

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Our Lenten Spirituality Series will conclude this week with Deborah Meister speaking about The Eye of the Heart: Spiritual Journaling and Praying with Icons. We have several icons in the Cathedral including this one, the Icon in front of the reserved sacrament in the Prayer Chapel.



Last Sunday Bertrand spoke to us about Justice, the Way of Active Compassion. He reminded us that prayer needs to be informed – have a bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other. We are God's agent working for justice. As St Theresa of Avila wrote "Christ has no body now but yours." Bertrand learned a great deal from the Iona Community about expressing God's love through actions for justice. As practiced by the Iona Community a personal ethical rule of life includes thinking about the use of money, time and the earth's resources as well as making a commitment to work for justice and peace. Encounters with others, says Bertrand, help us to put our own life in perspective. Their suffering brings us face to face with Christ. However, we need to identify our concerns, letting go of areas where we have no concern and acting directly in areas where we have control. He urged us to think, as individuals and as a community, how we respond to challenges.



At the Cathedral, ESJAG continually poses social and ecological challenges to the community. Some of these are posted in the Lenten calendar put together by Taddy, which you can find here <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/2021/03/ecojustice-calendar-for-the-4th-week-of-lent/>

On behalf of ESJAG, Brenda is inviting us to watch a fascinating documentary about a little-known Canada-Jamaica connection, *Fly Me to the Moon* which is available March 23 – 27 on this site <https://english.ufl.edu/event/fly-me-to-the-moon/>. You need to register. The film delves into the history of the aluminum industry, interspersing scenes of lush tropical beauty in Jamaica with startling news footage that spans the years since World War II.

On Friday, March 26 we are also invited to a talk given by the film's producer, on "Environmental Justice and Impossible Futures." On Sunday evening, March 28, those who would like to do so are invited to discuss the film, the presentation, and the issues that they raise for Canadians who care about ecological justice. Zoom invitation to the discussion will be posted on the ESJAG website with the calendar post for Lent 5. All welcome.

## Breaking News - New arrangements for worship

We have just received a letter from the Dean concerning the new arrangements for worship in the Cathedral now that the Province of Québec has relaxed the rules. Bertrand writes that after discussion at Forum last Tuesday, and at Corporation, and with Diocesan approval, the Cathedral will be re-opening for public worship at all four services on Palm Sunday following our existing protocols.

- *Use of masks: Note that the province has made it a requirement that **everyone attending in-person worship must wear a procedural mask** – cloth masks may be worn in addition to the procedural mask, but at minimum a procedural mask should be worn.*
- *All other guidelines remain in effect, which include: physical distancing, a record-log of attendees for contact tracing purposes, sanitization of hands and common touch places, no congregational singing, the use of 1 or 2 cantors who are at a greater distance from the congregation present, etc.*

We will also be re-opening for in person private prayer as of Monday 29 March, from 10 am to 3 pm.

### Holy Week Schedule:

We are maintaining the existing schedule as printed in previous newsletters.

**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday**, March 29 – 31, Compline services online.

**Maunder Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil (non Eucharistic) and Easter Day** will be offered in person and online. We will prioritise members of the congregation for attendance, and ask people to only initially apply at the most for one of the Thursday, Friday or Saturday services, and one Easter Day service. This means that there will be 75 slots for in person in Holy Week and 75 on Easter day. The admin involved in actually managing lists manually at this point is more than the current team can do. The plan is that we will send an email to members of the congregation with specific links for booking for Holy Week and Easter on Monday 22 March and give the congregation priority until the following Monday. After that, we will open booking to the wider public.

We are delighted that we are able to plan for our Easter celebrations in person in the Cathedral building – although inevitably this means some adjustments to our plans - and I am therefore extremely grateful for your continuing support in these ever-changing times. It will be good to witness to the presence of the risen Christ not only in our homes and online, but also in the world at the heart of the community in our care in downtown Montreal.

Once we have celebrated Easter, we will reflect on what appropriate in person services we might be able to provide during the week, as we monitor the situation and identify the needs of the members of our congregation and the community.

With blessings to you all in these final weeks of Lenten preparation.

Dean Bertrand



As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter please consider donating flowers in commemoration or celebration. Contact the office with your donation, perhaps by e-transfer [accounting@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:accounting@montrealcathedral.ca) indicating it's for Easter flowers and including your dedication. The names will be listed in the newsletter next week.

*Easter flowers 2019, the last time we were in church for Easter.*

If you want to participate in the **Thursday evening to Good Friday morning vigil**, please contact Bob King at [cccvigil@gmail.com](mailto:cccvigil@gmail.com), including your name, phone number, and the hour when you would like to participate.

## MORE PREPARATIONS

- **Saturday March 27** is the day before Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week, so it's the day when we make **palm crosses** to distribute on Sunday.

Palms have been ordered, and small crosses will be made in Fulford Hall, starting around 10 am - masks, social distance, sanitizers, and personal scissors required. You will be shown how to make the crosses. We will be remembering Dorothy Oidi whose invaluable participation and smile will be sorely missed. Please contact Janet King.

- **Easter eggstravaganza**, Saturday March 27 at 12:30 pm – a community get-together over zoom creating Easter Eggs to give to the people you love. Bonus: none of the cardboard and plastic wrapping of store-bought eggs.



The recipe makes a little over three dozen small "eggs"! <http://rootsandwren.com/chocolate-coconut-date-easter-eggs/> Lisa tried out the recipe and photographed the result. She reports it was fun and not too difficult. Those who want to cook together and need fair trade ingredients can contact Joseph and Lisa at [fairtrade@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:fairtrade@montrealcathedral.ca) They will deliver exactly the amount of ingredients you need for one batch (or two, in my case).



\*Note: If you are unable to come to the palm making party or the Sunday services, but would like to have a palm cross or frond in your home, Joseph or Lisa will deliver them to your home along with your order of Fair trade chocolate. You can google how to make a palm cross.

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81306870238?pwd=MlV6SFpTRDRYbkZUYmg2eVhmYlBRZz09>



Jesus entering into Jerusalem - Giotto

Sunday March 28, Palm Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday. We will hear the story of the entry into Jerusalem, as well as a dramatized reading of story of the passion according to Mark.

**Saturday March 27 will be a busy day.** Palm crosses in the morning, Easter Egg demonstration at 12:30 and to top it off a rehearsal for *Blessings From the Pandemic* at 2:30 pm.

### *Blessings from the Pandemic* a Theatre Piece in Five Movements



*Blessings From the Pandemic* is an exciting webinar presentation of a collection of poems written by American playwright Rich Orloff. The poems take the form of prayers and blessings, some sad, some funny, all meditative. Eleven readers will be taking part as well as other volunteers who are giving all kinds of help.

This is **a fundraiser, in aid of the Spire Restoration**, but also an offering to the community.

**The live performance is on April 23 at 7:30 pm.**

We very much hope you will all buy tickets, make donations and invite all your friends. If you would like to help with publicity, please contact Sheena or Ann. Tickets will be sold through Simplyk.



**NEW FOR THE CATHEDRAL** a "Made in Quebec" service that accepts credit cards, debit cards (with interac capabilities) and ApplePay. – **no fees!** You can even set up a recurring monthly donation.

SimplyK is a Montreal organisation which Jane has added to the ways in which you can give to the Cathedral. We get 100% of the money donated through Simplyk, unlike alternatives, like Canada Helps, which keep a percentage of every donation.

Take a look at the financial page on the web where you can see all the ways you can support the cathedral <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/your-financial-support-of-the-cathedral/> - You will see this nice picture of our treasurer Jane holding a collection plate. Do you remember the days when we used to pass a plate and people gave hard cash?!



Jane asks people who haven't yet pledged to make a pledge for 2020. It's not too late. It's a big help when drawing up the budgets but is a flexible commitment which you can change if your circumstances change.

<https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/your-financial-support-of-the-cathedral/#pledge>

# Annual Vestry Meeting

CATHÉDRALE  
CHRIST CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL

**Important reminder**

Our Annual General Vestry meeting takes place on **Wednesday, March 24 at 7 pm by zoom**  
<https://zoom.us/j/94652912153?pwd=Y3B2OVdEMVkyRUJlSU8vdGdMYTEwQT09>

Much information will be shared, and some important decisions made. Please attend if you possibly can. The annual reports for 2020 are available on the website: <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/annual-report/>

- *Voting at Vestry: You are considered a voting member of the Cathedral Vestry if you are over 18 and if you have attended Cathedral services for at least six months (say since last September).*



**This Sunday evening at 4 pm music** will be provided for the meditative service **by Nick Capozzoli**, our brilliant Assistant Organist. He will be playing works based on three Bach chorales.

He says that each variation explores new harmonic, rhythmic, and contrapuntal possibilities, and they are perfect vehicles for showcasing the myriad sounds from our Karl Wilhelm organ.

Listen on 91.3 FM or [radiovm.com](http://radiovm.com).

Bach's Partita from a 17th-century Lutheran hymnal



Artist unknown

Penny Rankin sent me this striking image with which I'm closing the letter this week. Jesus is holding and healing a corona virus patient wrapped in the flags of countries worldwide. We have been praying to our compassionate God each Sunday throughout the pandemic.

Ann Elbourne  
with thanks to Elizabeth, Marie-Claire, Bertrand and all who contributed information.  
March 19, 2021