



The
American
Cathedral
in Paris

JAZZ VESPERS

May 21st, 2023

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: *Seven Steps to Heaven*

Miles Davis (1926-1991)
Victor Feldman (1934-1987)

WELCOME

READING FROM SCRIPTURE: Genesis 28:10-17

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the

Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

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

All **Thanks be to God.**

SONG: *Night Dreamer*

Wayne Shorter
(1933-2023)

READING: An Excerpt from *The Equation of Change*, an Interview by Krista Tippett with Brian McLaren for *OnBeing*

One hundred years ago, Walter Rauschenbusch, [a] German Baptist pastor... reads the Gospels and realizes, wow, Jesus had this message called the Kingdom of God.

And for so many Christians, the Kingdom of God had been reduced to going to heaven after you die and he made this slight observation that, in the Lord’s Prayer, it says “may your kingdom come, may your will be done down here on earth.” In other words, the direction of the Bible was downward, not upward. I mean, that changes the world. Martin Luther King, Jr. got hold of that. Others got hold of that.

That was one of the most transformative ideas of my life. I grew up in the church all my life. It wasn’t until I was in my forties that I realized that the Kingdom of God was not going to heaven after you die. Oh, my goodness. Then you add to that the insights of liberation theology from Latin America and places in Africa, this obvious, obvious discovery that the primary biblical narrative is exodus, that when God made a decision to support slaves, not slave owners, that’s one of the most radical ideas in the world.

It has powerful implications for how we read the whole Bible. For example, when you read the Book of Exodus, that's where the word salvation gains meaning. And salvation means essentially liberation. One of my mentors said to me, "What you focus on determines what you miss." And I was taught to read every verse in the Bible to find out who's going to heaven and who's going to hell. But when you start noticing other things, you start looking for other things, the Bible becomes a different book. And I think Jesus becomes a very different person and the Christian faith can become a very different faith.

SONG: *Lawns*

Carla Bley
(b. 1936)

READING: *Endless Lawns* by Kurt Elling and *Winter Stars* by Sara Teasdale (in italics)

Afloat and all at sea
The stars align in threes
They're so fine and free
In blue and in green
Like leaves on endless trees

Come climb the skies with me
Come hear and come to see
Melody in perfect symmetry
In love. In light. In key.

*I went out at night, alone
The young blood flowing beyond the sea
Seemed to have drenched my spirit's wings
I bore my sorrow heavily*

*But when I lifted up my head
From shadows shaken on the snow
I saw Orion in the east
Burn steadily as long ago*

*From windows in my father's house
Dreaming my dreams on winter nights
I watched Orion as a girl
Above another city's lights*

*Years ago, dreams ago
And youth goes too
The world's heart breaks beneath its wars
All things are changed, save in the east
The faithful beauty of the stars*

All things are changed
All things are changed, save in the east
The faithful beauty of the stars

So come climb the skies with me
Come hear and come to see
Melody in perfect symmetry

In love. In light.
In love. In light.
In love. In light.
In love. In light.
In love. In light.
In love. In light.
In love. In light.
In love. In light.

In love. In light. In key.

SONG: *Uplifted Heart*

Shamie Royston
(b. 1972)

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: *A Bit of Heaven*

Benny Golson
(b. 1929)

BLESSING

All are invited to gather for a festive reception in the Parish Hall following this evening's service.

SERVING TODAY: *Clergy:* The Rev. Canon Nathaniel Katz; *Alto Saxophone:* Olga Amelchenko; *Piano:* Rob Clearfield; *Bass:* Luca Fattorini; *Drums:* Karl Jannuska; *Lector:* Chad Dilley; *Usher:* Ann Dushane; *Production:* Gaël de Fournas.

Welcome!

Welcome to The American Cathedral in Paris. We are so glad you're with us. Whether in person or online, for a short time or a lifetime, sure in faith or full of doubt, you belong here. Building on our past and our journey towards inclusion, we strive to create a future of faith, love, and charity. Let's do it together. Give us a call, send an email, or find us at coffee hour—we can't wait to get to know you.

Contact information for the clergy and staff can be found at amcathparis.com/leadership.

Subscribe to our e-letter for weekly updates on our life together in Christ. Visit amcathparis.com/eletter.

Prayer List

We pray for those in need of healing, who are in grief, or have any special needs, especially Bryce, Maija, Tom, Matt, the family of Peter Rowland, David, Jeremy, Françoise, Eleanor; and for those who have died, especially Thomas Trautner, Aude, Bernard, The Rev. Peter Rood, Lisa Parker, Peter Rowland; and for all those affected by COVID-19. We pray also for our ministries and leaders, especially our vestry in our search for a new Dean; our capital campaign leaders.

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

Tuesday, May 30th at 6:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong

Sung by the Chapel Choir of Harvard University

Sunday, June 4th

Annual General Meeting

Please join in person (the nave) or online for the **2023 Annual General Meeting**. The in-person meeting is open to all. The livestream is open to pledging members only. A link to the livestream will be sent to pledging members on June 1st. Questions? Email the clerk at agm@americancathedral.org.

Sunday, June 4th at 6:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong

Wednesday, June 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Jazz Vespers for La Fête de la Musique

Wednesday, June 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong for La Fête de la Musique

Capital Campaign: Make a Joyful Noise!

Exciting news! A generous anonymous donor has been inspired to offer a challenge grant of €25,000! How it works: **every *new* pledge or *increase* in an existing pledge, received by June 9th, will be matched 100%** up to €25,000. So a donation of €50 becomes €100; €1,000 becomes €2,000; €5,000 becomes €10,000.

This could well bring us up to our ambitious full goal of €5,000,000! we are nearly there... **Please make or increase your pledge today at amcathparis.com/capitalcampaign.**

And be sure to stay for a **celebratory coffee hour on June 11th** where we will thank all the donors and volunteers, and reveal the total pledged!



Support Us

A Call to Give, A Call to Shape the Future It's not too late to make a Pledge for 2023

The Cathedral enriches our lives and the community around us in many ways, but the Cathedral and everything in it depends on the efforts of members like you, including financial support in the form of pledges. **To fill out a pledge card, scan this QR code, find the pledge card in your pew, or visit amcathparis.com/pledge.**



Support Music at the Cathedral via Les Arts George V

Les Arts George V (LAGV) supports the music at the Cathedral in many ways: among them **hosting Les Dimanches Musicaux (LDM) and encouraging sponsorships and donations**. Half the proceeds of LDM go to the Cathedral music program. To give, visit lagv.org/support-lagv or scan QR code above. For questions about sponsorship and donations, contact Kate Thweatt at thweatt@noos.fr.



The American Cathedral in Paris

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