

Saturday, May 9, 2020

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

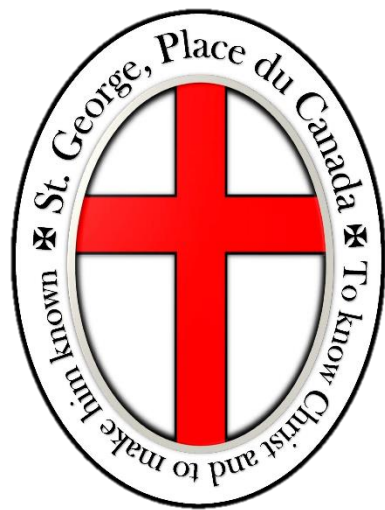
A warm greeting to everyone who calls St. Georges their church home, and to any others who may have had this sent on to them, you are also warmly welcome to our place of worship.

Not too much has changed this week, except to say we seem to have adjusted to the new normal and are doing well with the week to week needs of the parish. I continue to give thanks for those who initially agreed to keep in touch with members of the parish with phone calls. I am hoping to have a check-in this week, to catch up, but continue to hear back about how much this has been appreciated. But feeling like we have come to a new normal has meant we have begun to look up and begin to do some planning for our future, at least in the short term. Two areas in particular come to mind.

First, in terms of worship, we have begun to plan for a few dates where we will have guest preachers who are coming to visit our virtual community at St. Georges. We can mark our calendars for this Wednesday when we will **commemorate the life of Florence Nightingale**, and have a special service of noon prayer for our local nurses and doctors, and all allied health care workers. **Jane Chambers-Evans**, a retired nurse from the Montreal General Hospital, and professor of Nursing at McGill will zoom in with us at 12:15 and she will do a presentation on the life and work of Florence Nightingale, and how it relates to the nursing profession today. We look forward to her visit, and invite you to come and bring a friend, virtually of course.

Also, Sunday May 24, which is Ascension Sunday, The **Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson**, who was initially invited to do confirmations and re-affirmations, but will instead preach that Sunday. Some will have noted that she slipped in for our service last week, probably to get a sense of the lay of the land so to speak, but we will be formally introducing her that Sunday for sure.

Finally, on June 21, **Jesse Zink** has been invited to preach as we mark the **National Indigenous Day of Prayer**. I look forward to learning and making use of this Zoom technology to further our reach, both by inviting friends to visit us for worship who are now far away, but also to invite guest preachers who can widen our perspective and strengthen our faith at this time. We might as well make the best of it since while we are prevented from joining together in person, we have come to realize that this enables us to invite people from very far away, especially while they can pop into St. Georges for just an hour or two, and return home in a matter of seconds! If you have suggestions for guests you might like to hear from, I welcome your input.



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

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

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The second project that we have been working towards, which might appear to have been on the back burner in the last while is our partnership with Quo Vadis, and the re-development venture that we are undertaking together. Over the last couple of weeks your Corporation has met with Natalie Voland and Vanessa Mueggler, and learned about the plans that are underway with them. We agreed that the time is ripe for another congregational meeting, though not surprisingly, this will have to be over Zoom. We have set a date for **Thursday 21 of May, at 7:30-9:00pm**. Next week we will send out an invitation to all members of St. George's. It is primarily an information meeting, where there will be a presentation and a time set for questions. At corporation we have seen some very preliminary drawings, which are not in a final stage at all, but really to show the concepts that are being proposed. Nevertheless, I was really excited to see them, and to learn about the next steps that are being taken in making this development come alive. I am sure you will come away very much heartened by the presentation as we were, we have something really exciting to look forward to.

And that's the news for now, I look forward, as always, to our Sunday worship time, and to our coffee hour that follows. I love to check in with the people of this parish, and I have found that there is an astonishing amount of resiliency being lived out amongst so many people, and I find it very inspiring. So be careful, and stay well, and most of all take care of each other. We are nothing, if not together.

In Christ

Karen+

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