

Notices for Sunday, April 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

We are all experiencing something of what the disciples experienced in those heady days after the death and resurrection of Jesus. There must have been many rumours around the city about what had happened days before. Had Jesus truly risen from the dead? Could they hope for a different future, or would they suffer the same fate? Fearful and confused, they seek to isolate themselves for fear of being recognised; they fear for their lives not knowing whom to trust.

I hear a lot of that right now. Some people are fearful of the future: will the world ever get back to normal after this Pandemic, when will it all end? Others think that we are using a sledgehammer to crack a nut, that the social isolation programme and closedown of the economy is a huge over-reaction to a virus that only seems to target the most vulnerable.

Into this world of fear, uncertainty and death, the risen Christ appears to his disciples in the midst of their self-imposed isolation and lock down. He offers them a word of Peace and then he does something that will not only empower them but will ensure that the old world that they once knew will soon be transformed into a new and completely different one - he breathes on them the Holy Spirit.

In the midst of this Pandemic and our self-isolation, Jesus come to us through our locked doors with the same word of Peace, but he is also breathing on us his Holy Spirit and is empowering us to see a new and very different future for our world. The disciples had no idea what that new 'normal' would look like to them, but now they knew that Christ was with them, empowering them and accompanying them on their new journey to transform the world.

How do we begin to work to transform the world as Christ's Spirit leads us? Sunday's Old Testament reading offers us an answer. Moses, with the Pharaoh's army encircling them and the Red Sea ahead, calls the terrified Israelites together and says, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you this day...the Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.' (Exodus 14.13-14)

Keeping still for now is changing the world. The Lord is fighting for us through our frontline workers and essential staff, Christ is offering us Peace in our isolation, and the Spirit is showing us a new and very different vision for a world transformed.

The Easter Story is being played out before our eyes, Alleluia!

**Love and Prayers,
Stuart**

WEBSITE WORSHIP: <https://www.stphilipsdunbar.com/blog>

If you have yet to share in St Philip's website worship, please explore the website until you find Holy Week's evening Compline, Good Friday's Stations of the Cross, Michael Murray's "Quarantine Culture", and Sunday worship, among other offerings. Stuart works creatively to record a variety of thought-provoking, meaningful content. There is much to find here. Let's throw **gratitude confetti** on the twelve children and youth who read the **Stations of the Cross** so movingly, on Min Rundle for choosing visuals, and Brian Mix for the cello postlude. Matilda, Norah, Reagan, Connor, Abi, Mira, Pippa, Holly, Coco, Peter, Samantha and Jessie. Stuart created a grateful, hopeful **Easter** service, a thought-provoking sermon, and followed it with John Rutter's *Agnus Dei* paired with images from around the world and from the resurrection. Over 130 households have watched the service.

St Philip's COFFEE HOUR: Sunday April 19, 11:00 AM

Each Sunday, parishioners drop into our coffee hour using **Zoom**. It is good to see familiar faces! Last Sunday, Matilda showed off masses of treats from the Easter Bunny. Go to **Zoom.us**, explore the app, and learn to turn on your computer's mic and camera. On Sunday at 11:00, just click the blue link, using your computer for best results. <https://zoom.us/j/454815164>

ST. PHILIP'S RINGERS

The St Philip's Ringers are volunteers who are ringing **every parishioner** to have a chat. While we practice social distancing, we want to ensure our parishioners stay connected and supported. If you or someone you know needs a call, even beyond St Philip's, leave the name & number on 604-224-3238, ext.304. If you have yet to receive a ring, call that number and leave your number and your email; several contacts were missing or out of date.

Ringers are happy to report that parishioners really appreciate the call, were happy to hear our news, know how to access website worship, and all seem to be well supported by friends and relatives. Difficulties include social isolation, family separation, loneliness and the inability to visit our loved ones, especially those in long-term care or at end of life. Let us pray for all our parishioners feeling these very deep losses.

RESURRECTION IN THE MORNING

COVID is making everyone re-think our priorities at every level, and live with deep uncertainty about the future. How can the resurrection be a resource for us in this strange time? Harold Munn will offer instruction on how to use the resources of the Daily Office (an ancient form of prayer and scripture) and lead a discussion group about how that can be a way of experiencing the resurrection in our time. We will meet Monday mornings until Pentecost from 10.30 to 11.30 by Zoom. Send Harold your email to haroldtmunn@gmail.com so you can join the group. If you're not sure how to use Zoom, phone him at [604-564-2716](tel:604-564-2716) or email him by this Sunday and he'll explain how. A blessed Easter to all!

PRAYER LIST

Please send your prayer requests to Beth (manager@stpdpunbar.com) or leave a voicemail at 604-224-3238 ext. 301.

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

Are you celebrating a birthday, anniversary or a milestone? Let Beth know so that we can celebrate with you in spirit, in prayer or with a phone call.

UNDER OUR ROOF...

Thanks to generous donors to the three-year Capital Campaign in 2019, our new roof will be installed this spring, lights have been converted to LEDs, a loop hearing system is in the works, and long-range priorities are being planned. Please keep your second-year pledges in mind.

AND BEYOND OUR WALLS

Shop locally, “dine out” regularly by ordering restaurant take-out, and support the local independent businesses that have given so much to St Philip’s and to our neighbourhoods.

EASTER DONATIONS

Easter envelopes from parishioners and visitors usually bring in about \$3,000 of donations over and above our pledged giving. This year, we need to do things differently. Please give, if you are able. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47610>

PAD DONATIONS – Many Thanks from the Trustees!

Several of you are changing your giving from envelopes to **Pre-Authorized Donations (PAD)** which allow your offertory donation to arrive unhampered by circumstances. Thank you! If you’ve yet to set this up, please find the attached **PAD form**. Mail the information requested to the Diocesan Office address on the form. It’s so easy! You can alter the PAD later, if needed.

OUR REFUGEE FAMILY

Lama was laid off on March 16 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and is eligible for the Emergency Relief Benefit (CERB), three months’ waiver of Hydro payments, and augmented Child Benefits. Lama’s brother Ward (26) was about to be interviewed by **Dunbar Painting** in the week of March 16, when they had to pause hiring. The owner has kept in touch with Debbie Matheson to keep this hope alive. As outdoor painting jobs pick up for Dunbar Painting, Ward has another chance for an interview. We hope his English is strong enough for him to be hired. The four children and Ward have contact with their teachers online, which is a challenge for them: the online world is based on reading. It took days for the teachers and Debbie just to get Majd (13) and Ahmad (12) signed up online with their classmates. Onward we all go...

GRATITUDE CONFETTI at 7:00 pm daily

Let's spread our gratitude for all our frontline workers in health care and essential services by banging pots, ringing bells, applauding and cheering outside at 7:00 pm. Inspire your neighbours to throw gratitude confetti. Get as loud as Diana Bragg who wields a ship’s bell!

Staying Close While We’re Apart,

Stuart Hallam (Rector), Debbie Matheson, Brian Mix, Diana Bragg, and Suzi Noetzel (Wardens)