



Spring is coming

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, the start of Holy Week, a season which we will celebrate with a mixture of joy and sorrow, perhaps remembering the years when the church was crowded and we walked shoulder to shoulder in procession around the outside of the Cathedral, unobstructed by fences around construction and unafraid to sing loudly a mere foot away from our fellow worshippers.



This year 25 people will be allowed in the Cathedral for Palm Sunday and 50 people will be allowed in the Cathedral for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services and the rest of us will be on zoom. Wherever we are, we will worship joyfully and prayerfully, thankful that we can share, in person or on zoom, with the community in this most holy season of the church's year. As is our tradition, there will be a slightly dramatized reading of the Passion story, this year from St Mark's Gospel and read via zoom. Perhaps we can picture the way we used to present the narrative.



Ben representing Jesus



Edward as Pilate condemning Jesus

Our clergy are adept at creating new ways of worship; take for example this note on Maundy Thursday from Deborah:

Historians believe that, in the early days of the church, Communion was most likely celebrated in the context of a shared meal. During this time of Covid, when not everyone will be able to be in the church, we will be inviting those of you worshiping from home to share bread, grapes, hummus, dates (your choice) while those within the church are receiving the Eucharist. And we will provide a special prayer for blessing them.

New information about services

Small midweek Eucharists

With the re-opening of the Cathedral for worship and private prayer, we will be reinstating the small, midweek Eucharists for those who would like an intimate way to receive Communion.

During Holy Week, we will offer them Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 12:15 pm, enabling those who wish to receive Communion daily during Holy Week.

After Easter, they will be offered at 12:15 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, and on selected Major Feasts of the church.

Daily Offices in Holy Week

We also invite you to pray the Daily Office with us during Holy Week. We will offer Morning Prayer online each day: Monday, at 9:15, and at 7:30 am Tuesday through Saturday. If those times do not work for you, but you would like to share this devotion, you can find the words and readings online at either <https://dailyoffice.wordpress.com> or <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>.

Services Palm Sunday to Easter

- ✓ Please pre-register for **in-person** worship services by following this link: <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/in-person-services-at-the-cathedral/>
- ✓ To join our services **online** please click on the zoom links listed on the website <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar/>
- ✓ You can also join in **by telephone**, call (438) 809 7799, enter the meeting ID number, and the password: 1857.

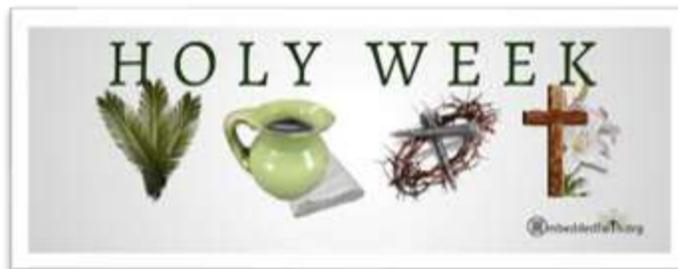
During our Zoom services, we will be showing orders of service on the screen from time to time, but you can download them in advance (once they have been posted) from the Cathedral website at:

<https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/category/all/sunday-bulletins/>

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday

8h00 BCP Holy Communion
9h00 Eucharistie chantée / Sung Eucharist (FR)
10h30 Sung Eucharist / Eucharistie chantée (EN)
16h00 Evensong / Vêpres
Radio VM 91.3 FM & internet



Weekday Services

✚ Monday March 29

9h15 Morning Prayer (zoom)
12h15 Eucharist Service
In-Person at the Cathedral
No pre-registration required.
19h00 Compline / Complies (zoom)

✚ Tuesday March 30 & Wednesday March 31

7h30 Morning Prayer (zoom)
12h15 Eucharist Service
In-Person at the Cathedral
No pre-registration required
19h00 Compline (zoom)

✚ Thursday April 1

7h30 Morning Prayer (zoom)
19h00 Maundy Thursday Liturgy
(in person and on zoom)

✚ Friday April 2

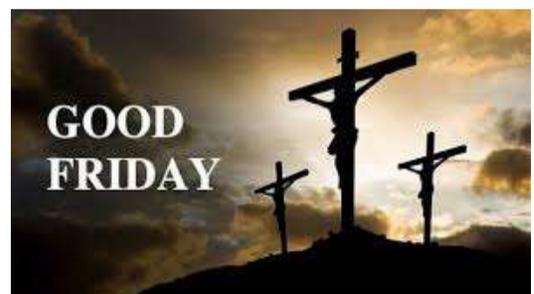
7h30 Morning Prayer (zoom)
12h00 Good Friday Liturgy
(in person and on zoom)

✚ Saturday April 3

7h30 Morning Prayer (zoom)
19h00 The Great Vigil of Easter (zoom)

✚ Easter Sunday April 4

8h00 BCP Holy Communion
(in person and on zoom)
9h00 Eucharistie chantée (FR)
(in person and on zoom)
10h30 Sung Eucharist
(in person and on zoom)
16h00 Evensong / Vêpres
Radio VM 91.3 FM & internet



Children's Church

Sarah reports that we will not be having Children's Church on Easter Day. There is a [children's activity for Good Friday](https://www.montreal.anglican.ca/latest-news/2021/3/11/883s8pfutulovyb19edfpm3es0rxtq), hosted by the Diocese in which she will be assisting. Unfortunately, it seems to be for English-speaking kids only so she's invited all of the English-speaking kids at the cathedral.

Children's Church Dates for the rest of the Year:

April 11th, April 25th, May 9th, May 23rd, and June 6th. There will be a summer break. Sarah and Bertrand will be discussing what might happen in the Fall, hopefully looking at sessions in person.



Cathedral and Office holiday closure

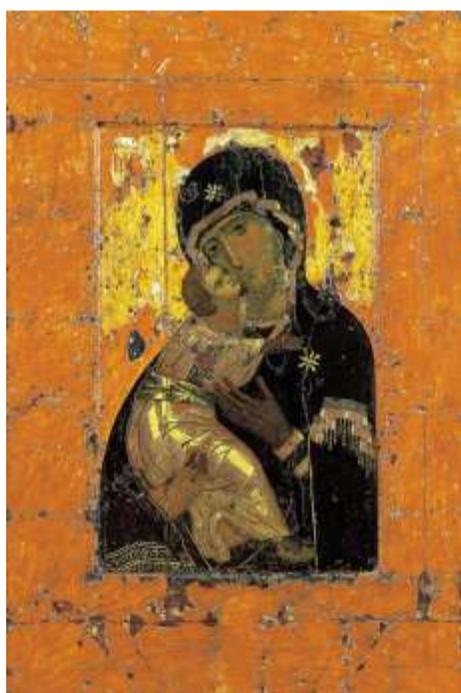
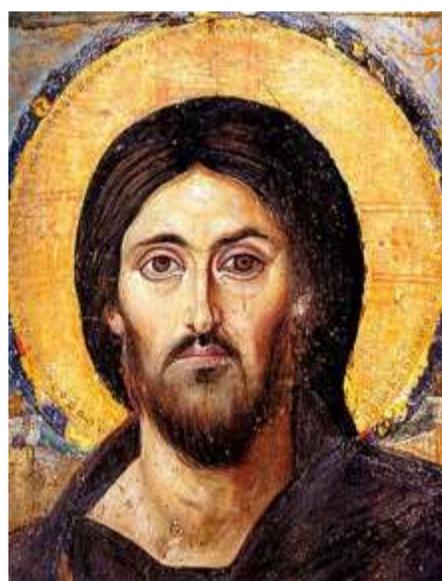
Our hard-working clergy, office administrator and vergers will all need a break, so the church will be closed on Easter Monday and the office on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Consequently, a short newsletter, including the names of people and events being commemorated by Easter flowers, will be prepared Wednesday next week, going out as usual on Friday. Therefore, the deadline for contributions to the letter will be midnight on Tuesday.



Icons and Journaling

Our Lenten Spirituality series presented on Sunday mornings concluded last week with Deborah talking about *The Eye of the Heart: Spiritual Journeying and Praying with Icons*.

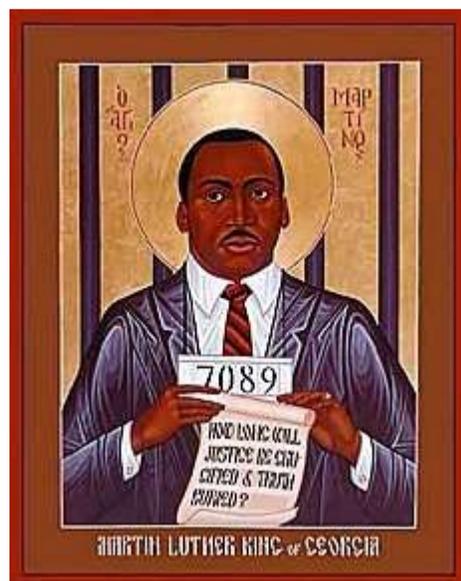
She talked first about spiritual journaling as an ancient tradition going back to Augustine's *Confessions*, whereby you can go inside yourself, look at your heart and listen to God. Yeats spoke of journaling as "the rag and bone shop of the heart". The practice of journaling is similar to the practice of examen which Vivian described, because you are reflecting on daily events and practising a discipline of noticing. The difference is that you are writing down your thoughts. Julia Cameron in her book *The Artist's Way* suggests that first thing in the morning, one should write 3 pages in longhand using stream of consciousness. Deborah said that doing this "clears out the junk in her soul".



Then she turned to icons, showing us some beautiful examples of ancient and modern icons, asking us to reflect on each image, entering into its silence and invoking the presence of God. Traditionally prayer in front of an icon is focused on praise and thanksgiving. Other traditions include the fact that the mouth of the person depicted is always closed. The ground is dark and then layers of light are added to symbolize our redemption by Christ. The use of inverse perspective means that the lines in the image converge on the heart of the person looking at the image. By tradition the first icon was created by St Luke who is credited with three icons of Mary. Early icons might have been copies of drawings by eyewitnesses of Christ and the apostles. Usually, Icon writers (the word used for the painters of icons) recreate an existing icon.

Modern icons often focus on figures in the news. Here are two of the medieval icons Deborah showed on Sunday and a twentieth century icon depicting Martin Luther King as a saint.

This icon of Martin Luther King, written by Br. Robert Lentz, OFM, shows Martin wearing his prison number and holding a scroll with a quotation from one of his speeches "How long will justice be crucified and truth buried?" The Greek inscription by his head translates as "Holy Martin".



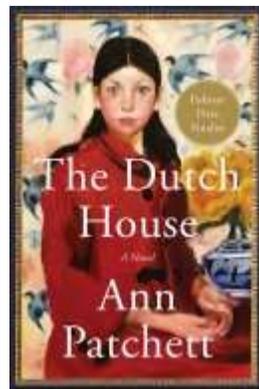
Reminder of a suggestion from Brenda

Last week's newsletter contained an invitation to watch a film *Fly me to the Moon* as well as an invitation to a virtual lecture given by the filmmaker, Dr Esther Figueroa on March 26 at 5 pm. Here is the link to register for the film and the lecture: <https://english.ufl.edu/event/fly-me-to-the-moon/> The film is available until March 27. There will be a zoom discussion that evening (Friday, March 27) at 7 pm. Note the change of date due to a clash with the reading group.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77298461641?pwd=RVNPNXJnVkUzMldRUDRXTVg0cnpBZz09>
Meeting ID: 772 9846 1641
Passcode: wKc4Q7

The **English book group** will discuss *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett on Sunday March 29 at 7 pm. All book-lovers welcome. Contact Jane for the zoom link. You can see the list of books we have read over the years

<https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/cathedral-reading-group/>



Updates from the General Vestry meeting

There was an excellent General Vestry meeting on Wednesday. It included a short video presentation created by Bertrand, and an overview of the budget for 2021 given by Jane. We were happy to learn that Sheena Gourlay will continue as Rector's Warden, Michele Rattray-Huish as People's Warden and Diana Bouchard and Marie-Claire Fournier as Deputy Wardens. Noah Hermes will be joining Corporation as a Deputy Warden, replacing Cassidy Vanderschee who will be moving out West in the Fall. Jane Aitkens continues in her post of Treasurer. We are immensely grateful to Corporation members for their hard work and leadership. You can read the Annual Report for 2020 on the website : <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/annual-report/> It is a fascinating document describing a historic year as experienced by the various Cathedral organisations. You can also peruse the budget, please contact Jane Aitkens, treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca for the password.

The Annual Report and General Vestry are full of thanks. Bertrand expressed his thanks to many people – perhaps he in turn deserves a special vote of thanks from us. We are probably not aware of just how huge his responsibilities are, not least of them being chasing up funding for restoration of the spire. So here is a special vote of thanks.



**Thank you
Bertrand,
our much loved
Dean and Rector
extraordinaire.**

Memories of Duncan continue.

The obituary in the Gazette written by his family summed him up in a masterful manner:

Welsh-born. Cambridge-educated. Amateur thespian. Professional Engineer. Avid squash player. Prolific reader. Passionate cinephile and film-goer. Tireless volunteer. Lifelong and active member of the Christ Church Cathedral community. Integrity. Diligence. Faith. Dos gyda Duw.



A memorial service in celebration of his life will be held Friday afternoon, September 24 at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal. Everyone is welcome.

Share your experience with the community:

It's not too late to give **Easter flowers** in memory of someone or to give thanks for a special event. The list will be posted in the newsletter next week. Send your donation with your dedication to accounting@montrealcathedral.ca

For the letter the week after Easter please send me drawings, photos, poems, reflections to describe how you spent Holy Week and Easter this year.

May we all have a Holy Week filled with spiritual blessings.

Ann Elbourne
with thanks to Elizabeth, Marie-Claire and Deborah
March 26, 2021

