



April 2025

Dear St George's,

All along the perimeter of our beautiful building scaffolding rises into the air. I have never quite seen such impressive scaffolding. It's like a giant fort with ladders and coverings sealing it. Recently Martha and I donned hard hats and ascended the first level of scaffolding to see the level of damage that requires mitigation and restoration. It is quite the overwhelming experience to touch a wall lightly and have pieces fall off into your hands. That is exactly what we were shown. A building that has housed so many faithful activities, for longer than Canada has existed, is in dire need of this restoration project. And with the faithfulness of parishioners past, present, and future we have set our sights on the completion of this project. We will need to be the Easter people of God working together to bring this to fruition.

In the last few days, I have had conversations with other parishioners about this restoration work. One conversation moved me as I heard about everything St George's means in the life of the whole family. How much generations had received from this building and community, and how now this parishioner and family were discussing together a special gift to reflect that.

When we say the words during the Easter services: "Alleluia Christ is Risen," and our community responds "The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!", we participate in a different kind of restoration. From the beginning of human civilization, the problem of death has persisted. The problem of death is it comes for everyone. Family by family it has come as a thief and robber.

As we come to the completion of the Lenten journey watching Jesus' last week unfold -- his betrayal, arrest, mock trial, crucifixion -- we see love that is amazing, sacrificial, and complete. We see the restoration of what death has meant to the people, and how that loss is transformed into a new creation of hope and living. It becomes a living hope for all who live in that Resurrection life.

Easter is the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the cornerstone of Christian faith. The Resurrection is seen as the defeat of death and sin, providing hope for eternal life for believers. The Resurrection is not just a future hope but a transformative



# ST. GEORGE'S

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event that impacts us together. The Resurrection of Jesus is the beginning of God's new creation, where death is no longer the final word. A place where the ways of heaven are brought to earth. A place where we live like Jesus did as followers and apprentices of his ways.

The Resurrection of Jesus signifies the beginning of God's renewal of the world and creation itself. The Resurrection should not just be seen as a promise of life after death but also as the inauguration of God's kingdom, which Christians are invited to participate in. Followers of Jesus are to live in the light of the Resurrection by embodying God's justice, mercy, and love in the world.

So, as we don our hard hats and climb the scaffolding, we see restoration at work. At Easter we see a community that has celebrated Resurrection life and power. A building that has lived the Resurrection generation after generation in participation in the world that sin, death, and evil do not get the final say. Generations who have cared for their neighbour and provided safety and refuge in God's name. And as I walked those planks and held on to the rungs of the ladder, I could not help but give thanks for everything this beautiful building and community stands for today. A place where community gathers in Jesus' name and keeps the poor close in heart and mind. A breakfast offered daily, other rooms offered for outreach while people are formed in Resurrection life inside in powerful and compelling worship and study, and where gifts are poured out for the wellbeing of all.

Happy Easter St George's

The Reverend Canon Tom Vaughan+

with The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic+