



Many thanks to artist Teddy Payne for the water colour given to St. James, which is reproduced here.

Jazz Vespers

St. James Anglican Church Stratford ON

Sunday, June 8, 2025, ~ 4:00 p.m.

Clergy:

The Ven. Rob Lemon & The Rev'd Tim Elliott

Musicians:

The Michael Wood Quartet:

Michael Wood – Vibraphone - Ralf Bushmeyer – Guitar

Darryl Stacey – Bass - Jay Boehmer - Drums

The evening Office of Vespers has roots extending into the worship life of the Jewish people. Our tradition has molded and shaped these forms of worship and prayer through an evolutionary process that is both faithful to our heritage and open to creating new traditions of praise. The Jazz Vespers Service is itself a synthesis of several traditions, each finding a unifying voice through the unique musical heritage that we call jazz. The makers of jazz develop consummate technical achievement as both a composer and a performer. The virtuosity of the performer is not an end unto itself. The musical tradition is about the task of giving voice to the hopes, dreams, frustrations and pain that expresses human experience. Jazz is the musical incense that collects and carries the prayers of a people. (From an article by the Rev. Norm Freeman, Episcopal priest 1952-2024).

Order of Things

Music as we gather.

Word of welcome

Opening Prayer (said together)

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; to you be glory and praise forever. Raised to your side in honour on high, the ascended Christ shows the prints of love and bestows on us the gifts of grace. As your Spirit renews the face of the earth, may we bring forth the fruit of the Spirit and reveal your glory in all the world. Blessed be you O God, Source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Prayer Without Ceasing: Anglican Church of Canada).

Music

Scripture Reading: **Psalm 104: 24-34**

Reader: The word of the Lord. ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Music

Reflection

Music during which an offering is received to support the outreach ministries of St. James Church.

The Prayers.

The Pentecost Collect (said together). Holy God, you spoke the world into being. Pour your spirit to the ends of the earth, so that your children may return from exile as citizens of your commonwealth and our divisions may be healed by your word of love and righteousness. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Announcements.

Hymn:

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love,
and do what you would do.

2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.

3. Breathe on me breath of God
Till I am wholly thine
Until this earthly part of me
Glow with the fire divine.

4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Please sit for the improvisations

Bless you for coming. Please join us for refreshments at the back of the church.

The next Jazz Vespers will be on Sunday October 19th

Michael Wood's note about today's musicians

Today's ensemble comes to us from four decades of performance venues throughout Ontario and Alberta. Our guitarist Ralf Bushmeyer was first introduced to me in Calgary when I had the opportunity to hire him for three days of high school clinics in the Rocky View School System, sponsored by Yamaha Music Canada. Jay Boehmer on drums, came into my life through our work with the Ontario Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society, and bassist Darryl Stacey has been on my first call list since our introduction in the London Club Scene when I moved to Stratford in 1980. All share a commitment to academia. Ralf has taught at St. Ambrose University (Calgary Alberta), Selkirk University (Nelson BC) and is presently teaching at Heritage College in Cambridge. Jay Boehmer has an active private studio and is frequently called to coach in the Peel District School Board. Darryl was called to teach at the Thames Valley District School Board and since his retirement has been able to concentrate extensively on his performance jobbing. I am pleased to have been able to work with these fine musicians over the years and confident you will enjoy their talents.

Support for the musicians comes from St. James' parish budget and is augmented by individual community sponsors so that we can experience high quality jazz music. Thank you to today's sponsor for your generous support. If you'd like to be a sponsor for future jazz vespers please contact the Rector, Archdeacon Rob Lemon.
