intercessions within the Eucharistic Prayer. It also has the line, which chokes me up every single time, "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." (It even got to me just now when I typed it.)

It's a beautiful prayer, and I absolutely love it! But to be honest, I don't think I'd love it every week. Instead, I love it at All Saints Day, Christmas, and Maundy Thursday, and perhaps a couple of other occasions throughout the year. It's like pepper—a little goes a long way!

But part of what I think makes this prayer feel so special is that we have the option of using a Mozarabic chant tone. What we now call the Mozarabic Rite originated in the Iberian Peninsula in the sixth century, but it continued to evolve over time. Its name is derived from the period of Moorish rule, when Christians who adopted some elements of Arabic culture came to be called Mozarabs ("would-be Arabs"). Not all of the chant from the Mozarabic tradition has been preserved, and even what we have has been reconstructed, or at least altered to some extent to conform to modern notation and language. But it is certainly authentic enough to offer us a connection to Christians in a different time and place.

Other elements of worship that derive from the Mozarabic Rite include the Thanksgiving over the Water at Holy Baptism, and the use of the Trisagion in place of the Gloria in excelsis. We'll sing the Trisagion in Advent, so stay tuned! And if you liked Prayer 6, make sure to come to midnight mass this year!

Joyfully, Abbey 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 <u>terry.dirbas@sjs.net</u>. All questions will remain anonymous.

### **Consecration Sunday**

There will be no 8am Mass on Consecration Sunday, November 12. Please join us for 10am Mass and the Celebration Luncheon afterward.

# Labyrinth is Open

The Labyrinth here at St. John's, Shaughnessy will be open for walking on Thursday mornings from 8am to 9:45am. For those who would like to stay, a service of Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers begins at 10am followed by a low-key Bible Study.

# Westside Anglican Neighbourhood Ministry

As always, we are very grateful for the generosity of parishioners for packet materials that go out to the folks on the street. Here's what we are a need at the moment:

- Socks (always socks, but especially as Fall is here and Winter is approaching)
- Meal Replacements (Ensure or Boost)
- Soft Granola Bars (not crunchy), Fruit Cups
- Clothing: warm & waterproof jackets, shirts, sweaters, gloves, hats or toques

# **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 (<u>church@sjs.net</u>) anytime! Thank you.

# "I Am Loved by Love" ACW Spiritual Workshop

Tuesday, November 14 First Workshop is 10 am |Second Workshop is 7 pm

We are very fortunate to have Mother Miranda lead us in a Spiritual workshop offered in the morning and again in the evening so as to make it available to most members that use zoom. It's only an hour long so ideally it will be doable for you in the morning or evening. Please feel free to share this invitation with your members, family and friends, they don't need to be an ACW member to join us for this time of fellowship. This workshop is open to everyone.



Mtr. Miranda is chaplain to the Anglican Church Women, Diocese of New Westminster. You are asked to attend one of the two workshops. Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82423849370



#### **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 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.

#### 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**

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<u>terry.dirbas@sjs.net</u> jhwang@sjs.net

organist@sjs.net church.office@sjs.net

#### Trustees

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, Rectorterry.dirbas@sjs.netKen Pepin, Rector's Wardenken.pepin@sjsparish.netJoan Stewart, People's Wardenjoan.stewart@sjsparish.netMike Dezellmike.dezell@sjsparish.netCatherine Holmencatherine.holmen@sjsparish.net



1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, BC, V6H 2E2 (604) 731-4966 <u>www.sjs.net</u>