

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Happy Easter! Just like last year, our Easter celebrations were unusual, partly live in the Cathedral, partly shared on zoom. The services were subdued – no brass, no loudly sung hymns or shouted alleluias - and yet beautiful, representing hours of preparation. The music was lovely, sermons inspiring and prayers comforting. Deborah expresses thanks on behalf of us all:

It takes a large team of willing hands to create beautiful worship, even (and, perhaps, especially) during these strange times. The Cathedral clergy would like to thank our stewards, Vergers, flower-arrangers (Vera and Rob), choir singers and soloists (Kim Lynch and Angèle Trudeau), Director of Music Jonathan White, Assistant Organist Nick Capozzoli, zoom vergers (Jane, Michel, Vivian, Janet), bulletin preparers (Stephen Petrie, Michel Gagnon, and Elizabeth Shama) and Carlos, our tech person extraordinaire. And each of you who sustained us in prayer and in presence, and with your words of encouragement. We are blessed to serve this community.



The paschal candle. Photo by Rob



Flowers beside the empty tomb. Photo by Vera

We also thank Taddy for challenging us throughout Lent with her **ecojustice calendar**. Do look at the entry for Easter Sunday, a beautifully illustrated Benedicite. <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/2021/04/lenten-ecojustice-calendar-easter-day/>

The Sunday after Easter is sometimes called Low Sunday, but there's nothing low about Sunday at the Cathedral this week. Deborah will be officiating at all the services, Tefvik will preach at 8 and 10:30 am and Michel at 9 am.

ESJAG presentation

After the 10:30 service, starting at 11:45, there will be a special presentation about Basic Income, asking "What is it and how will it help?" The **guest speaker is Sheila Regehr, Chairperson of Basic Income Canada Network**. Deacon Peter Huish was invited by Bishop Mary to represent the Anglican Church in this advocacy group which is urging the government to guarantee a livable income for all Canadians. Be ready to ask questions, and please invite your friends. Friends should contact Nancy Greene-Gregoire at ngreene@acm.org to receive the zoom link, or call 514-862-5367. They should provide their zoom screen name when registering to ensure they are admitted into the meeting. More information about BICN is available at www.basicincomecanada.org.



Two of the Cathedral windows reminding us to put belief into action – Justice, Mercy and Caring

Sunday, April 18, is sometimes called Earth Sunday. At 11:45 am **guest speaker Linda Handiak** will offer a presentation about the work of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. Details next week.

As you have probably read by now, houses of worship in Québec are once again limited to 25 worshippers at a time. We have updated the registration links on the website to comply with this directive.

<https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/in-person-services-at-the-cathedral/>

As we return to bi-modal worship, Deborah wants us to take particular note of the challenge of coordinating the start of the service between the online and the in-person worshippers. Some of you may remember that the Prelude used to precede the service. We are going to return to that pattern, starting the 10:30 prelude at 10:28 am. All online participants will be muted at that point. If you enter the Zoom room between 10:28 and 10:30 am, please refrain from greeting everyone, and enjoy the music.



Apart from the three Sunday Eucharists and Evensong, there are special Sunday offerings for young people: Bilingual Children's Church at 10 am, and Cathedral at 7, a simplified liturgy led by young adults and open to all. See <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar/> to get the links.

Exciting Cathedral Event Friday, April 23, at 7:30 Blessings from the Pandemic

A dedicated and talented group of Cathedral members has been working hard to create a memorable presentation of *Blessings from the Pandemic*. We hope this performance piece, a collection of prayer-poems written by American playwright Rich Orloff, will lift our spirits, amuse us, comfort us and challenge us as we trudge rather wearily towards the end of the pandemic. "Where was God in all this?" asks one of the poems. Joseph Hafner and Paul Helmer have recorded some beautiful music for cello and piano which will start and end the evening and Michel Gagnon has prepared a fascinating slideshow about the Cathedral spire which will be our pre-performance offering.

All profits from the presentation will go to the Spire restoration fund. Just as we long for the end of COVID, so we long to see our spire rising up again, surmounted by the cross as before. How can YOU help? Please buy a ticket (or if you're not free that evening make a donation), please spread the word among all your friends and acquaintances, please pray for the people involved. The readings end with candles being lit in memory of those who have died during the past year. You might like to have your own candle lit and your memory in mind.



COME CELEBRATE MONTREAL'S RESILIENCE AND HELP RESTORE A DOWNTOWN LANDMARK

This Canadian premiere is presented via Zoom webinar by Christ Church Cathedral in aid of the Spire Campaign.

Tickets: \$20 each, \$10 for students.

An official charity receipt for any additional donation will be sent to you for tax purposes.

To purchase tickets, visit our website:

https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/event/blessings-from-the-pandemic/?event_date=2021-04-23

or go directly to the ticket counter: <https://app.simplyk.io/en/ticketing/691fe9b2-2a23-4576-9d09-794f28448883>

Taking a Second Look

1. **Religion in the Pandemic** <https://youtu.be/Kr8bi-2jQck> A public policy webinar moderated by Daniel Weinstock in which Deborah participated on March 24, along with two Rabbis, an Iman and a Roman Catholic Priest. The webinar next Monday is about the Artist in the Pandemic. Contact me ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca if you'd like the link to register



2. **Happy birthday Janet** from the choir. Last Sunday Janet was serenaded in church with a video created by fellow choir members. If you'd like to look at it again here's the link sent by Yevgenia tiny.cc/janet80

Yevgenia also wrote about her experience of Easter this year. She and her husband Joel were both members of the Cathedral parish and stay in close contact. She wrote:

This Easter was our first Easter with my husband's new parish, Christ Church Beaurepaire (CCB), and the first Easter with a congregation as an ordained priest! (his first celebration of Easter as an ordained priest didn't happen in 2020 because of COVID). The service started with Jesus Christ is Risen Today – as it should! – a wonderful virtual congregational singing piece that the CCB's talented music director, Sylvia Bruns, put together. The piece that members of the parish recorded separately, adults and kids alike, with family and friends, including some of our relatives in the U.S., just made my day; though we can't sing together, we ARE together! I feel privileged to help as a soloist to the music department at CCB (and before that, at St. Mike's), though I miss the Cathedral Singers terribly! Happy Easter everybody at CCC from CCB!

The Cathedral Reading group will meet over zoom on April 25 at 7 pm to chat about, *Butter Honey Pig Bread* by Francesca Ekwuyasi which was a recent Canada Reads finalist. It is described as an intergenerational saga about three Nigerian women: a novel about food, family, and forgiveness.



Last Wednesday was the international Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust. This Sunday there will be a Christian Commemoration of the Shoah shared over zoom from Montreal West United Church between 10 and 11am. We will also remember the victims of the Holocaust during our intercessions in the Cathedral.



*The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove Is heard in our land.*

Song of Solomon 2:12



Happy week after Easter and beginning of Spring to you all!

Ann Elbourne
with thanks to contributors and to expert help from Elizabeth and Marie-Claire
April 9, 2021