
March 5
2010

SJWT



Dear Friends,

We offer prayers to God who has made us a new creation and invites us to serve and love in God's world.

Worship with us on this Sunday, March 7 (Third Sunday in Lent): 8:30 AM Early Eucharist; **10:30 AM** Holy Eucharist: Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9. Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Sermon: Sara Boyles; Children's Focus: Alain Brosseau; Musicians: Glory Glory Hallelujah, *praise band*. Stay for Refreshments following Worship.

St. Patrick's Day

Irish Stew, Irish Songs, Irish Drinks, Irish Humour. **Saturday, March 13, 4-7 PM.**



...and St. Patrick will appear...

Lent Program: Focus on "Mission"



What is **Mission**: Teaching ½ hour & Worship ½ hour (Celtic Evening Prayers).

Third Session: Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 to 8:30 PM. The misleading assumptions which create "them and us": How defining ourselves against the other denies our common humanity, desires, needs, hopes and dreams.

Fourth Session, Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 to 8:30 PM. What motivates us to reach out to others? Let's identify personal needs that motivate us to reach out.

Fifth Session: Tuesday March 23, 7:30 to 8:30 PM. "Service" guides our understanding of mission. To be of service... To be a servant ...as a "calling" – is it a full time or part time calling? The importance of self-care.

*Candlelight, beautiful evening hymns,
being calm on holy ground, invited into thinking...*

Announcements & Events

Youth Lunch

This Sunday after Church, we will head over to the Purple Onion on Dundas Street and get a table together. Some things to think about: How does it feel to do readings in Sunday worship? Are you interested helping serving breakfast as a group? Suggestions of activities for the camping retreat in June. Questions for Gary about God and faith. Estimated cost for brunch: \$10. **Sunday, March 7, 12:30 PM.**

Breakfast for the Homeless

We offer Breakfast at St. Stephen's Church (just north of Kensington Market) on the Third and Fourth Sundays of Each Month (plus Christmas Day and sometimes the Fifth Sunday). Be part of the First Shift (begins at 6 AM) or the Second Shift (begins at 7 AM). Contact Tom Gehrels to be part of it: 416-656-9111, mariengehrels@yahoo.com. This Month: **Sundays, March 21, 28.**

Messy Church

Worship for 2-6 year-olds and their Families and Friends. Theme: *What is Easter: How we talk about Easter with Children.* **Saturday, March 27, 3-5 PM.**

Book Study

"An Altar in the World" by Barbara Brown Taylor. *How spirituality happens in everyday experiences, and learning to notice.* **Wednesday, March 24, 6 PM Supper, 7 PM Discussion. Potluck sign up sheet at Action Desk.**

Great Upcoming Music!

March 7: Glory Glory Hallelujah, *praise band*; March 14: Ken Whiteley, *blues guitar*; March 21: Jaroslaw Czerwinec, *accordion*.

Thanks to our Photographers

Each week, we enjoy pictures and get to know names in the bulletin, powerpoint and this e-newsletter. *This week: Thanks to Frans Altena.*



Thursday Morning Worship - Every Thursday 10:30 AM followed by visiting over tea and home-baked refreshments. Fourth Thursday of the month is Holy Eucharist with Ministry of Anointing for Healing.

This Week on the Spiritual Path: Inclusive Language in Worship

We are experimenting with inclusive language worship for Lent. We have made gentle adjustments the wording of regular prayers that we use each week. Here is an example from the part of the Eucharistic Prayer known as the *Sursum Corda* (Latin for "Lift up your hearts.")

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

As you get to know parts of our worship by heart, the change does get you thinking again about what the words mean! We will start singing the new words this Sunday. While we also thought about inclusive language in hymns and prayers, that is a much larger task.

We have had interesting responses so far. One written response proposed that our experiment is very moderate, and we could have taken a risk and used the word "She" for God once to see how it feels. Another response proposed that if the word "Lord" is a difficulty, we could experiment with what is intended by the word, for example, that Jesus is "Supreme", before all in our approach to God. We welcome your comments and suggestions. You might consider using the response card, which asks:

- **What did you appreciate about our worship today?**
- **What would have improved our worship today?**
- **Do you have an idea or suggestion of something we might try in our worship at St. John's?**

Place your feedback in the Worship Response Box on the Action Desk.

Isn't it interesting that the Throne Speech addressed inclusive language in our national anthem...



*Have a look at these extra instruments...
Does anyone know how to play them?*



Children and Youth Program Evaluation

We are in the process of evaluating our programs for children and youth, including Messy Church, Sunday School, Youth Group movie nights, and the Family Camping Retreat. We care about growing faith among children in our community, and we want to match our programs to the needs of parents and children. We invite your input in an informal visit and interview. Gary and Marilyn will conduct the interviews. Your input is important, and we will share the results with you, keeping individual responses confidential. **For any questions, please contact Marilyn at marilyn@marilynkluyskens.com or 416-551-1990.**

P.S. I hope you find it helpful to get an update like this from St. John's Church, West Toronto. If you would like something listed in the announcements, or if you know someone who would appreciate receiving this, please contact me. If you would prefer not to receive news from St. John's in this way, please also let me know.

Best wishes, Gary+

Check our website. www.sjw.t.ca
And remember this!

We are not a Building!

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight and gay. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenge of our daily ministries. We call on all who will to come and join us.

