



Dear friends in Christ,

I hope this letter finds you well and that this season of prayer and preparation has brought you closer to the God of love, grace, and mercy. As we now turn our attention toward Holy Week and Easter, I would like to invite you to join us for the profoundly moving liturgies that mark the events of Jesus' betrayal, death, and resurrection.

This Sunday, March 24, we begin by observing Palm Sunday, singing hosannas in remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday, we gather with the disciples in the upper room as we commemorate the Last Supper, recalling Jesus' new commandment of love and the gift of the sacrament of Holy Communion. On Good Friday, we sit at the foot of the cross, contemplating Jesus' example of humility and nonviolence as he willingly gives himself up to death. Then at the Easter Vigil, we move from darkness to light as we recall God's saving deeds throughout history, culminating in the resurrection of Jesus. Finally, we continue that observance with unbridled joy on Easter morning. Christ is risen!

A full schedule of Holy Week service may be found below. If worship between Palm Sunday and Easter has not been your practice, I encourage you to consider making this the year to experience the drama of the Triduum, or the "Three Great Days." Participation in these events leads to a different and deeper experience of Easter joy, as we live into this journey from betrayal and suffering to resurrection, transformation, and hope.

Thanks be to God, the transformative love of Christ is alive in our congregation, inspiring us to offer ourselves to our community and the world. In doing so, we find that new life abounds—not just for those we serve, but also for ourselves. We continue to participate in the Westside Anglican Neighbourhood Ministry, sharing food and friendly conversation with those on the streets. Our refugee committee is working diligently to support the Kandeels in their transition to life in Canada. We have a thriving Godly Play program for our young people. Our phenomenal choir continues to offer beautiful music, enhancing our worship and attracting new people to our services. In all these ministries and many others, the Holy Spirit is at work among us, leading us into that abundant life Jesus has promised.

I am eagerly anticipating Holy Week and sharing the joys of Easter with all of you.

Peace and blessings,
Mother Terry+

New Newsletter Format

Today you will be receiving an alternate version of this Newsletter. It should show up in your Inbox as “Weekly News from SJS” and it is the new way we will be sending newsletters and stand-alone announcements. If you do not see this email in your Inbox, please check your Junk or Spam folder. If not there either, email or call me next week and I’ll sort it out. Many thanks, Deanna.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

at St. John’s, Shaughnessy

Palm Sunday, March 24

8:00am Holy Eucharist (spoken)
10:00am Liturgy of the Palms,
Procession & Holy Eucharist

Holy Wednesday, March 27

7:00pm Tenebrae

Maundy Thursday, March 28

6:00pm Potluck Soup Supper
7:00pm Holy Eucharist with
Foot Washing &
Stripping of the Altar*

Good Friday, March 29

10:00am Children’s Stations of the Cross
Noon Liturgy of Good Friday

Holy Saturday, March 30

8:00pm Easter Vigil*

Easter Sunday, March 31

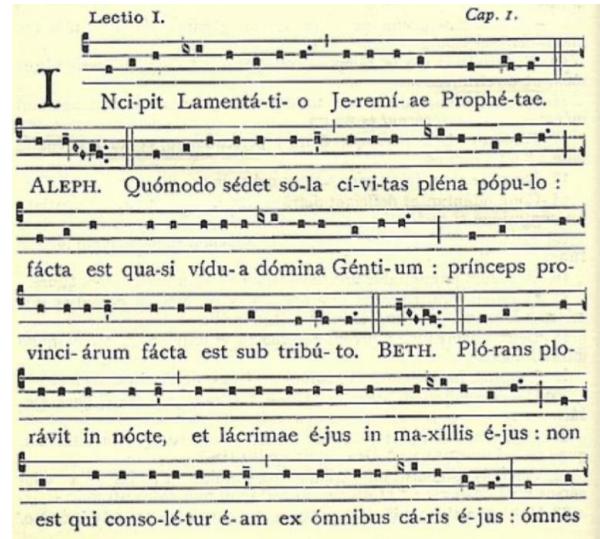
8:00am Holy Eucharist (spoken)
10:00am Festive Easter Eucharist
(Children’s egg
hunt to follow)

*Please note that incense will be used at this service



Tenebrae

On Wednesday of Holy Week we will offer the service of Tenebrae. This ancient service goes back over a thousand years, to the monasteries of Europe. It consists of Matins and Lauds, the first two of the eight monastic daily offices or “hours” for Maundy Thursday. In the monastic tradition these services could be anticipated the evening before. So, we have Matins and Lauds for Maundy Thursday sung on the evening of Wednesday of Holy Week.



Musically the service of Matins consists of: three sung psalms, each preceded and followed by a related antiphon: and then three sung readings, each followed by harmonised “responds.”

That structure is itself repeated three times. The first three readings use a particularly haunting tone specifically for the Lamentations of Jeremiah: “Jerusalem, return unto the Lord thy God.” Lauds follows, which consists also of sung psalms and antiphons, followed by the Song of Moses and the Benedictus. The service concludes with Allegri’s setting of Psalm 51, *Miserere mei*. This is performed often and borrowed in film soundtracks. But this is the liturgy that it was composed for.

The congregation participates silently throughout the service. At points all stand and the priest begins the “Our Father” or “Hail Mary”: the rest of the prayer is not said, but prayed silently. All sit, and the service goes on. The whole service lasts about two hours. It can be unsettling and disorienting the first time you attend. That is part of its power.

Tenebrae – “darkness” - does not just reflect the events of Good Friday which the service prepares us for. It also reflects the fact that as the service proceeds, one candle is extinguished after each of the 15 sung psalms, ending in total darkness. A loud noise is made behind the altar, reminding us of the earthquake (Matthew 27:51). A single candle is then brought from behind the altar: a faint, future possibility of hope.

Altar Guild Update

Last week some members of the Altar Guild gathered to polish up the silver and brass in preparation for the Easter Services. At the same time some of the fine linens that were very worn and no longer useable, were committed to fire. These linens had been in use for a long time and had been blessed prior to their original use so it is not appropriate to just put them in the garbage. We had the use of a portable fire pit into which the linens were placed following a prayer of thanks for their use, and the hands and vessels that had touched them over the years. We recently received a gift of six new purificators (holy serviettes!) which were hand made in Williamsburg, Virginia and blessed by Mother Terry prior to their use.

Sue Firus & Karin Fulcher, Members of the Altar Guild

Rwanda

It was a year ago this month that we connected with Rwanda where they played our organ from afar (and both connected to Calgary simultaneous). Here is the summation clip which was completed last summer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJ3dr6HCQsk>

Fr. James' Induction at St. Matthew Anglican Church

Are you up for a jolly bus ride to Abbotsford with other St. John's parishioners? It would be Tuesday, May 7 if we get enough people. More details to follow next week, so think it over?

Labyrinth is Open

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

Westside Anglican Neighbourhood Ministry

The Neighbourhood Ministry is a street outreach service for those in need on Vancouver's Westside. St. John's organises this service with three other Westside churches: St. Anselm's, St. Helen's and St. Philip's. Volunteers go out every Saturday to provide food and care packets to the needy. Support is also given to those who are moving from the street into a place of their own. Parishioners at the four churches make up the food and care packets each week from the generous donations of their congregations.

As always, we are very grateful for the generosity of parishioners for their donations that go out to folks living on the street. At the moment we are especially in need of the following items:

- Socks (thick socks are good, but please not so thick that folks cannot get shoes on over them)
- T-shirts (medium size and up is best)
- Pudding cups
- Simple wipes (or an equivalent brand) for hands/face/body in small packets
- Handwarmers
- Toothbrushes individually wrapped
- Disposable shaving razors

We also welcome donations of the following items that are continually needed:

- Warm tops (hoodies, sweaters)
- Sweat pants
- Travel size toothpastes
- Mini unscented soaps (like you find at hotels)
- Meal replacement drinks (e.g. Ensure/Boost)
- Juice boxes with straws
- Fruit caps
- Canned tuna or similar (check that it has a ring pull)
- Soft granola bars (not hard or crunchy)

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.



EASTER IS RIGHT AROUND THE
CORNER, AND WE ARE PLANNING
ANOTHER GREAT EGG HUNT!

We would be so grateful for
donations of candy for this event!

Please feel free to bring candy on Sunday mornings.
You may also drop it off during office hours.



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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The Reverend Karin Fulcher, <i>Deacon (Retired)</i>	
The Reverend Pitman Potter, <i>Deacon (Retired)</i>	
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