



Friday April 3, 2020

To all members of the congregation of St. George's Place du Canada,

For the last few weeks we have been reflecting and planning for what I initially thought might be a rather strange and potentially disappointing Holy Week. So much of what we have become accustomed to in our Sunday liturgies and our Holy Week celebrations seem defined the traditions of the gathered community and the sacraments that accompany them. We have had to reimagine our worship, and as we have begun to worship virtually, this had meant laying aside for the time being, the Eucharist, and the blessings it brings us together, as well as the possibilities of Baptisms, and other pastoral and episcopal offices such as confirmations and ordinations. There is no doubt that many people have found this difficult, including me, but at the same time those who have been able to zoom in to our virtual worship have felt their unique blessings as well. We have reached out to each other and gotten to know each other in new ways, even while we have been a help and a blessing to each other. Our prayers are still as genuine and heartfelt, and we remain assured of God's presence among us all. So, despite our hesitancy and indecision as we began worship planning for Holy Week, I find myself, as the week is almost upon us, rather looking forward to the planned worship offerings we have in store for the people of St. George's, and I hope you do too.

Palm Sunday may not feel the same without the palm crosses that we are used to waving, but as you tune into our meeting, look around, especially for the children, as we go to bless the palms this year, you will still find some palms, crafted with love by the children themselves. And if you can, I ask you to bring something to wave as well. Perhaps there are some evergreen branches you can cut for the purpose, and if not, can you make something to help us celebrate? And not to worry, our passion narrative is still on, and it will be supported by some Old Masters that Hilliard has found for us as visuals. I look forward to how it works out.

On Holy Wednesday at 7:30 Holly has prepared a virtual *Way of the Cross* that you can *Zoom* into, which will use some interesting artwork and meaningful reflections and prayers. For Maundy Thursday Debbie has sent along some prayers that you and your families may use for your dinner time at home that evening, which will help us all remember the night that Jesus gathered with his friends and disciples for their last meal together. If you begin your meal at the right time, your dinner will lead nicely into our celebration of evening prayer at 7:30. Our deacon Maylanne has been preparing a sermon, and we will do our best to experience the coming darkness of Good Friday as the service ends. You are asked to get a candle or two ready with matches for the ending of the service.

**St. George's  
Anglican Church  
1101 Stanley St.  
Montreal, QC  
H3B 2S6**

**Tel: (514) 866-7113  
Fax: (514) 866-6096  
office@st-georges.org  
www.st-georges.org**

Our Good Friday service will be at 10:30 and will be familiar to many as it will follow the usual prayers from the liturgy in the Book of Alternative Services, and I am glad to say that our Easter Service will feature some of our favorite music, and, if you can supply them, will be accompanied by bells! Just be warned, it is a “bring your own chocolate” affair!

You can use the following links to join us:

**All Sunday services, including Palm Sunday and Easter: 10 am for families, 10:30 service begins.**      **All other Holy week services: including Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday**

<https://zoom.us/j/783940814>

<https://zoom.us/j/931859778>

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### “Virtual Coffee hours”

Our virtual coffee hours have continued, as a handful of us gather for an hour of social time together. We share our day’s news and help and encourage each other as we learn to live in strange and isolating circumstances. I continue to invite you to join us, we welcome newcomers, and promise interesting and varied conversation. Why just this week we discussed the possibilities of face masks, which led quickly into jokes about our handkerchiefs being mistaken for a bandit’s kerchief and the possibilities of robbing banks. Who knows what next week will bring? This week our virtual coffee hours will be reduced to Tuesday only, but our regular schedule will resume the week after Easter.

Tuesday at 4 only:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/231767905>

Meeting ID: 231 767 905

One tap mobile

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Know that each of you continue to be in my prayers, and I wish you a blessed and meaningful Holy Week and Easter. I know and pray that Jesus will be present to us all throughout.

Karen+

*Trust in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock! Isaiah 26:4*