



The
American
Cathedral
in Paris

We strongly encourage you
to keep your mask on
during the entire service,
even if you are vaccinated.
amcathparis.com/covid19

JAZZ VESPERS

December 4th, 2022

6:00 p.m.

JAZZ AS PRAYER AND THE PRACTICE OF APPLAUSE

Our service of Jazz Vespers is built on the premise that jazz music is, by its nature, a form of prayer. We understand prayer to be a conversation. Through prayer we express our humanity, our longings, pains, joys, thanksgivings, in relationship with God—as individuals, and as a community. Jazz music is conversational. The musicians express themselves individually and respond to one another. Those listening to the music have a way of participating in that conversation—applause. It is common to applaud in response to musicians’ solos on a particular tune. That applause is not just a form of appreciation. It is our way of participating in the conversation. In the context of jazz worship, our applause is a way of saying “Amen” to the prayer that the musicians have offered on our behalf.

ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: *Visions*

Stevie Wonder
(b. 1950)

WELCOME

READING FROM SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

SONG: *Take me to the Alley*

Gregory Porter
(b. 1971)

READING: *Advent*

Thomas Merton

Charm with your stainlessness these winter nights,
Skies, and be perfect!
Fly vivider in the fiery dark, you quiet meteors,
And disappear.
You moon, be slow to go down,
This is your full!

The four white roads make off in silence
Towards the four parts of the starry universe.
Time falls like manna at the corners of the wintry earth.
We have become more humble than the rocks,
More wakeful than the patient hills.

Charm with your stainlessness these nights in Advent, holy spheres,
While minds, as meek as beasts,
Stay close at home in the sweet hay;
And intellects are quieter than the flocks that feed by Starlight.

Oh pour your darkness and your brightness over all our our solemn valleys,
You skies : and travel like the gentle Virgin,
Toward the planets' stately setting,

Oh white full moon as quiet as Bethlehem!

SONG: *How High the Moon*

Nancy Hamilton (1908-1985)

Morgan Lewis (1906-1968)

READING: *To Him That Waits*

Howard Thurman

Waiting is a window opening on many landscapes. For some, waiting means the cessation of all activity when energy is gone and exhaustion is all that the heart can manage. It is the long slow panting of the spirit. There is no will to will—“spent” is the word. There is no hope, not hopelessness—there is no sense of anticipation or even awareness of a loss of hope. Perhaps even the memory of function itself has faded. There is now and before—there is no after.

For some, waiting is a time of intense preparation for the next leg of the journey. Here at last comes a moment when forces can be realigned and a new attack upon an old problem can be set in order. Or it may be a time of reassessment of all plans and of checking past failures against present insight. It may be the moment of the long look ahead when the landscape stretches far in many directions and the chance to select one’s way among many choices cannot be denied...

For many, waiting is something more than all of this. It is the experience of recovering balance when catapulted from one’s place. It is the quiet forming of a pattern of recollection in which there is called into focus the fragmentary values from myriad encounters of many kinds in a lifetime of living. It is to watch a gathering darkness until all light is swallowed up completely without the power to interfere or bring to a halt. Then to continue one’s journey in the darkness with one’s footsteps guided by the illumination of remembered radiance is to know courage of a peculiar kind—the courage to demand that light continue to be light even in the surrounding darkness. To walk in the light while darkness invades, envelops, and surrounds is to wait on the Lord. This is to know the renewal of strength. This is to walk and faint not.

SONG: *A Happy Thought*

Stu Mindeman (b. 1987)

Franz Wright (1953-2015)

PRAYERS

Prayers are offered asking for help, giving thanks for the blessings of this life, and reveling in the wonder of Creation.

LORD'S PRAYER *Said by each in their own language.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Notre Père qui es aux cieux,
que ton Nom soit sanctifié,
que ton règne vienne,
que ta volonté soit faite
sur la terre comme au ciel.
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.
Pardonne-nous nos offenses
comme nous pardonnons aussi
à ceux qui nous ont offensés.
Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,
mais délivre-nous du mal.
Car c'est à toi qu'appartiennent le règne,
la puissance et la gloire,
pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.**

SONG: *Shine On Us*

Bethany Hamilton Clearfield
(b. 1985)

BLESSING

SONG: *Bridges*

Milton Nascimento (b. 1942)
Fernando Brant (1946-2015)
Gene Lees (1928-2010)

SERVING TODAY: *Clergy:* The Rev. Canon Nathaniel Katz; *Vocalist:* Bethany Hamilton Clearfield; *Trumpet:* Hermon Mehari; *Piano:* Rob Clearfield; *Bass:* Luca Fattorini; *Drums:* Stefano Lucchini; *Lectors:* Harriet Rivière, Carol Kent Amouyel; *Production:* Ulysse Sorabella.

Welcome!

Welcome to The American Cathedral in Paris. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, whatever your questions, whatever your situation, we are glad you are here.

If you're **new** here, or wish to learn more about our life together, we invite you to **visit our website**, amcathparis.com. To sign up to receive our **weekly e-letter**, visit amcathparis.com/eletter.

Prayer List

We pray for those in need of healing, who are in grief, or have any special needs, especially Alexis, Cody, Julia, Neville, Rob, Silvio, Blair and Romain, Louann, Karen, Melissa, Peiro, Barbara, Bob, Donald, Jeremy; and for those who have died, especially Robert I. Gilbert, Jr., Sheila Brown, Anice Mesadieu Stinfil, Jean-Robert Stinfil, Edward Dey; and for all those affected by COVID-19.

Prayer requests may be sent to us at: communications@americancathedral.org We will offer them to God at our daily service of Noonday Prayer.

Coming Up

Sunday, January 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Jazz Vespers

Join us in person or online.

Christmas at the Cathedral

Christmas Flowers and Music

there are envelopes in the pews for flowers and music at Christmas. Also that the deadline for submissions to be included in the bulletin for Christmas Eve and Christmas is Monday December 19.

Sunday, December 11th at 11:00 a.m.

The Posadas Pageant

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Canon Kelly Brown Douglas

Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m.

The Paris Choral Society: Handel's *Messiah* Sing-Along

Tickets available at parischoralsociety.org.

Saturday, December 17th at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Saturday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Family Festival Eucharist for Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24th at 10:00 p.m.

Carol Sing and Festival Eucharist for Christmas Eve

The Carol Sing starts at 10:00 p.m.; the service starts at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th at 11:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist for Christmas Day

More information at amcathparis.com.

Support the Cathedral

We know nearly everyone connected with the Cathedral is experiencing unusual financial pressure, but so are we. Please consider donating online or by mailing a check (in either euros or US dollars). Visit amcathparis.com/donate or scan this QR code.



LAGV Sponsorship

Throughout the year, your financial support of our music program via Les Arts George V (LAGV) is extremely important. We ask you to prayerfully consider renewing or increasing your sponsor contribution or becoming a sponsor for the first time, so that we can continue to provide wonderful musical offerings at The Cathedral and around the world. Visit lagv.org/en/support-lagy or scan this QR code.



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