



the Church
of St Peter and
St Simon-the-Apostle

JUBILATE!

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Incumbent: [Geoffrey Sangwine](#)
Honorary Assistant: [Jennifer Matthews](#)
Assistant Curate: [Michael Perry](#)
Rector's Warden: [Ted Robinson](#)
People's Warden: [Vanessa Scott](#)
Treasurer: [Johan Van't Hof](#)
Musical Director: [Robin Davis](#)
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Jubilate! Production: [Michael Perry](#)



Fall colours in our Courtyard in 2019. Photo: Derrick Fagan

From the Rector

Fr Geoffrey Sangwine

Thanksgiving this year is going to look very different. With the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic upon us, we are being asked to be more vigilant than ever to help stop the spread of the virus so as to keep each other safe, not to overwhelm our hospitals and avoid as much as possible a complete lockdown once again. That means of course that our gatherings with family and friends will sadly be limited. It makes many of us wonder "what will happen at Christmas?" Well, I am often advised by people wiser than myself "not to borrow tomorrow's trouble!" The King James Bible puts it another way: "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof". That is of course true. There is plenty to



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



The Anglican Church of Canada

Wardens' Report

Vanessa Scott

They say that when God closes a door, He opens a window. For most of us, that window has been a computer or phone screen. We don't have our usual fellowship, but the parish's online presence has grown into the need amazingly well, letting people watch services virtually, and now, thanks to the heroic efforts of Deacon Michael and Christopher Lambe, virtually attend livestreamed services either via YouTube or by Zoom calling. (If you need any help in figuring out how to attend services by telephone or by internet, just let us know by calling the church office at 416-923-8714 and we'll be happy to help you!)

As we head into autumn, this would normally be the time of thanksgiving celebrations, little pumpkins and wheat and corn and squashes decorating the altar steps, starting the preparation work for jams and jellies and knitted sundries for the Christmas Fair, and probably a choir concert, too! Sadly, this year, our autumn parish life will be much reduced, and whatever our Christmas will look like, it won't be the same old routine. But we'll make it work, and if nothing else, it will be memorable!

During the lockdown period, a lot of exciting things have been happening around St. Peter and St. Simon. Those who have been able to attend services (see p. 3)

concern ourselves with now without spending more energy than necessary worrying incessantly about the future, but in this instance we do need to be mindful of what is being asked of us now in order to make things better in the days and months ahead.

In the meantime, it is important also for us to pause in the moment and take stock of where we are and where we have come from; to remember whose we are, and yes to be grateful for the many blessings God does bestow upon us.

My late father Anthony was an Englishman through and through. While he loved his beautiful native homeland across the sea, as do I, he also cherished his adopted home of Canada. "What do you love about Canada, Dad?" "The space, the wide open space." He loved the physical spaciousness of this country. I believe that connects to a spaciousness of spirit that has traditionally characterized this nation. That is something we can easily take for granted. We do well to remember the second verse of our national anthem:

"O Canada, where pines and maples grow, great prairies spread and lordly rivers flow.

How dear to us thy broad domain from east to western sea.

Thou land of hope for all who toil, thou true north, strong and free.

God, keep our land, glorious and free, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee."

At this time of the year we give thanks for vast beauty of this land and for the bounty of the earth. How blessed we are in this great



Holy Cross, September 13

Photo: Vanessa Scott

country to have an abundance of water and food, and peace, and how we need to protect them. Within the inevitable realm of political differences, how blessed we are to live by the motto of “peace, order and good government.” At a time of uncertainty when many aspects of life are being questioned and evaluated, may a spaciousness of spirit continue to flourish.

Getting more specific and reflecting on our parish life, I take this moment to give thanks for the many people who have worked tirelessly and sacrificially to ensure that our Church building could re-open for public worship. The Apollo 13 group has met regularly over the spring and summer. From that initiative sprung subgroups that are working to keep the ship sailing safely. For the ministry of the Health and Safety Working Group led by Dr. Ted Robinson, thank you; to the greeters and those who clean the Church after worship, thank you; to Robin and our dedicated musical team who help lead our praises, thank you; to Deacon Michael, Christopher Lambe and Alan Sauvion who are enabling us to live-stream the services for those who need to worship from home, thank you; to Johan, our Treasurer who continues to give an extraordinary amount of time to keeping our finances on track and to responding to the ongoing requests from the diocese for financial information, thank you; to Rosemary our Secretary for keeping the office going and supporting the wardens and me so well, thank you; to Jerod Bertram who has ensured we have flowers in the sanctuary each week, thank you; to Lewis our Sunday Sexton for ringing the bells twice a day, thank you; to our team of gifted Wardens and the Wardens Council, thank you; to you parishioners and friends of the parish for your encouragement, prayers and support, thank you.

This is a challenging time, yet through it we are finding abundant blessings all around us, in the more simple and basic things of life, including Zoom! I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and encourage you to take a moment to pause and give thanks for the grace of Almighty God “whose power working in us who can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine”.

Geoffrey+

Wardens' report continued

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in October will have noticed that the portions of the Church floor which have already been refinished are looking wonderfully refreshed - and there's more to come! With fewer feet walking through our space, we've had the ability to commit funds to refurbishing the floors in the chancel and nave. Painting has been done on the outdoor metalwork, and it is all a glossy, beautiful black. We have removed some of the dead trees from the property, giving space for new life to grow next year and beyond. If you haven't been to St. Peter and St. Simon in a while, you'll be amazed at all the changes when you are able to be back with us in person.

Our church office continues to operate very smoothly. Our parish office staff have been transitioning into working from home more, only coming into the church offices when absolutely necessary. We have received a donation of a not-very-old laptop (thank you, Johan van 't Hof!) which will be a big help in allowing our staff to work remotely and securely, and we have installed software which allowed our parish secretary, Rosemary, to continue to do her wonderful work in assisting in the day-to-day business of this parish without risking an unnecessary commute. Daive and Lewis have been invaluable in keeping the church clean, secure, and above all, ready for re-entry. (continued, page 5)

Thanksgiving 2020

Sunday, September 13th was our first in-person & online worship service. Fr. Geoffrey was very happy with how it went and was interviewed by the Diocesan newspaper, *the Anglican*, to highlight an example of parish that successfully reopened on September 13. Thank you to everyone for supporting the parish as we evolve our worship to meet our pandemic context.



Fr. Geoff People's & Warden Vanessa Scott, greet each other with an elbow bump in the Parish Office on Holy Cross.



Above: social distancing in our pews. We have 55 places in our pews that are 2 metres apart. As families can sit together, this does not necessarily mean 55 people can attend church. Sides people will show you to a pew, and if necessary, will also re-seat attendees if a family group arrives and we need to remeasure.

Right: receiving Holy Communion. At this time we are only distributing the host. To receive communion, a side person will invite you to go forward after they sanitize your hands. Stop on the dot and Fr Geoff will approach you with the sacrament. Step 2 metres to the left or



right and unhook your mask to receive communion. After receiving communion a sides person will sanitize your hands and you return to your seat via the directional arrows.

Face masks are now mandatory at all times for all persons within the building, with the exception of a brief removal to take the communion wafer if a person chooses to do so. We haven't quite coordinated our masks with the Ecclesiastical season colours, but I have been delighted at the variety of beautiful mask colours and styles worn - they help to keep us and others safe -and- let us look fabulous while wearing them. But the most important thing is always our lives and the lives of others, and whatever your mask looks like, so long as it keeps the person wearing it healthy and able to join us, I will love seeing it on you.

Volunteer parishioners and laity have been trained on disinfection practices after every service. Fran Brown has done wonderful work with setting up cleaning rags and buckets so that multiple volunteers can clean the Church space quickly and safely. Ted Robinson has found a handheld machine which will add to this disinfection practice by emitting an aerosol that will help to settle any airborne virus particles as well as disinfect the surfaces its fog settles on.

And finally, some important news is that the St. Simon's Shelter notified the parish that they have begun the process of looking for alternative space. Covid distancing requirements from the City of Toronto have reduced the capacity of the space from 66 in 2019 to 18 guests. As a temporary solution, during the summer, the parish enlarged the shelter's capacity by providing them access to the Parish Hall. However, in the long-term a new arrangement will need to be found. In response our parish has struck a New Tenant Task Force to ensure that we are prepared to find a new space user.

The need for essential short-term living space for those most in need in our city remains. You can help by writing to your City councillor and asking what they plan to do to increase affordable living space to ensure that a person needing to find a home they can afford can do so.

Stay safe, stay healthy, & stay in touch with St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle!

Health & Safety – a new Committee at SPSS

Ted Robinson, chair



When the Diocese published the first set of guidelines for church re-opening in June, Fr. Geoff asked me to head up a new Health & Safety Working Group. We began meeting in early July; initially we worked on protocols for Red Phase, and then focused on plans for safely re-opening our church (Amber Phase) by mid-September. Using the guidelines from the Diocese and the city, we adapted them to fit our particular circumstances.

Some of the principles that we held before us included:

1. Proceeding carefully and conservatively
2. Keeping in mind that our parish community has many elderly and immune compromised members
3. Paying attention to the science as it was unfolding

Our Working Group has included members from health care, administration, education, and represents the diversity within our parish community.

In July, during Red Phase, we began a sign-in process for all who were entering the church buildings, with extensive signage, self-screening, mandatory wearing of masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizing.

For re-opening September 13 (Amber Phase), we developed plans for screening outside the church, mandatory mask wearing, social distancing, hand sanitizing, and minimizing movement through the church (one way traffic as much as possible.) Floor signage has helped with this.

In the church itself, we have marked the pews to maintain social distancing. Everyone is required to wear masks; hand sanitizing is done on entry and exit, and before and after receiving communion. Holy Communion is celebrated in one kind, and is done following the Diocesan guidelines very carefully.

One of the most difficult things for all of us is that we are not able to sing together. By refraining from this aspect of our corporate worship, we are expressing our care and concern for one another. It is one of many ways in which we are changing what we do in order to keep safe ourselves and those whom we love.

Page 5, Health and Safety Chair, Ted Robinson, oversees the post-service cleaning. Page 6, Fran Brown sanitizes pews after the service. Photos: Deacon Michael

We formed and trained a team of sides-people for the first three Sundays. We will be expanding to three teams, which will rotate starting October 4th. We have a separate team of cleaners, who have been carefully wiping down the pews and high touch areas in the Nave after the services. In addition, the church has purchased a fogger machine, which will speed up the cleaning process and increase our efficiency. It will be operational by mid-October. Lewis, our Verger, is responsible for cleaning high touch areas in the Narthex, washrooms, etc.

The parish of San Lorenzo has also resumed Sunday services. Several of us met with them to discuss protocols for them to follow in a very similar way during and after their services.

Many of our rental groups have not yet returned to the church. We have been in contact with each of them; several, including AURA and the Ryerson Day Care, are expecting to return this month. The Shelter has now vacated the Parish Hall, which they were using on an emergency basis from mid-April to September 30th. We have ensured that, before turning the Parish Hall back to us, they have had a thorough "Covid cleaning" done.

Many thanks to the members of the H&S Working Group: Laurie Sanderson, Daphne Doak, John Pugsley, David Carrington, Fran Brown, Suzette Mafuna, Deacon Michael and Fr. Geoff.

Our work is not over. We will continue to meet regularly to monitor the Health and Safety of our parish community as long as the need persists.



Stewardship Committee

Stephanie Woodside

FaithWorks Campaign at SPSS

In this issue of **Jubilate!** we are once again turning our attention to the Diocese of Toronto's FaithWorks campaign. In particular we would like to spotlight a ministry receiving support through FaithWorks that is very close to home: [AURA, the Anglican United Church Refugee Alliance](#) whose headquarters occupy offices at St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle.

A joint program of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and the United Church's Shining Waters Regional Council, AURA is a 'sponsorship agreement holder' with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). This makes it an official go-between to match refugee claimants with sponsoring communities in the Toronto area. Both churches started this work in the 1970s to support refugees from Southeast Asia and joined forces to create AURA in 1985. AURA has two staff in its SPSS office, and does a lot of work: in the six years since 2014 AURA has successfully placed 487 individuals in the Toronto area; at the current moment 189 cases are processing their way through the pipeline. The organization's budget - which comes from the two denominations plus donations from individuals - is divided into three segments: 25% to do the work of matching cases with sponsors; 35% for settlement supports - including troubleshooting; 40% of the work is capacity building and education.

AURA works with a coalition of organizations to help all refugees regardless of their religion, politics, gender, sexual orientation, race or nationality. AURA has nearly 30 years of working with the community ensuring refugees are able to begin positive new lives here in Canada.

The SPSS Refugee Committee has worked closely with AURA to ensure the arrival of those families and individuals that have been sponsored by our church community.

Exciting news from the Diocesan FaithWorks campaign:

At this time the Diocese is excited to announce that a new matching challenge grant in the amount of \$100,000 has been offered by a generous donor to the Diocese. This grant will be applied to new or increased donations to the FaithWorks campaign within the Diocese. The challenge is only for parishes, not individuals. In other words, for every increased dollar a parish offers to FaithWorks over last year's amount, this generous donor will match it with another dollar up to \$100,000.

For example, if a parish increases its contributions to FaithWorks this year over 2019 by \$1,000, it becomes \$2,000. These increased dollars will ensure that there will be continued support for ministries in our diocese that support those most vulnerable and those struggling every day.

How you can donate and help the campaign:

There are two ways that you can participate in this challenge and contribute to our parish's FaithWorks campaign total for this year:

1. You can make a donation directly to SPSS, indicating on the memo line of your cheque that the donation is to be designated to FaithWorks/AURA.
2. You can now also make an online contribution. To make it easier the FaithWorks website has been modified to give credit to a parish for your donation. Simply go to [FaithWorks.ca](#) and follow the instructions to put our parish's name in the Comments section when making a donation. You can also designate your donation to go to the ministries that we have highlighted in our parish FaithWorks campaign, i.e.: AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance); All Saints Church Community Centre Flemington Park Ministry; or, Toronto Urban Native Ministry.

In identifying that you are a member of SPSS in the above donation steps, you ensure that 15% of your donation will return to our own parish finances.

No place to Go!

Fran Brown

That is the state of single use plastic right this minute. No country wants plastic dumps or incineration. Waterways clog up, wildlife suffer, humans ingest minute plastic fibres in water (even bottled) and food. World-wide studies support this data. Researchers are trying to find innovative ways to reuse plastic and to develop alternatives.

We didn't have plastics until 1956 when polyesterene was discovered as a product of fossil fuels. Now we have 400 million tons on land dumps annually and 800 million metric tons in our oceans. Fishermen collect 40% plastic and 60% fish. 32% of plastic is litter, 40% is landfill, 14% is incinerated, 14% is recycled and 2% recycled effectively. People working at or living near petrochemical plants have chronic illness and deadly diseases. Incineration of plastic spews toxins into our air which can be carried by clouds and dropped anywhere in the world.

Changing our behaviour is the best way to combat this problem. 40% of plastic waste is single use items. Stop using single use items. Tell your grocer you won't buy plastic wrapped fruit and vegetables or use plastic bags. Tell Amazon you don't want plastic packaging. Sign the petition to stop using single use plastics in Toronto and support local recycling. Choose to refill and reuse wherever possible.

Know your plastics. Go to: Environmental Defence Canada.ca and watch The Story of Plastic. Beginning in July they will also have a monthly Webinar update from Toronto. Check out Break Free from Plastic.org. Google WNED and watch The Plastic Problem, aired June 2, 2020. Belong to Change.org and sign the

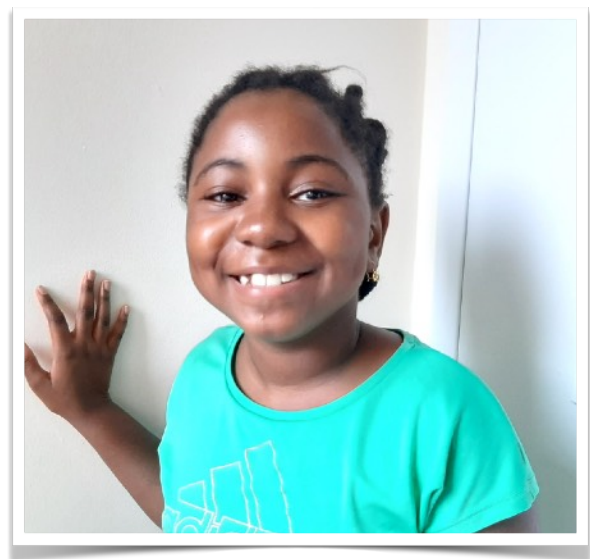
environmental petitions. Especially petition for government action to make plastic producers accountable by taking back and reusing the plastics themselves. Be sure to take your own containers when you visit Unboxed Market at 1263 Dundas St. West, Ontario's first 100% zero waste market. That's a place to go to!

Kid's Corner

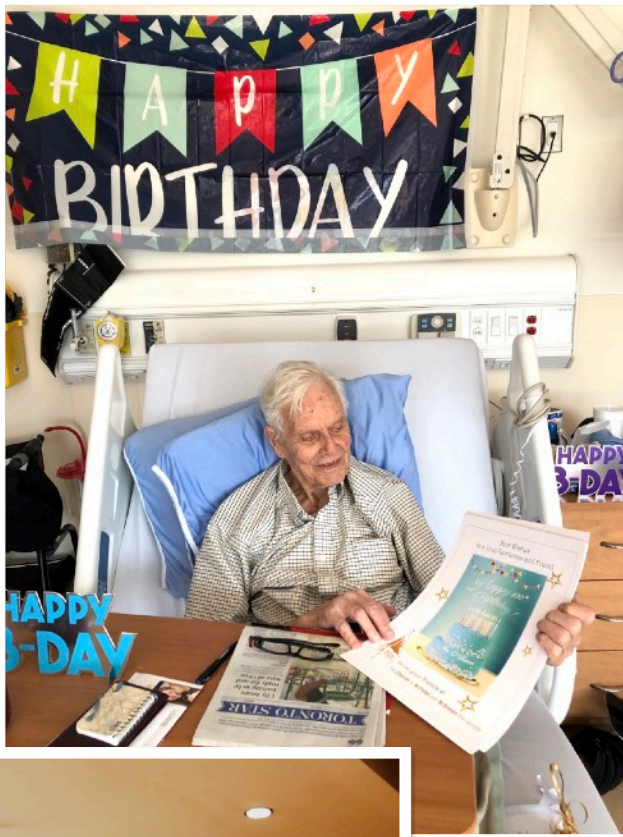
Sileen Phillips

One of the advantages of online Sunday School is that not just children living in our parish can attend. Since the pandemic, we have established an online model and have had children from as far as Jamaica and California attend. It is not a large number, but it is certainly encouraging. I'd like you to meet eight year old Maliha from Dufferin County. This is what she had to say about Sunday School. In the next issue of Jubilate! we'll hear from Ethan.

Maliha: "I love Sunday School because it's fun. We read stories and play a fun game called Bible Jeopardy. My favourite part is the game because I get to compete against the others."



Sunday School member Maliha. Photo submitted by Sileen.



Rogers and Diana welcome their third daughter to the family. Rogers writes, "Thank you very much. We were blessed with Alena Ahimbisa (praising) on August, 8th. She's doing well and growing fast.

Thank you for the prayers, we thank God for the blessing.

Photo: Rogers Beyongyera



Above: Jim O'Brian turned 100 years old in September. Fr. Geoffrey had occasion to visit him for his birthday where he passed on well wishes from the parish.

Photo: Fr. Geoff

Left: Joyce Brighty & Margie Huycke. Long-time member, Joyce, turned 95 over the summer. Happy belated birthday.

Photo: Mary Anderson

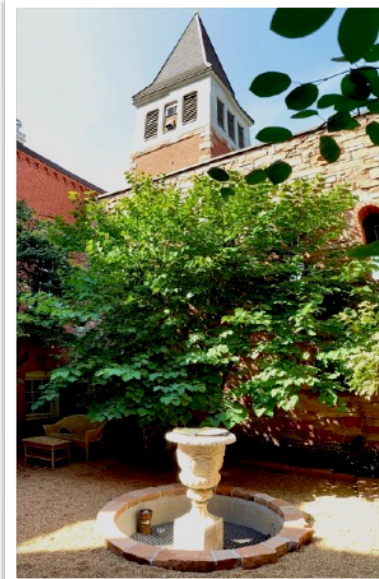


Marjorie Philip opens gifts at her 90th birthday party. She writes, "Thanks to my church family for the beautiful floral arrangement, all the telephone calls and lovely birthday cards i received on my 90th birthday. They were deeply appreciated. Plans for a big birthday bash had to be cancelled, but I was able to celebrate at a distance barbecue with close family and three friends from my high school days.

Photo: Marjorie Philip

Requiem for our Redbud

Nancy Nourse



Redbud Summer shade. Photo: Nancy Nourse

“To everything there is a season”, and nothing seemed to represent that more than the beautiful Redbud tree that once graced our parish property until recently. In the springtime, nestled in our courtyard, its branches were laden with delicate, deep

pink blossoms that heralded the arrival of the longer and warmer days to come. Not content just to exude its loveliness in its cloistered garden, our Redbud extended those branches of tiny, profuse blooms so that they would magically appear through the narrow brick and ironwork arches of the outdoor clerestory at the top of the Bloor Street stairs and main entrance. During the heat of summer, our tree’s extravagantly large, heart-shaped leaves rustled in the breeze, offering a welcoming and cooling sanctuary to birds and humans alike.

Sadly, before our dear Redbud would have displayed its annual resplendent golden hues of autumn, it disappeared. At a time when so much of our day-to-day existence is marked by the many losses brought on by the necessary

measures to control the pandemic, the tragic end to this tree seems even more heart-breaking. Yet nature’s constant renewal is a miracle of God’s love. It replenishes our fragile sense of faith and restores hope. We know that from the emptiness, and with time, new life will spring forth. As responsible stewards our task will be to cultivate, nurture and protect this new growth.

Now in remembrance, it is time to give thanks for all the delight and comfort that our dear little Redbud bestowed upon our parish. Imagine if only each of us might fully embody such a maxim as “Bloom where you are planted” as fully as this generous tree did! May its memory serve as a model by which we all live.



Spring blossoms as seen from the main entrance veranda. Photos: Nancy Nourse

St. Peter & St. Simon's Contributes to the Democratic Process

The Wardens

As you are no doubt aware, there is a federal bi-election in the riding of Toronto Centre. The day that the bi-election was called, we were approached by Elections Canada and asked if they could use the church as a polling station. This is nothing new – they have done this so many times in the past, including last October.

This time, however, they will be conducting training sessions for several days prior to the election, and will also be holding advance polling at the church from Oct 16 to Oct 19. Election Day is Monday, October 26. For us there will be some adjustments to our flow of traffic on Sunday, October 18, which is one of the days of advance polling.

For training sessions and the Advance Polling they will be using the Parish Hall. On Election Day, there will be 12 polls held, using many areas throughout our building.

We see this as an important opportunity for the parish to connect with the community. It will also provide us with some additional revenue.

Musings from a very smoky West Coast

Diane Marshall

Needing to stay indoors in spite of warm temperatures here on the obscured sun of the Sunshine Coast, I've been thankful for a meditation practice I've been blessed to use

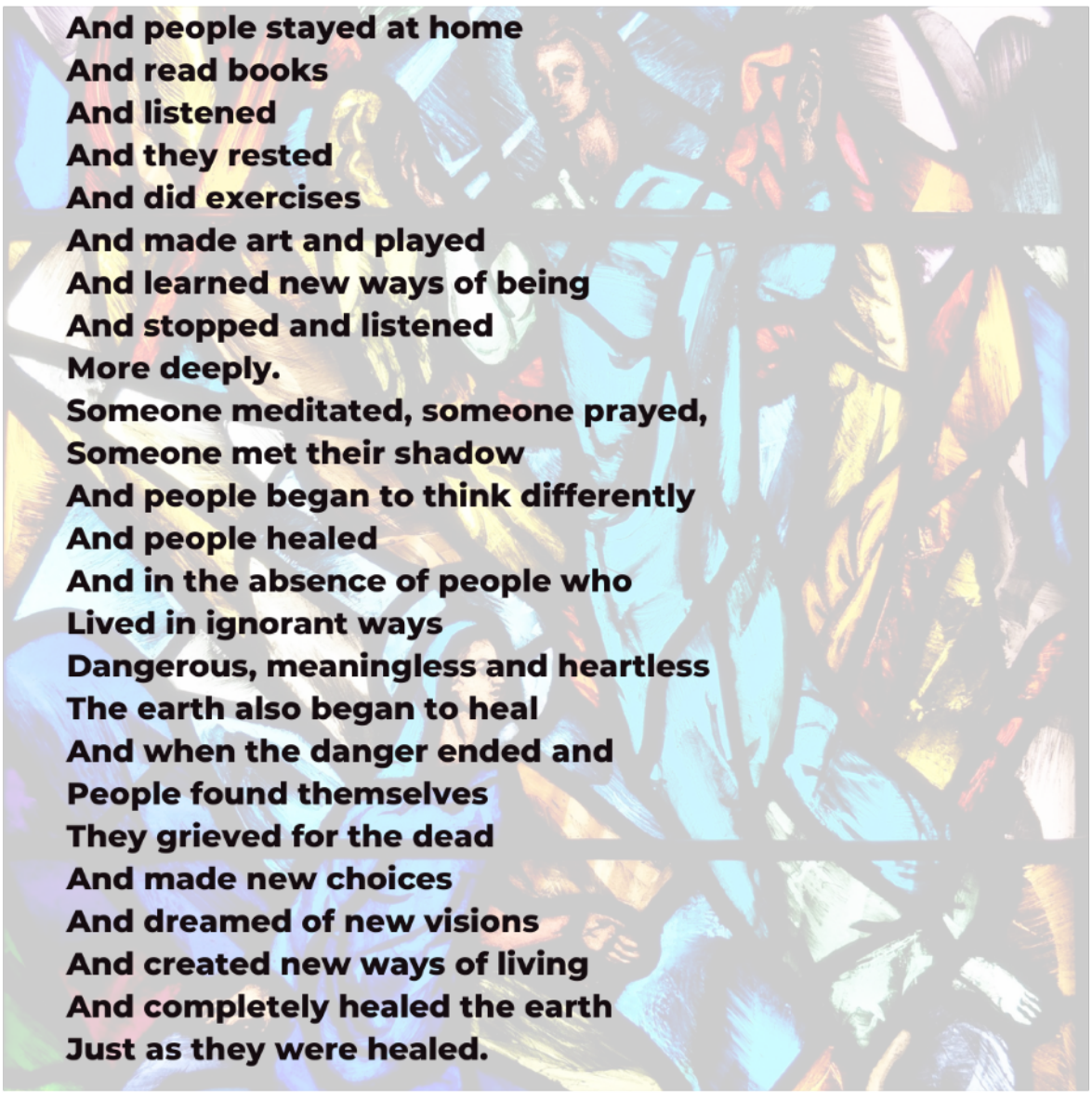
during this pandemic. I thought perhaps some of you would find it a blessing too.

It is a mindful-compassionate way to pray to comfort yourself and to pray for others, remembering Christ's promise to be with us always:

- Sit in a comfortable position, close your eyes, and take three deep, relaxing breaths remembering that God's Holy Presence is with us always.
- Open your awareness to the sounds in your environment; listen to what presents itself to you.
- Note your posture, as if you were seeing yourself from outside your body.
- Next, bring your awareness inside your body, noting the pulsation and vibration of your own bodily self.
- Bring loving-kindness to yourself, putting your hand gently over your heart.
- Repeat this prayer several times, or a different prayer that reflects a deep longing of your spirit: "May the peace of Christ uphold me and sustain me".
- When you are ready, allow yourself to be aware of any people, animals or others of God's creation that enter your mind: "May they be blessed and free from suffering."
- Take your time.
- Return to awareness of yourself at any time, especially if you need to anchor your awareness in your own body to relax more deeply.
- When you are ready, gently open your eyes, and notice what is around you, giving thanks to God's Spirit for the Holy Presence with and within you.

Warm greetings to all,

Diane



**And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply.
Someone meditated, someone prayed,
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.**

"And the People Stayed Home," a prose poem by Kitty O'Meara, has been going viral since early March 2020 when the retired American teacher and chaplain published the beautiful poem on her blog, under the post title: In the Time of Pandemic. Stain glass, Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the SPSS Memorial Chapel. Artist: Yvonne Williams, 1976

Next Jubilate: a Christmas edition

- ❖ Submission deadline: Second Sunday of Advent, December 6th, 2020
- ❖ Publication: Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20th, 2020

Jubilate! is a newsletter for the parishioners and friends of
the Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle
