



Saturday, March 27, 2021

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

As I write this letter, we are entering into Holy Week, and at St. George's we will be holding some of the most important services of the Christian year. And though I am pleased with the planning that has gone into the services we will hold together, and the many ways that all sorts of people are participating in the services by offering their gifts and skills, I am also aware that this is the second Easter for which we have run online services, and have mostly celebrated from our homes. It is not ideal, that is for certain, but I have learned that it is the best we can do, and surprisingly, this gathering around Zoom is helping to keep this community together, in the midst of our necessary being apart. God is very present in our prayers, and offers peace and hope in many ways. And so I give thanks for the many, many ways that people are contributing, and especially for the ways in which we hold each other up in prayer. I am also thankful that so many of us have been able to receive the vaccine, and my hope is that as more and more people are vaccinated, we will be able to return to in-person worship more regularly. I sincerely look forward to the many graces that that will bring. That being said, I am also aware that predicting the future during this pandemic is a risky business, and so I am cautious about making plans for a particular date or time. Nevertheless, I can, without any caution whatsoever, predict that warmer, sunnier weather is coming, and that soon we will reliably be able to be outside and enjoy it. Let us pray that that will be sufficient grace for us, for now.

That being said, plans for Holy Week have come together. You should have received an email this afternoon from the office clarifying times and dates. All the usual services of Holy Week, including a service of the Stations of the Cross, will be online, and will all be accessed through the usual Sunday morning link. In addition, we will hold one in-person service on Easter morning at 10:30, in which, according to the newest guidelines from the government, we will be able to accommodate at least fifty people. Reservations will be required of course, and for that you need to contact the office, either by email or phone. An information sheet will be sent out, to help you plan to attend. One new requirement is for everyone to wear a procedural mask, which you will receive at the door. A cloth mask may be worn over that as well, if you wish. Otherwise, you need to follow instructions from the greeters. This service will be led by our assistant The Rev. Deborah Noonan, and I am thankful for her willingness to do this at this time.

I am also grateful for the very successful Lenten study that was led by Holly Ratcliffe this year. Fifteen to eighteen people met together on Thursday evenings for some very interesting and provocative teaching and conversation about remembering our death, and the many ways this practice helps us to live into our lives more fully, while shoring up our hope for life eternal. This was a series of sessions that allowed participants to try this practice of prayer in their own way, and at their own speed, and feedback during the last meeting showed how very helpful everyone found the time in prayer, and the time together to be. Thank-you Holly for your leadership for this study.

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

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

Finally, as we planned earlier, we will continue our Annual General Vestry meeting on Sunday April 11, at about 12 noon, immediately following the 10:30 service, and on the same link. The things that will be presented are the complete financial report for 2020, which have been carefully reviewed by Nancy Waterston, and are ready to be finalized. We will be able to see a very clear picture of where St. George's stands financially, and there will be a time for questions, and discussion. In addition, there are a handful of routine resolutions around banking that we will vote on, that were missed at our earlier meeting. Please plan to attend, it need not be terribly long.

Finally, I hope to see you at some of the services in the coming week, as we remember Christ's death and on Easter morning, celebrate Christ's glorious resurrection. May you and your family find new hope and strength in the new life that Jesus' resurrection promises us.

Sincerely, and in Christ

Karen

*"Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast" 1
Cor. 5:7-8*