



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

JUBILATE!

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Incumbent: Geoffrey Sangwine
Honorary Assistant: Jennifer Matthews
Rector's Warden: Ted Robinson
People's Warden: Vanessa Scott
Treasurer: Johan van t'Hof
Envelope Secretary: Paul Mitchell
Music Director: Robin Davis
Jubilate! Editor: Peggy Needham
Jubilate! Production: Rosemary Hendra

From the Rector

*The Reverend Canon
Geoffrey Sangwine*

The story of the wise men is such a beloved and familiar tale that it tends to get covered with the patina of age. We have had these wise men around in one form or another for such a long time in pictures or in little statues for our crèche that we can all but miss the meaning.

First, who are they? In tradition their names are *Caspar*, *Melchior* and *Balthasar*. They came from the Orient which meant anything east of Jerusalem. They may have been kings; what we do know is they were a learned group, probably Persian astrologers who studied the skies diligently. It was that attentiveness to the stars that led them on their long journey to find the new-born king.

When they finally arrived in Jerusalem, they first went to Herod who welcomed them. Maybe he saw in them a similar class of people? Maybe he thought he could use them to his benefit, to give him some information about this new king born in the land? That was enough to scare the wits out of him! The men listened to Herod, said their goodbyes, did some more research and finally found the Holy Family on their own. They knelt and paid homage, which showed not subservience, or weakness, but wisdom and respect. They presented those precious gifts: gold for the King, frankincense for holiness, and myrrh the ancient funeral spice.

The journey they made and the gifts they gave tells us that these men had extraordinary *insight*. They knew the importance of paying attention, of watching, listening, and discerning.

God can come in the most unusual ways, often onto the stage by the side entrance. We are so involved in the centre stage action we can miss the many ways God comes if we do not pay attention. For it might just be a casual remark, a chance encounter, a memorable email, a personal problem or sickness through which we see the presence of the Holy One.



*SPSS Three Wise Men Statues
Photo: SPSS collection*

Many people in our own worrisome and unpredictable time have had a heightened awareness of things that are *truly* important. Many have had a spiritual awakening. Some have turned to God again or for the first time.

Sometimes for people like the Magi it is the predictable pattern of the stars that let in the Divine Light. The key is that they were wise because they looked at what others had dismissed as ordinary and of no particular consequence - this refers not just to the natural pattern of the stars but to the baby these men finally found. In his face shone the face and the wisdom of God Almighty. They came at last to the place where the child was and recognized that here was someone really different. They knelt in their silks and brocades on the rough floor and left gifts of tremendous value. And these extraordinary gifts show their insight too. In and of themselves they are signs of Jesus marking his identity – his kingship, his holiness, his precious death and sacrifice.

Then they vanished without a trace; they went home by another road making sure not to go back to Herod. Their wisdom shone through in that decision – they paid attention to the dream and knew that Herod was trouble.



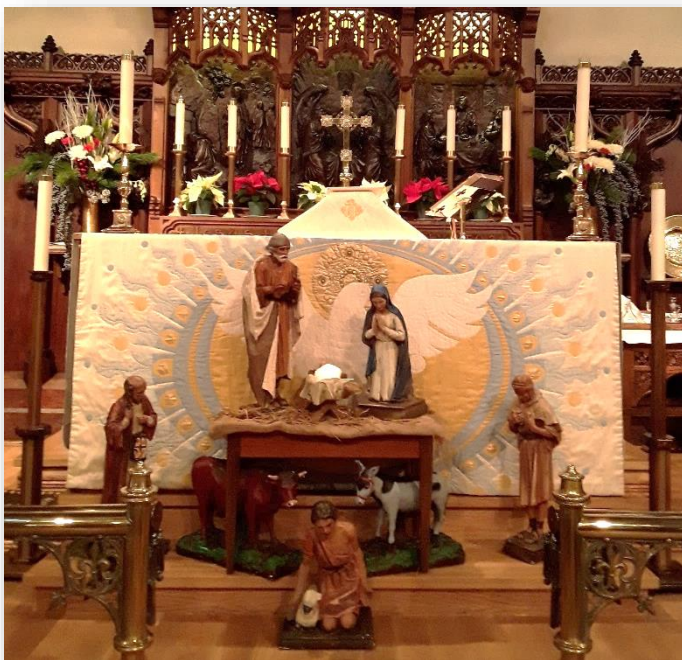
Fr. Geoff at the Christmas Eve evening service

Photo: SPSS collection

To journey is to change. Rarely do we come home from a long trip the same person who started out. All of us are journeying through some uncharted places. Many have had to make changes in our lives to meet changing circumstances. The Church must now - and in the future - adapt to meet new demands and new kinds of ministry in a different world. For those of us involved in these difficult times, adaptability and patience are necessary to get us through. We must discern and adapt to the circumstances around us with wisdom, with courage and with grace. If that requires sacrifice – which it surely does – then we are in the good company of Mary and Joseph, and of their Son who gave his life for us. We are called to search for

what shines as ultimate value and goodness, which is Christ himself. The light of Christ is what draws us on because he leads us always to a place of new birth. The wise men finally opened their gifts in the place where new birth lies. They paid homage to that birth because they knew it affected them and the world at the deepest level. God invites us to follow that star, to give our precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh: our energy and integrity, our faith and hope, our love -- the deepest elements of the heart, mind, soul and strength. When the child of hope is born in you and in me, the possibility exists of new birth at every other level.

I commend to us all the beautiful Collect for Epiphany. It is a long season this year as Ash Wednesday is on March 2nd. May this prayer be a source of strength as we



SPSS Crèche Photo: Fran Brown

Epiphany 2022

journey on through these times towards Lent and to the new life of Easter.

*O GOD,
who by the leading of a star
did manifest thy only-begotten
Son to the Gentiles:
Mercifully grant, that we,
who know thee now by faith,
may be led onward through this
earthly life,
until we see the vision of thy
heavenly glory; through the
same thy Son Jesus Christ,
who with thee and the Holy
Ghost
liveth and reigneth,
one God, world without end.
Amen.*

**New Year Words of Wisdom
from the Late Archbishop
Michael Ramsay**

As many of you know, one of my spiritual heroes is the late the Most Reverend Michael Ramsey, 100th Archbishop of Canterbury, whose wisdom and writings continue to feed and inspire my faith life. I share with you these *Five Helps for the New Year* he offered many years ago that hold true now as ever.

1. Thank God. Often and always. Thank him carefully and wonderingly for your continuing privileges and for every experience of his goodness. Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow.

2. Take care about confession of your sins. As time passes the habit of being critical about people and things grows more than each of us realize.

As a side note, Archbishop Michael commends the act of sacramental confession. I remind us of the classical



*Fr. Geoffrey and
Nikoli Alexander Taylor Polewczyk,
grandson of Daphne Doak
Photo: courtesy of the family*

Anglican approach about it: all may, none must, some should!

3. Be ready to accept humiliations. They can hurt terribly, but they can help to keep you humble. Whether trivial or big, accept them. All these can be so many chances to be a little nearer to our Lord. There is nothing to fear if you are near to the Lord and in his hands.

4. Do not worry about status. There is only one status that Our Lord bids us be concerned with, and that is our proximity to Him. "If a man serve me, let him follow me, and where I am there also shall my servant be." (John 12:26) That is our status; to be near our Lord wherever He may ask us to go with him.

5. Use your sense of humour. Laugh at things, laugh at the absurdities of life, laugh at yourself. Through the year people will thank God for you. And let the reason for their thankfulness be not just that you were a person whom they liked or loved but because you made God real to them.

I wish you all a Happy Blessed New Year!
Fr. Geoff+



Advent Lessons and Carols Procession Photo: SPSS collection

Reflections on Two Terms as Warden (1989-92 and 2019-22)

Ted Robinson, Rector's Warden

Wow! I just realised that these two terms are separated by 30 years. How different was the church – not to mention the world! – back then.



Ted Robinson, outgoing Warden

Photo: SPSS collection

Thinking back to my first term – as People's Warden for two years with John Kirkwood, and then as Rector's Warden for one year with Marian McPherson – the Parish of St. Simon-the-Apostle was about three times the size of our current SPSS. For the first several months David Neelands was Priest-in-Charge, and then Randall Johnston was appointed as the seventh Rector.

The main entrance to the church was then off Howard St. It was not until 2001 that the Narthex was completed and the entrance moved to Bloor St. Back in 1989-92 we ran surplus budgets each year, as I recall. In fact, we were able to hire a half-time associate priest, the Rev. John Saynor. John was instrumental in starting the first Out of the Cold program in Toronto at St. Simon's. Initially, we opened our doors to the homeless one night a week from November to March. We had teams of volunteers from our own parish members, as well as from at least one other congregation (St. Cuthbert's). Marian and David McPherson were among those who participated in this way for several years. The teams provided

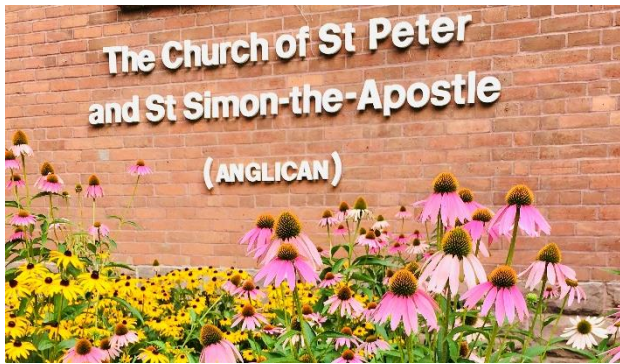
dinner, conversation and breakfast each week. Everything took place in the Parish Hall; it wasn't until several years later that the basement was renovated to accommodate the Shelter.

Something I recall as Warden in those days was preparing financial statements for the Annual Vestry meeting. It was the early days of computers; almost everything was done by hand or on a small calculator. I remember well working all night with my co-warden John Kirkwood to prepare and then print financial statements for the meeting which was held Sunday after church.

During that time Derek Holman was Music Director and Choirmaster. Our two sons, Matthew and Andrew, both sang in the choir under Derek's direction. As choir parents, Isabelle and I were allowed to travel with the choir on two occasions (1988 and 1991) to England. For us it was a holiday, since the younger men in the choir acted as counsellors for the boys. The choir numbered about 40 men and boys in those days. Unfortunately, it was during the second of those trips (in 1991) that we first heard of the arrest of Ned Hanson, former Music Director and Choirmaster of St. Simon's from 1966 to 1981. He was charged and convicted of sexual assault. The cases dated back as far as 1966.

During that time, we also welcomed a refugee family, the Ghebreslase family, in 1989. We heard from the Creightons (Don was Warden from 1981 to 1984) that they had fled to Greece where they had only temporary asylum. Cuyler Young, then Director of the ROM, who became Warden in 1992, chaired our Refugee Committee at that time. It was through Cuyler that we first had contact with AURA, our tenant for the past three years. Ghebre and Medhin continue to be members of our Parish. Saron, their daughter, ran in the Toronto Mayoral race in 2018, finishing 4th. Watch for her in coming elections!

As it was customary back then to serve as warden for up to three years. I stepped down in 1992. Later on, I was asked to join a group of past wardens to provide "wise counsel" for the current Wardens. For many years I served in that capacity along with Winston Isaac, until his untimely death in 2017. To me, he was Wisdom personified. I still remember and miss his thoughtful insights.



*St. Peter's and St. Simon's amalgamated in 2016
Photo: SPSS collection*

Our current past wardens, Mary Martin and Paul Faulkner, have given us invaluable insight and support, especially in the past two years as we have weathered the storms of Covid 19.

2016 marked the beginning of a new era: the amalgamation of St. Peter's and St. Simon's, as well as the arrival of Fr. Geoff, our new priest. When he asked me in 2019 to become Rector's Warden when Paul retired after 10 years of service, I agreed to a two-year term. Be careful what you agree to! The first year was relatively straightforward; the past two have been anything but!!

We have been blessed with a wonderful Wardens' team during this time. Working with Vanessa, Laurie, Johan, Stephanie and David has been delightful. And who could have hoped for a more faithful, profound, supportive spiritual leader than Fr. Geoff? Our staff have all made huge contributions to keeping us afloat and thriving: Rosemary has been a Godsend in the office for almost two years now. Robin and the choir have

contributed immensely to the spiritual wellbeing of us all. Daive has kept the building functioning and in good repair. And Sileen has continued to provide for the spiritual growth of our youth.

There have been many, many changes in the past three years. One of the most significant is the departure of St. Simon's Shelter after nearly 25 years. Growing out of the roots of Out of the Cold, the Shelter began operations seven days a week in 1996 or '97. Initially run as an outreach project of the Parish, it became independent about 20 years ago. Members of the Parish have continued to serve on its Board up to the present (notably David Carrington and Paul Faulkner). With the onset of Covid in March 2020, the Shelter expanded temporarily into the Parish Hall. However, the city changed space requirements for shelters, and St. Simon's Shelter could no longer be accommodated in the available space. We said goodbye to them in June 2021. Fortunately, they have been able to relocate nearby at the Isabella Hotel on Sherbourne St.

Many endings provide for new beginnings. With input from the Wardens' team and others in the congregation, we have come up with a plan for a new kind of tenant going forward. After renovations are completed in the basement of the church this spring, we will welcome a Day Care/Nursery School, "Munchkin Manor", on a long-term lease. We believe that this will provide a necessary service to the community nearby, and will also help to stabilize our financial future. We will be looking for additional tenants in the Parish Hall basement where the Shelter was previously housed.



*Churchwardens Vanessa Scott and Ted Robinson read at the Lessons and Carols service.
Photo: SPSS collection*

As I step down as Rector's Warden on Feb 27, I will rejoin the retired wardens, providing "wise counsel" to the new team. I found in the past that the advantage of this role is that you can make recommendations, and if they are accepted, someone else gets to carry them out! Thanks to all, both named and unnamed, who have made this job so meaningful.

Update from the Stewardship Committee – A Big Thank You!

Stephanie Woodside

The Stewardship Committee would like to say "Thank-You" to all parish members who responded to our recent Joyful Giving Campaign. We are most grateful to all who sent in Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG) forms with increases in monthly giving. A big thank you as well to all the other gifts that were received during the month of December. It is very encouraging to know that after almost two years of this pandemic, our community is as strong as ever and that members of the parish are willing to give generously to support its ministries.

It is not too late! If you would still like to sign up for PAG or increase your monthly amount you can contact Rosemary Hendra, our Parish Administrator at 416-923-8714 or office@stpeterstsimon.ca and she will be happy to send you the form.

The form and further information about donating to the parish are also available via our website: stpeterstsimon.ca/supportus/



*Do you recognize the person
playing Mary at the 1961
Church of the Apostles
Christmas Pageant?*

*Answer: The Reverend Jennifer
Matthews. Photo courtesy of
the Reverend Jennifer Matthews.*

Advance Notice

The Annual Vestry meeting will be held
on Sunday February 27th
at 12 noon via Zoom.

The deadline for submission of Vestry
reports is noon February 1.
Please submit the report to the office at
office@stpeterstsimon.ca

From the Organ Bench



*Music Director Robin Davis and Connor Cumming
Photo: Carol Peck*



Although not able to sing in-person at the Christmas Eve service, the choir was present digitally through the magic of pre-recordings. Photo: SPSS collection



The Choir singing in person and keeping physically distant, at the Fourth Sunday of Advent service. Photo: Vanessa Scott.



*Christmas Outdoor
Children's Craft Workshop
Some of the workshop
attendees and their
creations!*

Photos: Sileen Philips



Kids Corner

Sileen Phillips, Coordinator, Child, Youth and Family Ministry Photos: Sileen Phillips

On the first Saturday of December, the SPSS youth ministry brought back the Outdoor Kids Christmas Kraftshop. It was quite a success, attracting families from the neighborhood who came by to make Christmas wreaths. There was music, candy treats and lots of cheer! The event also served as an outreach opportunity to invite neighborhood children to Sunday School, which we hope will resume in person some time this year! We continue online for now as the church upholds COVID protocols.

The youth ministry wishes to thank Carol and Maggie for their help and their time. Thank you for making the event a success. We hope that 2022 will see better and brighter days for all families everywhere.

Greetings to St. Peter and St. Simon's Community

Jillian Ruch

It has been so nice to get to know some of you over this past fall. I know there are so many of you that I haven't had the chance to meet as yet due to Covid, and because I have been away due to previous commitments. In the coming months, I'm hoping to connect with you either in person, through phone or email conversations or through

Zoom. It's hard for a parish to have a new person join them when meeting in person is restricted. I have been struck by the community spirit you all have and the kindness you have extended to me. In the next couple of months, I'm looking forward to spending more time with the parish, as my placement is allowing me more time than I had in the fall.

Some have asked what the title "postulant" meant as it is not a word used every day! A postulant is someone who believes God is calling them to

ordination and who has gone through a process in which others also believe that call. In the process, we are given an advisor, meet with the committee, attend training, and work alongside our supervising priest to guide us through the discernment process leading to priesthood. I have appreciated the process so far and have met wonderful people along the way. During the process we are placed in a parish setting and have certain learning goals for each setting. What brought me to your parish was my request to learn more in a higher church setting than what I was previously accustomed to, and also to work alongside you all in Biblical studies and pastoral work.

One of the studies that we will be exploring as a parish is the Alpha course which is a course that is designed by Holy Trinity Brompton Anglican Church in London, England. This course is about three months long (12 weeks), and includes a time of connection, a time of content via a video, and a

time of conversation about the video. The course gives us a time to ask questions about basic Christianity we have been thinking about or questions we may not have even considered. It also gives us a chance to pray together in small groups. Although new to SPSS, this is a course that many other churches in our Diocese have participated in and run through their churches both in person and online, with great success! You can find out more at alphacanada.org. This course will begin on January 25th for 12 weeks bringing us right into Holy Week. Please feel free to

reach out to me with any questions. Also, this is a great "place" to bring friends who have been asking any life questions. Especially in these Covid times, many people are asking questions about life and their surroundings.

Happy New Year! I look forward to speaking with you soon! Please reach out to me if you would like to connect. My new email address is, effective soon: postulant@stpeterstsimon.ca.



*SPSS Postulant Jillian Ruch
Photo: courtesy Jillian Ruch*

Advent and Christmas at SPSS



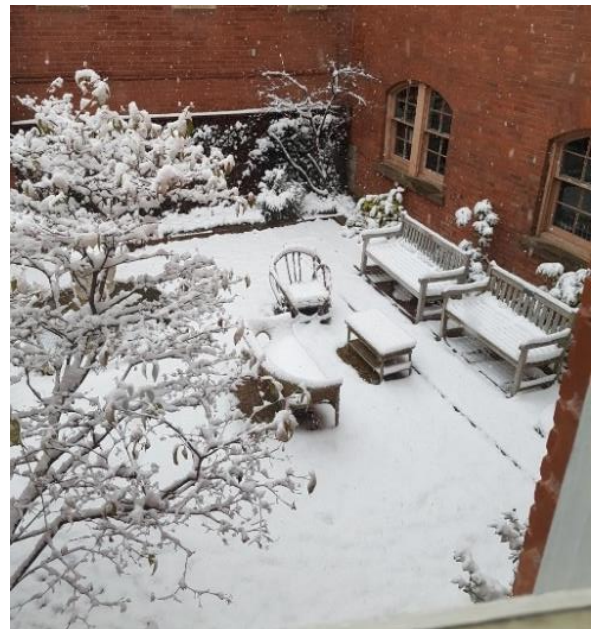
*The Reverend Theo Ipema, guest preacher at the Fourth Sunday of Advent service.
Photo: Vanessa Scott*



The congregation is physically distanced at the Fourth Sunday of Advent service. Photo: Vanessa Scott.



*Procession at the Christmas Eve evening service
Photo: SPSS Collection*



Snow in the Courtyard Photo: Carol Peck



*Fr. Geoff at the Lessons and Carols service
Photo: SPSS collection*



John Sheard plays D. Buxtehude's 'In Dulci Jubilo', the Prelude, at the Christmas Eve evening service. Photo: SPSS collection



The Fourth Sunday of Advent Photo: Vanessa Scott



*Lessons and Carols Readers:
Nancy Nourse,
David Carrington,
Isabelle Robinson,
Paul Faulkner,
Jillian Ruch,
Larry Krotz
and Daphne Harris.
Photo: SPSS collection*



Notes from the Garden

Carol Peck Photos: Carol Peck

We have a hidden treasure at our building: the Courtyard Garden. It has proved a great comfort to the many staff and volunteers who have laboured here, largely unseen, during what I like to call The Time of Trial (yes, that's a direct reference to the new words of The Lord's Prayer: "save us from the time of trial"). It was also previously a good location for Compline or Evening Prayer services.

It is a home to squirrels and birds, most of whom have made suggestions as to possible amenities (Ella the Anglicat liked it just the way it was.)



The motor of the fountain has burnt out, but with a little ingenuity, Nancy Nourse and I managed to concoct a makeshift birdbath cum solar powered shower. I hope we can get a functioning motor for next summer; no one should have to explain themselves to sparrows. If anyone has a

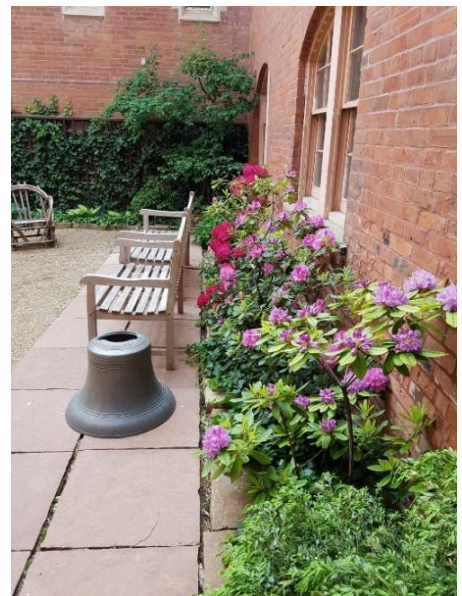


suggestion about bird feeders that do NOT make a huge mess, I would love to hear it.

Besides the rhododendrons, hydrangeas and roses, we now have a number of donations of plants, so next summer we should have an even lovelier display of flowers. The Courtyard is also the temporary home of a tiny blue spruce aka the Children's Christmas Tree.

It spent the summer on the rim of the fountain and was placed in the earth for safe keeping in the fall. On Christmas Eve, just before the 5 o'clock service, Jillian's two sons, Callum and Ollie helped me put a string of lights on it and the surrounding flowerbed. It looked quite magical. As Callum was knowledgeable in such matters, the lights are programmed to turn on every evening for a few hours.

The Courtyard can be accessed by a door in the basement. It can be viewed from the former Gerrard Resource Centre nursery room, the Narthex, or the porch.



From the Sunshine Coast

Diane Marshall

Greetings to my Toronto friends at St. Peter and St. Simon's, from a very snowy and cold Sunshine Coast. We have had a remarkable series of "weather events" here in B.C. since the end of June, when record-breaking temperatures during the "heat dome" resulted in the deaths of more than 600 people in B.C. Forest fires wiped out over 42,000 hectares of forest, and leveled several towns, most prominently Monte Lake and Lytton which were both on traditional Indigenous territory, whose communities were also destroyed. Kamloops, the city in the interior of the province most threatened by fire, is the home of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nations (within the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council representing 17 bands in the southern Central Interior region of B.C.). Kamloops is where a large Residential School still stands (as a museum now), and where hundreds of children were sent from all over central B.C. And that is where 215 unmarked and undocumented mass graves of children were uncovered this past spring, just before the heat dome and fires raged.

Here on the Sunshine Coast technically designated a "temperate rain forest", the heat was unbearable, and no one I know has an air conditioner, so people somehow coped as best as they could. (I had a large fan, and put bowls of ice cubes in front of it to give some moments of cool respite). Of course my grandchildren, like all the children, couldn't play soccer or any other outdoor events. Environment Canada warned us all to stay indoors with windows and doors tightly closed because of the intense smoke from the fires – which came here over the mountains from the interior, and up the coast from California! Then, in November we were hit by three "atmospheric rivers" which were otherwise known as "tropical plumes" (we live and learn!) which deluged us with such intense rains that as you've no doubt seen on the news, the main highway from Vancouver and the port to the interior collapsed from mudslides, ships in the harbour could not unload or load, the Fraser Valley was flooded and farmlands and farm animals lost, and our water reservoir here on the Coast, I was told, was completely filled in a few days!



Diane Marshall

Photo: courtesy of Diane Marshall

Again we mainly had to stay indoors, as water was racing downhill down our roads. I went out anyway, as I grew up here, but my walks were short as these were not temperate rains. I have felt immense respect and appreciation for the dedication of essential workers, whether in long term care, health managers and all hospital workers and paramedics; sanitary and sewage workers; professional and volunteer fire fighters; those who manage forests, lakes, rivers and streams; engineers and road and construction workers who repaired the highways and rebuilt dams; environmentalists and climate activists through whom we have been educated about the ecosystems within which we live. We all owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

So we've had fire, floods, and now snow and ice (no hail!) Apparently there are only two snowplows on the Sunshine Coast (the sun has disappeared today) and nothing to clean sidewalks, except bags of salt that the town of Sechelt sent us here at our strata. My son Michael and his family live at the bottom of a cul de sac, and the ice and snow are so deep that none of the eight households have been able to get cars out! I did have a drive with my sister Nancy to the ocean (normally a 10-15 minute walk away) yesterday,

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and the brilliance of the sun on the ocean with the brightness of snow was an unusual sight!

If anyone had any doubts about the reality of Climate Change, these six months couldn't have been more convincing! I watched all the BBC news coverage I could from the COP26 Conference in Glasgow, and apparently B.C. fires were actually referenced there. I hope some of you saw the amazing short documentaries produced by David Attenborough and shown each day of the Conference. They focused on different regions of the world to make us all aware of how our mother Earth is suffering, and how essential it is that we all live sustainably, and do our bit to be part of the healing and recovery.

On a welcome note, the James Webb telescope has been launched, and is headed into deep space. In six months time we'll be able to watch in awe and wonder photos coming back even clearer than Hubble's to restore our sense of gratitude and balance in the universe.

May the peace of Christ be with you all as you enter as a community into a new year.

Diane

A Note About Worship

Rev. Geoff Sangwine

For the time being the Sunday morning 10.30 am service will be live-streamed only.



Laurie Sanderson and David Carrington at the digital broadcasting table, Lessons and Carols service. Photo: Vanessa Scott.



The digital broadcasting table from the other side!

Photo: SPSS collection

Also, the Wednesday 11am Eucharist is postponed at this time.

It is our hope that in-person services will resume on Sundays and Wednesdays as soon as possible.

This is being reviewed by the Rector, Wardens and Health and Safety Working Group and will be communicated to you in due course.

We are also considering a mid-week Zoom Evening Prayer.

Thank you all for your understanding and on-going support and prayers. Please stay safe and well and stay tuned...

Geoffrey+

Christian Life in Digital Space

Brooke Sales-Lee

Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation. 2 Corinthians 1:7

St. Paul, in writing these words to the Church at Corinth 2000 years ago, was not talking about the latest wave of a pandemic and going from joyous choral and family holiday celebrations to rather

more muted ones, but his words might still ring true for us. While each of us may be in different circumstances, we are all riding out this most interesting time as best we can, sharing in our suffering and, we hope, our consolation.

One of the great consolations I have experienced since we first made the leap to digital services in 2020 has been not just the ability to hear the words of wisdom, comfort, and holy challenge in scripture each Sunday, but to connect with my Church family after the service with Zoom Coffee Hour.

While I have been delighted to run into church family now and then the past two years, the joy of a chance meeting while running errands or taking a walk by the beach is not the same as the steady rhythm of fellowship we enjoyed before. Having a facility to meet week by week allows us to enter in a new way into a tradition of fellowship established in the earliest church when followers of Christ joined not only to worship but to share meals and other resources with one another.

While we do not yet have the ability to pass one another a pot of tea or plate of cookies through Zoom, joining together each week allows us to share in both sufferings and consolation. We have celebrated engagements, weddings, births, and rather less momentous occasions that brought joy to our lives: the first blooms in spring gardens, getting to go on a walk with a friend, hearing a lovely piece of music, reading a particularly riveting book. We have borne up one another through the many difficulties of life, compounded by a global health crisis and rapidly developing guidance on how to stay safe. We have held up cats, dogs, and babies to wave “hello” and shared the rather dismal results hearing the Good News through the computer has had on their behaviour. (Though for a time my misbehaving kitten was lulled to sleep by Fr. Geoff’s sermons—no accounting for taste or the sleep habits of babies.)

While we cautiously yet optimistically grew in number

worshiping from our church building, the numbers joining Zoom Coffee Hour dwindled. But as someone whose health would not allow for rejoining in-person services, I was happy to have my moments of connection with those who use Zoom to access our services without an internet connection. Many times when I felt troubled and weary, the simple words of consolation after a service would carry me through. As we spoke of the things for which we were grateful, the things that brought us joy, or even the things that just weren’t terrible this week, the list of blessings grew beyond individual notes of things that were good enough, to a collection of signs of a loving and loyal God, acting through the kindness and love of people when it was too easy to think badly of how people behave, through the wonders of creation when it was easy to grumble about the heat, the cold, the damp, the dry spells.

And of course, this is what St. Paul, and so many other saints through the ages, have meant when they spoke of shared suffering and shared consolation. Of course we all have learned of Christ’s sharing in our suffering, and of God’s joy at our joy, but our Emmanuel, God among us, is present in these meetings when we enact our own miracle of loaves and fishes, taking from one very small spark of hope and turning it into a feast of



Photo: Robin Davis

blessings. What might seem on the surface to be a thoroughly modern and perhaps quite secular discussion of murder mysteries, attempts at family recipes, and whether snow is itself a blessing or curse (the jury is still out and largely depends on whether one has to shovel or drive through it) is the place where the Spirit can move through us and in us.

A few years after writing to the church in Corinth, St. Paul was present with the Corinthians as he wrote this time to the church in Rome. "Rejoice with those who rejoice," he wrote, "weep with those who weep." Whether life seems full of blessings and rejoicing or very much a time of weeping for you as you read these words, I hope you will join us in our time of fellowship each week. We each have the consolation of a loving God, the hope of a better world, and one another.

St. Peter's Altar Dossal Curtain

The Reverend Jennifer Matthews

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

"God so loved the world" was the inspiration for the dossal curtain that is now hanging above and behind the St. Peter's Altar.

The empty cross symbolizes the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and the unconditional love and grace that God bestows on all of creation.



*St. Peter's Altar Dossal Curtain: God so loved the world
Photo: The Reverend Jennifer Matthews*

The quilt consists of 1520 triangles, each of which represent the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The colours in the quilt represent our island home, the earth. Visually, we mainly see the blues in the quilt but the lower portion consists mainly of greens and browns, earth tones.

Blessings on you day.
Jennifer

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday January 25 – 12-week Alpha series starts on Zoom
Tuesday February 1 – Vestry reports due
Sunday February 27 – Annual Vestry
Wednesday March 2 – Ash Wednesday

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

Next Jubilate! When will the next **Jubilate!** be published? Watch for the announcement in the church bulletin....
