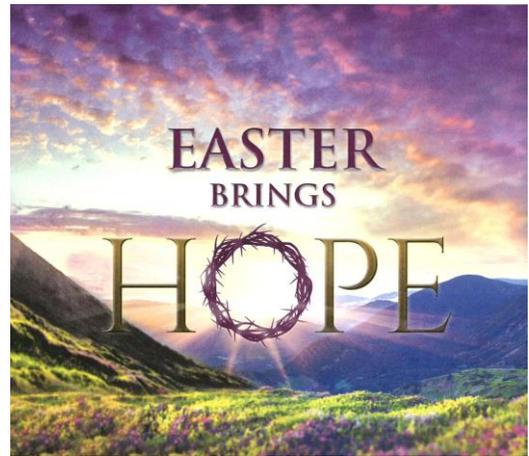


"Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity."
— *Social philosopher and mystic, Simone Weil*



Easter 2020

Dear Friends,

What a strange and wonderful and difficult time this is! I miss each and everyone of you. I miss worshipping with you; I miss studying and learning with you; I miss our conversations and our laughter. Mostly, I miss our everyday rhythm that was comfortable and sustaining. But in the wildness of the kingdom, nothing is untouchable! And our everyday assumptions and 'take-for-granted' routines have been forever interrupted. No matter how long this pandemic leads us, and no matter how much we try and hold onto what was BPT (before pandemic time), we are forever changed.

At risk of sounding flippant, let me say that I think this is what life is like in the kingdom of God! Change and surprise become our new framework. Imagine with me, if you will, that first Holy Week, those first days that brought Jesus through Jerusalem to the table and the garden and the cross. Devastating and emotional and no doubt scary for all involved. But the promise we never forget is that it ended in the Resurrection. Easter: the day of resurrection, the holy moment into which our following of Jesus' Way leads, the hope that keeps us traveling a path of love and loving.

This has been a tough Lent for everyone and especially the most vulnerable in our midst. We have been frightened and lonely, bored and impatient. We have also been singing and praying together through the miracle of technology. Spring is coyly peeking at us as I write this from my deck, while I wave to neighbours passing by. This year, we look forward to the hope of resurrection with particular focus and conviction. Resurrection seems like a slow business, but like spring blooms, it will suddenly appear and we will be together again.

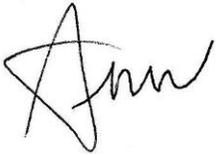
Although we cannot gather in our church building this year, we can gather as the church. I invite you to participate in as much of the Holy Week journey as you can. I believe the fullness of a holy Lent is fulfilled in journeying through the week before Easter, living the ups and downs as we walk towards the cross...and beyond! Each service, each sacred story, draws us in to the heart of Jesus. We will wave our palms on the road to Jerusalem, welcoming the Rabbi, touched by the anxiety of knowing this is the beginning of trial. We will set our hearts and minds to receive the holy silence and song of Taizé. We will remember in a shared meal the depth of friendship and the sharpness of betrayal experienced by our brother Jesus. And on Good Friday, our hearts will break again with loss.

But our feeling of loss will never be as complete as that first Friday, that day of goodbye when the disciples were not sure of the resurrection. Like the women on the road, we have seen the Lord. We live, always, with a "hint of hope." As the Service of Light begins, the rubrics for this Easter Vigil instruct: *In the darkness, fire is kindled*. And as we gather again on Easter Day, together we declare, "The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia!"

My prayer for each of us is that the fire *is* kindled. The hint of hope *is* held close. And we dance into spring, into the season of resurrection, with renewed vision and enthusiasm and dreams for the coming of the kingdom every day.

Thank you, in advance, for your Easter gift and the parts you play in making St. James a holy place, a place of sanctuary and safety, a place of welcome and inclusion, each and every day. May God's blessing in all our lives be overflowing with joy and possibility.

In love,



Rev. Ann+

Holy Week, 2020

All are welcome — and encouraged — to join us as travel the journey of Holy Week. All of these services will be linked through our st.jamesfergus.ca homepage.

- April 5 - **Palm Sunday**: Livestreamed on [Facebook](#) at 10:00am and posted on [YouTube](#) by 2:00pm.
- April 8 – **Holy Wednesday**: A Taizé service transmitted as a "Zoom" liturgy. See your emails to join.
- April 9 - **Maundy Thursday**: Livestreamed on [Facebook](#) at 7:00pm and posted on [YouTube](#) by 9:00pm.
- April 10 - **Good Friday**: A multi-voice worship service will be posted at 9:00am on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).
- April 11 – **Great Vigil of Easter**: A regional service transmitted as a "Zoom" liturgy. See your emails to join.
- April 12 - **Easter**: Livestreamed from Christ's Church Cathedral on [Facebook](#) at 10:00am and posted on [YouTube](#) by 2:00pm, with a homily by Archbishop Linda Nicholls.

On social media

We often post announcements, photos, and food for thought. You can find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StJamesFergus/?ref=bookmarks>), Instagram ([st.jamesfergus](https://www.instagram.com/st.jamesfergus)), and Twitter ([@stjamesfergus](https://twitter.com/stjamesfergus)). Our website is found at stjamesfergus.ca.