

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

“Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”  
(Martin Luther)

This Sunday – Palm Sunday – is the start of the most sacred week in the church's year. The 10:30 am service will start with the blessing and distribution of palm crosses followed by a joyful procession around the cathedral (outside if the weather permits). Crosses will also be distributed at the 8:00 am and 9:00 am services.

There will be choral services every day for the rest of the week: Compline on Monday and Tuesday, Tenebrae on Wednesday, Eucharist commemorating the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday. All these services start at 7:30 pm. Good Friday services start with the Way of the Cross at 11:30 am. The Easter Vigil begins at 7:30 pm on Saturday. Easter Day services are at the normal Sunday times. Every service will be filled with glorious music, sad, solemn and joyful.

Janet King has recruited a useful band of palm cross makers. Please feel free to join them in the Undercroft this Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. You will be taught how to make a cross. Bertrand reminds people going to the service on Maundy Thursday that there will be a solemn washing of feet. If you would like to have your feet washed, come prepared and don't be shy about joining in. He also reminds people to bring bells to ring at the Easter Vigil.

As you know, our new director of music, Jonathan White, is arriving on May 29. Bertrand is asking the congregation for help as Jonathan settles into Montreal. Here are three practical contributions you or one of your friends might be able to make.

1. Give Jonathan a home for a couple of weeks while he gets his bearings.
2. If you are going away for a period would you be happy to let your flat or house?
3. Let Bertrand know if you have or know of an apartment (probably 4 ½) conveniently located either near a Metro line or within easy reach of the cathedral. Jonathan does have a cat that he is planning to bring to Montreal.

Easter is not the end of activity in the cathedral. Here are some events happening soon after.

**April 23: Cathedral Forum.** There will be a presentation about their activities by the Social Service Society and a discussion about how the cathedral should react to Bill 21. More details to come.

**April 28: Amy's last Sunday.** There will be a special farewell coffee hour in the Undercroft after the 10:30 am service.

**April 28: The Cathedral Book Group** meets to discuss *Boys in the Boat* by James Daniel Brown.

**May 5: A Christian commemoration of the Shoah.** The afternoon's program will begin with a panel discussion on *Lessons of the Shoah – From Memory to Action*, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm in Fulford Hall. In light of increasing intolerance in the world today, members of the CJDM and the Montreal Holocaust Museum will reflect on lessons learned from 40 years of commemorating the Shoah in Montreal, and the education and action still very much needed to guard against future genocides. Presentations will be in English or French. From 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, a bilingual commemoration ceremony will be observed during the Choral Evensong service at the Cathedral. Co-presided by Anglican Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson and Roman Catholic Bishop Christian Lépine, the commemoration will include the testimony of Holocaust survivor Ilona Flutsztejn-Gruda, as well as a candle lighting ceremony led by the Very Rev. Bertrand Olivier and Rabbi Sherril Gilbert in remembrance of all the victims of the Shoah. Songs and music will be performed by Jewish Cantor Heather Batchelor and the Christ Church Cathedral choir and musicians. Light kosher refreshments will be served following the commemoration.

**May 15:** You are invited to Ann's house at 7:30 pm for a Bible study led by Jane. The time and place of future study sessions will be decided at this meeting.

A new appeal: **Rock the Cathedral (gently!)**

Music is an important part of worship at the bi-monthly 6:00 pm Contemporary Service, just as it is at our other services. This service is growing in popularity, particularly among the young adults in our community. At the moment the music team is using borrowed sound equipment but would love to have their own. Good quality sound equipment costs about \$4,200 but there is no wiggle room in the current Cathedral budget for this item. Cassidy, Peggy and Jean Daniel are hoping you can chip in. They are asking you to empty loose change from your pockets at the end of each day and, when you have a satisfying pile, to contribute it to the sound equipment fund. By next week there should be more details on the web site, including ways to make your donation. Meanwhile, you can speak to Peggy, Cassidy or Jean Daniel at coffee hour. Peggy is offering to roll your loose change.

Holy Week - exhilarating and inspiring, but also very demanding and therefore stressful for all involved in the services – particularly for our clergy who are stretched thin these days, but also for the choir and organists who inspire our worship at every service, as well as for vergers, servers, and the administrative staff. After a herculean effort creating multiple bulletins Elizabeth, our administrator has been home sick with the flu. She hopes to be back on Monday. Let us support all these wonderful people with our prayers - and our presence at the services. Here is part of a prayerful meditation on Holy Week by Michael Gehrling. It would be lovely to think of the whole community offering this prayer in the week before Easter

So let me follow you,  
King Jesus  
all the way to Golgotha.  
Let me walk next to you  
and put palm branches at your feet  
and shout “Hosanna!” with the children.  
And if the child in me shouting “Hosanna!”  
grows up to an adult shouting “Crucify!”  
bring me back to the water where I can be born again.  
Let me sit at the table with you  
and take bread and wine from your hands  
and let me lay my head on your chest.  
And if thirty pieces of the world's silver  
are ever enough to draw me away  
Wash my feet and make me clean again  
Let me pray with you at Gethsemane  
and learn from you how to be vulnerable with the Father,  
let me see your tears and sweat and grief.  
And if my prayers give way to sleep  
wake me again  
with the waters of regeneration.  
Let me walk with you to the cross.  
Let me be Simon of Cyrene,  
and learn to carry your cross with you.  
And if my Simon of Cyrene becomes Simon Peter  
and I walk away from your cross to deny you  
lead me back to these waters where I can still die with you.  
And live.  
And all along this long rough road  
let my song be:  
Hosanna!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!  
Hosanna in the highest!