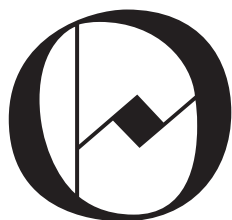


# Spring at the Cathedral

## 2020

## In Memoriam: The Very Reverend James Parks Morton

THE RIGHT REVEREND ANDREW ML DIETSCH, BISHOP OF NEW YORK



On Saturday, January 4, 2020, the Very Reverend James Parks Morton, the seventh Dean of our Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, died peacefully at home, surrounded by family. Dean Morton was a singular figure in the life of the Cathedral and

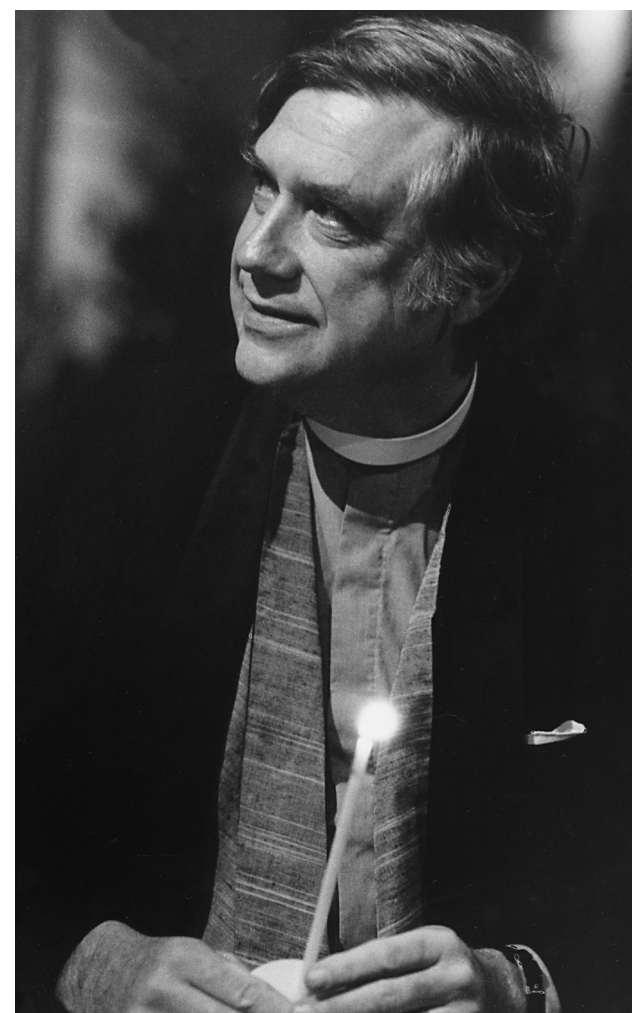
the Episcopal Church. During his twenty-five years as Cathedral Dean (1972-1997), he shepherded the Cathedral's growing prominence as a religious and cultural center for the city and the nation. Profoundly dedicated to interfaith relations, he brought together people of different religions into respectful dialogue and genuine friendship. He also strengthened the Cathedral's commitment to the arts, environmental advocacy, and outreach to the poor. His leadership brought a renewed flourishing of the Cathedral's life and mission.

Born in Houston, Texas, Jim spent his childhood in the university settings where his father taught theatre arts. He arrived for his own education at Harvard University as an atheist, but soon was drawn to the teachings and witness of leaders who combined the religious quest with social action. During his education, also at Cambridge University, he began to seek spiritual answers in various religious traditions, an exploration that became part of his spirituality throughout his life. Drawn to the Episcopal Church, he pursued his seminary formation at the General Theological Seminary in New York City and, in 1954, was ordained a priest in our diocese. A few days later, he married his beloved wife, Pamela. With a particular interest in serving the urban poor, he began his ordained ministry in Jersey City, then went on to head the national Episcopal Church's urban ministry effort. In 1964, he helped to found and became Director of an urban training center for Christian mission in Chicago to train clergy of many denominations in ministering to the urban poor. While in Chicago, he watched on television, along with the nation, the first moon landing, and the view of our fragile earth in space; this, he said, moved creation care to the center of his theology. Then, in 1972, he was called to the Cathedral as Dean.

For a quarter century, all of who Jim was, from his familial background in the arts, to his keen interest in different religions,

to his commitment to the urban poor and to God's creation, combined with his visionary leadership to shape the Cathedral's mission. He started a program, the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, to reclaim abandoned housing in the city and rebuild it through owners' labor, creating more than 20,000 apartments. During his tenure, after a hiatus of more than four decades, building of the unfinished Cathedral resumed, with unemployed neighborhood youths enlisted as stone-cutting apprentices taught by master stonemasons. Artist in Residence Philip Petit famously walked the high-wire across Amsterdam Avenue to set the first stone. In 1984, the Cathedral's first St. Francis Day festival was held, a signature Cathedral worship service to this day, full of joyful theatricality dedicated to God, and featuring Paul Winter and Paul Halley's *Missa Gaia* (Earth Mass) and the popular procession of animals. The Cathedral began to play a global role in environmental matters and creation stewardship, bringing together prominent religious leaders and scientists. That same year, the American Poet's Corner was inaugurated in the Cathedral's Arts Bay to remember and honor the nation's prominent writers. As the city and nation faced the ravages of the HIV/AIDS crisis, the Cathedral dedicated the AIDS Memorial in the Medical Bay, in 1985, establishing a Book of Remembrance in which the names of people who have died from complications of AIDS are inscribed. Under Jim's leadership, the Cathedral thrived amid the intellectual exchange of ideas, the sheer delight which the arts bring, and the ability of religion to speak in the public square on matters of public policy. Jim welcomed not only social justice advocates and scientists into the pulpit, but also civic leaders, including Václav Havel and Mayor David Dinkins, who convened the city at the Cathedral in 1991 to pray for an end to racial tensions in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

*Continued on back page*



James Parks Morton (PHOTO: Mary Bloom)

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## Dean's Meditation: Healthy Spirituality

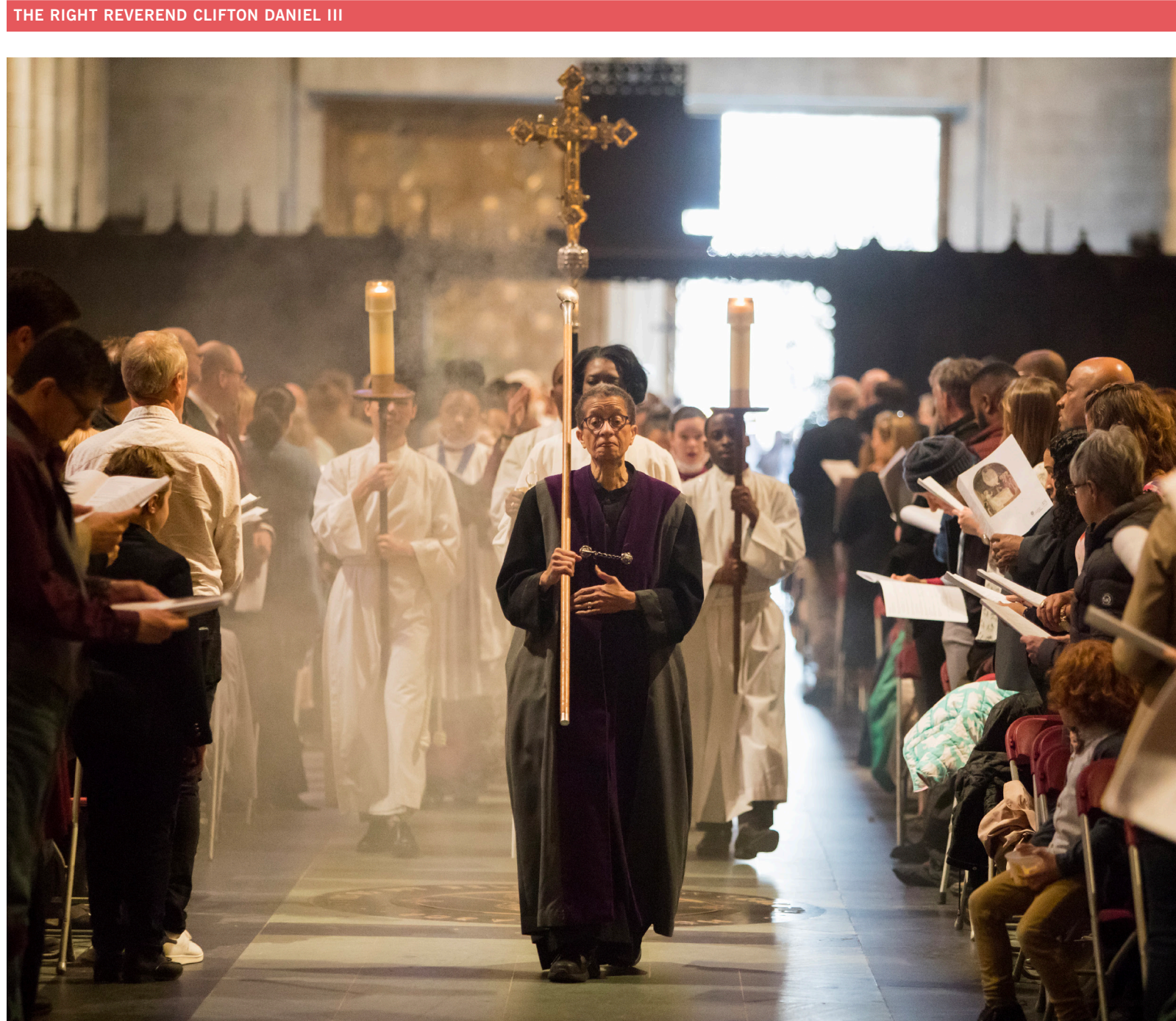


PHOTO: Ken Yanagisawa

### Cathedral Information

The Cathedral is open daily from 7:30 am–6 pm  
For information:  
(212) 316-7540  
[stjohndivine.org](http://stjohndivine.org)

### Reaching the Cathedral

The Cathedral is located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, at 112th Street.

By Subway:  
#1 Train to 110th Street

By Bus:  
#M4 to Amsterdam & 110th Street  
#M11 to Amsterdam & 112th Street  
#M104 to Broadway & 112th Street

On February 2, the Episcopal Church commemorated and celebrated the child Jesus being presented in the Temple by his parents in accord with the Law of Moses. Mary and Joseph came to fulfill what the discipline of their religion required: a simple act of going to the Temple and presenting their first born to God. It was a simple act, laden with familial, spiritual and religious meaning.

I suppose Mary and Joseph were spiritual people—certainly their child Jesus was, as Son of God and Savior. So what was the point of presenting Jesus/Son of God/Savior in the Temple? Two reasons.

First: the Temple in Jerusalem was the only meeting point for God and those who were Jews. So being good Jews, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to temple to meet God and God's people. The former, a rather redundant action I should think. But the latter, God's promise to Simon was fulfilled in their coming to Jerusalem.

Simon is there in the temple, a devout man eagerly awaiting the redemption of Israel and promised by God not to die before seeing the Savior. He sees Jesus and, in a flash, realizes this child is the promised Savior. He then proclaims what we know now as the "Song of Simon," or *Nunc dimittis*:

"Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your Word." - i.e.,

"God, you have kept your promise."

There is, I believe, a second reason for celebrating the Feast of the Presentation that lies a bit under the surface of the story. I believe it's pertinent for our age when so many people struggle to find the meeting point between spirituality and organized religion. Luke puts Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in the very center of the tension between spirituality and religion. Luke is telling the reader, you and me, that you can be as spiritual as you want to be looking at sunsets or reading crystals or anything else. As we have heard in the first "Radical Love Live" Podcast, your spirituality is "Whatever you follow." In describing the simple act of bringing a child to the Temple, Luke presents us with a most existential question about our own spirituality and spiritual practice. The first fact is that if one's spirituality is

without form, shape and discipline, it's basically like eating a banana split—looks good, tastes better, but in the end it's empty calories. This is lazy spirituality.

A lazy spirituality lulls us in to believing anything is okay as long as we nod our head towards a larger power so that we can get on with "real" life.

A healthy spirituality enables a person to meet challenges of life and change and grow. A healthy spirituality is realistic about facing into life and its joys, hardships, temptations and downfalls and gives power to deal with ourselves and others. A lazy spirituality tells each of us we need more spending power, more control over others. A lazy spirituality seduces us in to thinking we don't need to care about the beggar on the corner of 110th Street and Broadway, or families separated at the border, or abused children, or prisoners, or the homeless. And that lazy spirituality might just work until the coronavirus shows up and reminds us exactly how interconnected to another we actually are.

Today, we spend time in this great Cathedral, built not by people who were simply religious but by spiritual people dedicated to a particular discipline of spirituality called Christianity, and more specifically, the Anglican/Episcopal path. The Anglican/Episcopal tradition is both spiritual and religious, disciplined and free at the same time, for religion and discipline are not mutually exclusive, as popular culture would have it.

What does this mean for those who seek to be disciples in these days of shrinking religious practice and declining numbers in every denomination and tradition?

We need as a body to be more intentional about the education of our members in the traditions and intellectual property of being Episcopal/Anglican. We must form our youth and ourselves in ways that, as the challenges to the Church and Christian faith well up in this century, we as a church can face them and move into the future with hope and confidence.

We need bold witness and disciplined presentation in the 21st century. This church will be called on

to clarify its values regarding the treatment of the poor and forgotten folk, the refugee and the marginalized. We will be confronted to declare our Christian values of care for all of creation, one another and every human being and our nation, lest we be led down paths of selfishness and fear and hatred of our neighbor. We must be clear that, as Christians, we value freedom and equity and justice for all, and the inherent right of every human being to adequate food and shelter and medical care equally provided for all. This is the true hard work of religion, rooted in spirituality. We dissolve the two at our peril.

The role of the Cathedral is to lead our city and nation through witness and service. I invite you to come here to this Cathedral with your spirituality—and let it be formed and shaped and empowered. Come here to learn to trust God's promises. We at the Cathedral need to think about ways of presenting Christian faith in new ways that appeal to and comfort a skeptical age.

It is the Cathedral's role to lead and serve this neighborhood, this city, nation and world with vigor and charity, sharing our resources and the traditions of our faith with a world hungry and thirsty not just for any spirituality, but for a spirituality of a religion formed by the faith and practice of 2,000 years of living in a changing world and appropriated for living with strength and hope in this day and century.

## A Book for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The Cathedral's new oral biography is here! Several years in the making, *A Cathedral for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* is a true labor of love, capturing over a hundred years of Cathedral stories told by Deans, neighbors, friends, and supporters of all walks of life.

Copies of *A Cathedral for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* can be purchased at the Cathedral shop or on our website.

## Holy Week at the Cathedral



PHOTO: David Rider

## Neal Slavin: BELIEF

Longtime friends of the Cathedral may recognize Neal Slavin's name from his classic photograph of the New Year's Eve Concert for Peace, showcasing the Cathedral lit with candles held aloft by the assembled revelers. A copy of the photograph hangs in the Dean's office as a reminder of the promise of a new year and a community of friends willing to work towards a greater peace.

This spring, the Cathedral is pleased to host a small exhibition of Slavin's work, taken from his ongoing series, *BELIEF: The Prayer Project*. Through the photos in this series, Slavin explores the fundamental need of people to gather together and connect spiritually in order to face things beyond their understanding. Slavin has depicted such occasions in many ways and in mostly sacred spaces, photographing different prayer styles and customs around New York City. His interest is in the private spiritual experience captured on each face in a crowd of hundreds or even thousands, that moment of personal transcendence that can only be accessed as part of a larger community.

The photographs are on view now in the Nave. The images invite prayer and meditation on the varied forms and meanings of prayer—a perfect project for the Lenten season.

Interfaith Gathering of Religious Leaders, NYC 2015 (PHOTO: Neal Slavin)



Though the scope of the Cathedral year encompasses several magnificent feast days and emotionally stirring services, there is perhaps no time as full of somber reflection, meditative peace, and joyous fellowship as the procession from Palm Sunday to Easter. Easter, the annual celebration of Jesus' passage to life through suffering and death, is the center and culmination of the entire Christian year. The week preceding Easter, Holy Week, is a time of singular intensity and focus.

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, we gather to celebrate Christ's entry into Jerusalem. He appears as both a kingly figure and a humble one: welcomed by the people of the city with palm fronds, he approaches on a donkey, not the war-horse of a conquering general. The events of the following days are commemorated and reenacted by services throughout the week, as we remember Christ's Passion and the triumph of his victory over death.

Holy Week ends with a three-day feast called the Triduum: Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Since the liturgical day begins at sunset (as in Jewish custom), the observance of the Triduum begins on Thursday evening. It is called "Maundy Thursday," from the Latin *mandatum*, from which comes the English word "mandate," that is, a commandment. At his Last Supper, Jesus washed his disciples' feet and told them he was giving them a new commandment, that they should love one another as he loved them. On this night, the ministers wash and dry the feet of the congregation in obedience to Jesus' command.

After the liturgy, some worshippers remain for the annual reading of sections from Dante Alighieri's *Inferno*. This year's reading is particularly special, as the first for Marie Howe, the Cathedral's newly-appointed Poet in Residence. With Dante

and Virgil as our guides, the readers and audience are led through Hell and towards redemption, a journey recalling Christ's own passage.

On Good Friday, the principal liturgy centers on Jesus' capture, trial, suffering, and death. The choir sings Victoria's Passion, and members of the congregation venerate the Lord's cross. This is the only day of the year when the Holy Eucharist is not celebrated. In the afternoon, people gather to make the symbolic pilgrimage of the Stations of the Cross. This custom arose in Europe for those who could not travel to Israel and walk around the actual sites of Jesus' Passion. The service is in English and Spanish, and includes readings and prayers, chants and hymns. In the evening, people assemble again to hear an organ meditation by Artist in Residence David Briggs, improvising on the Way of the Cross.

Saturday is a day of preparation for Easter, as the Cathedral and its congregation await the return of Christ to his house among men. Easter Sunday begins at sundown on Saturday, with the Great Vigil of Easter: a service that begins with the lighting of a fire in the darkness and the recalling of the entire story of God's actions in history according to Jewish and Christian tradition. The service continues to baptisms and the first Eucharist of Easter.

On Sunday between 11 am and 1 pm, for the Festal Eucharist of Easter Day, the Cathedral is full of celebrants singing hymns and joining in prayer. The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche, Bishop of New York, preaches. The circle is again complete: the journey from darkness into light, from death back to life, has once again been run, and we look to the next spoke on the wheel of the Christian year as it continues to turn.

## Aljoscha: The Miraculous Draught

Upon stepping into the Nave, visitors to the Cathedral this spring will encounter Ukrainian artist Aljoscha's installation, *The Miraculous Draught*, hanging weightlessly in midair. Installed in late February, the sculptures suggest the strange, elegant silhouettes of undersea creatures; perhaps unsurprising, as the installation's title refers to the story in the Gospel of John:

"Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of 153 large fish, but even with so many the net was not torn." (John 21:11)

Aljoscha's artistic practice centers on biological forms, frequently appearing as the constituent parts of superorganisms. Perhaps, the artist suggests, humanity is itself a superorganism—certainly the interconnectivity of modern culture, in which we're ever more intertwined with the lives of our fellows via technological advances like phones and high-speed Internet, points to a core of truth there. *The Miraculous Draught* considers the human superorganism from another angle as well, and one that's particularly suited for the meditative days of Lent. In the artist's own words, the piece "consists of singular individuals united with each other and standing in a transformative relation to their environment." The 153 sculptures, whether representative of fish or human beings (or perhaps a combination of the two; in a related miracle, Jesus inspires his disciple Peter to become a "fisher of men," after all), are united as witnesses of the Divine.

PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld



## The American Poets Corner: Bang's Purgatorio

The next realm, the second I'll sing,  
Is here where the human spirit gets purified  
And made fit for the stairway to heaven.

Here's where the kiss of life restores the reign  
Of poetry—O true-blue Muses, I'm yours—  
And where Callopee jumps up just long enough

To sing backup with the same bold notes  
That knocked the poor magpie girls into knowing  
Their audacity would never be pardoned.

The fluid blue of the eastern sapphire  
Pooling in the cloudless mid-sky,  
Clear down to the first curved horizon line,

Was an even more delightful sight,  
Having left behind the sad-making dead air  
That had so messed up my chest and eyes.

The gorgeous planet that says yes to love  
Was turning the east into a glitter fest,  
Veiling the fish that formed her entourage.

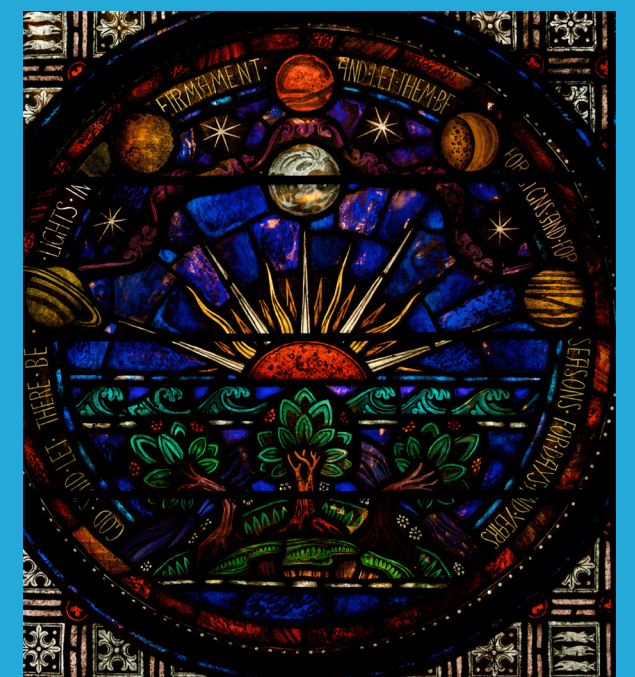
I looked right; focussing on the South Pole,  
I saw four stars that had gone unseen  
Since the first human beings.

It was like the sky was having a wild night  
With these tiny blinking lights; O sad-eyed lady North,  
Widowed of a sight you would so love to see!

Mary Jo Bang, from Canto I of the *Purgatorio*

Mary Jo Bang is an Elector of the American Poets Corner. Her translation of Dante's *Purgatorio* will be published in 2021.

PHOTO: Helena Kubicka de Braganca



# Spring events 2020

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday Services

**8 am** Morning Prayer & Holy Eucharist

**9 am** Holy Eucharist

**11 am** Choral Eucharist

**4 pm** Choral Evensong

### Daily Services

**Monday–Friday**

**8 am** Morning Prayer

**12:15 pm** Holy Eucharist

**5 pm** Evening Prayer

**Saturday**

**12:15 pm** Holy Eucharist

## TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS

Unless otherwise noted events do not require tickets or reservations. Tickets for all performances other than free or “suggested contribution” events may be purchased directly from the Cathedral’s website, stjohndivine.org, or by calling (866) 811-4111.

Your contributions make it possible for the Cathedral to offer the many programs listed below. Please fill out the enclosed envelope.

Please visit the Cathedral’s website, stjohndivine.org, or call the Visitor Center (212) 316-7540 for updates and additional event and tour information.

Don’t forget to become a fan of the Cathedral on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

## ONGOING PROGRAMS, TOURS, WORKSHOPS

### Sunday Post-Evensong Organ Recitals

The Great Organ: It’s Sunday invites established and emerging organists from across the U.S. and around the world to take their turn at the Great Organ and present a free 5 pm concert.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION & VISITOR SERVICES ONGOING TOURS & EVENTS

### Highlights Tours

*Mondays–Saturdays, 11 am–Noon & 1 pm–2 pm*

Explore the many highlights of the Cathedral’s history, architecture, and artwork, from the Great Bronze Doors to the seven Chapels of the Tongues. Learn about the Cathedral’s services, events, and programs that welcome and inspire visitors from around the world. \$14 per person, \$12 per student/senior. No prior reservation necessary. Meet at Visitor Center.

### Vertical Tours

*Mondays, 10–11 am*

*Wednesdays & Fridays, Noon–1 pm*

*Saturdays, Noon–1 pm & 2 pm–3 pm*

On this adventurous, “behind-the-scenes” tour, climb more than 124 feet through spiral staircases to the top of the world’s largest cathedral. Learn stories through stained glass windows and sculpture and study the grand architecture of the Cathedral while standing on a buttress. The tour culminates on the roof with a wonderful view of Manhattan. \$20 per person, \$18 per student/senior. All participants must be 12 years of age and older and reservations are recommended. For reservations visit the Cathedral website or call (866) 811-4111. Bring a flashlight and bottle of water. Meet at Visitor Center.

## NIGHTWATCH

The Nightwatch series offers two exciting and innovative programs: Nightwatch Crossroads Christian and Nightwatch Crossroads Interspiritual. For more information visit stjohndivine.org or contact: (212) 316-7518 / nightwatch@stjohndivine.org.

## ADVANCING THE COMMUNITY OF TOMORROW (A.C.T.)

To learn about the many nurturing year-round programs for young people offered by A.C.T., please call (212) 316-7530 or visit www.actprograms.org.

## Children’s Quest Fund

Help us to invite children from many countries, religions and economic levels under the shadow of the beloved Cathedral. While any amount will help, \$1,000 enables a child from a low-income family to participate in a premiere summer camp experience. Please send donations to the Cathedral, designated “A.C.T.’s Children’s Quest Fund.”

## Divine Saturday Celebrations

Celebrate good times with ACT’s new and improved Divine Saturday Celebrations, with a variety of birthday activities for kids to enjoy! It’s a great time for parents and children alike. Speak to a party manager for details at (212) 316-7530.

## CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CARES (C.C.C.)

All programs meet in the CCC office, the Sunday Soup Kitchen or the Cathedral A.C.T gym unless otherwise specified. Please visit stjohndivine.org for more information on CCC programs.

## Nutrition, Health and Clothing Center

The Center hosts monthly HIV testing (in partnership with Care for the Homeless), as well as blood pressure, heart health, diabetes, and other screenings throughout the course of the year. Please visit our website for upcoming screening dates or contact (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

## Clothing Closet

Gently used men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing can be donated to the CCC office Monday through Friday 10am-5pm. Tax receipts available upon request. Contact: (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

## Sunday Soup Kitchen

Every Sunday in the A.C.T. gym. Breakfast, 10 am; Lunch, 12:30 pm. Contact: Robert Finn, Food Program Manager, at (212) 316-7579 (T/W/Th after 12 pm).

## SNAP/Food Stamps Program

(in partnership with the Human Resources Administration, The Food Bank for New York City, New York City Coalition Against Hunger, and Columbia University-SHOUT) Tuesdays and Wednesdays (by appointment only). Pre-screening and, if eligible, help with online applications and recertification is available. Contact: (212) 316-7581, ccc@stjohndivine.org.

# March

## Aljoscha: The Miraculous Draught

*Sunday, March 1 – Friday, May 15*

Inspired by the well-known parable in the Gospel of John, this installation by Ukrainian-born artist Aljoscha assembles 153 compounded, almost weightless, self-contained sculptures in the form of a large biofuturistic organism, seemingly kept afloat from the ceiling of the Nave by an inner impulse. For more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

## The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

*Sunday, March 1, 1 pm*

The Cathedral spurred the growth of Morningside Heights into becoming one of Manhattan’s most unique neighborhoods. Go back in time on an illustrated walking tour of the neighborhood and its historic architecture and institutions and learn about its development into the “Acropolis of Manhattan.” The tour begins at the Cathedral and ends at Riverside Church. Led by Cathedral Guide Bill Schneberger. All participants must be 12 years of age or older and reservations are recommended. This tour requires extensive outdoor walking and use of stairs. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$20 per student/senior.

## Ordination of Transitional Deacons

*Saturday, March 7, 10:30 am*

Visit [dioceseny.org](http://dioceseny.org) for more information.

## Great Organ: David Briggs

*Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 pm*

Artist in Residence David Briggs returns to the Cathedral for a performance featuring the music of Edward Elgar and Claude Debussy, and the world premiere of Briggs’ own organ transcription of Johannes Brahms’ Symphony No. 1. There will be a pre-concert talk by David Briggs on the selections for the evening at 6:30 pm. The talk is open to all ticket holders. For tickets and more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

## Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

*Friday, March 13, 6:30 pm*

Nightwatch Crossroads is a Friday evening and overnight spiritual retreat for middle and high school age students, youth groups and their adult chaperones. Your group will have the opportunity to unplug from the distractions and stresses of daily life to connect with God and one another in the sacred space of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. For more information and to register, visit stjohndivine.org.

## Shapes at Work: An Art and Architecture Children’s Workshop

*Saturday, March 14, 10 am*

Connecting the Cathedral building and featured artworks, children and their families will focus on how shapes can be combined to take on many different forms. Children will be inspired to use shape in their own artwork – creating cardboard sculptures, drawing with various shapes, and more. Recommended for children ages 4 – 8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

## Secrets of St. John the Divine: Spotlight on Hidden Images

*Saturday, March 14, 10:30 am*

What are a stripper and the signs of the zodiac doing in our stained glass windows? Find out on this tour that puts the spotlight on surprising images in glass and stone. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek. Tickets are \$18 per adult and \$15 for students and seniors.

## Great Choir: Musica Sacra - Bach, Brahms, Bruckner, and Rheinberger

*Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 pm*

Musica Sacra presents Rheinberger’s stunning Mass for Double Choir in E-Flat Major, “Cantus Missae,” for this a cappella concert. Sublime motets of Brahms and Bruckner plus Bach’s *Komm, Jesu, Komm* complete this evening of soaring and uplifting music. There will be a 7 pm pre-concert recital by the Newark Boys Chorus. For tickets and more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

## Winds of Hope

*Thursday, March 19, 7:30 pm*

Winds of Hope (formerly *Flutes of Hope*) debuted at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in 2012. This music program was conceived as a tribute to the resilience and compassion of the Japanese people following the devastating earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear reactor calamity of March 2011, an unprecedented triple disaster. The music reaches out to the spirits of individuals lost in this and other global traumas, both natural and man-made, and honors the dignity and courage of those rebuilding their lives and their communities—blowing winds of hope.

PHOTO: Cathedral Archives



## Cathedral Through Time

*Saturday, March 21, 10:30 am*

Through the years, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine has been a part of New York City history. From sacred to secular, prayers to performances - it is an architectural wonder driven by a mission to be a house of prayer for all people. Walk through time, recalling the early days of construction (and its history), to discover how its mission of welcome has guided the structure, programming and future of this great cathedral. This tour concludes with a climb up a spiral staircase for a behind-the-scenes view of select architectural features. Led by Cathedral Guide Gene Carlucci. Tickets are \$18 per adult, \$15 per student/senior.

## Textile Treasures: Spotlight on the Textile Conservation Lab

*Friday, March 27, 1 pm*

This unique guided tour includes a “behind-the-scenes” visit to the Cathedral’s world-renowned Textile Conservation Lab, which conserves tapestries, needlepoint, upholstery, costumes, and other textiles. Particular focus will be the Barberini collection of the Life of Christ tapestries and the Acts of the Apostles tapestries, based on cartoons by Raphael. Must be 12 years of age or older. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$20 per student/senior.

## The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

*Saturday, March 28, 1 pm*

Please see details for March 1.

## Great Choir: Bach’s St. John Passion

*Tuesday, March 31, 7:30 pm*

Kent Tritle conducts combined Cathedral forces, presenting J. S. Bach’s monumental *St. John Passion* in the Cathedral’s Gothic grandeur. For tickets and more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

# April

## Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

*Friday, April 3, 6:30 pm*

Please see details for March 13.

## Easter Eggstravaganza Workshops

*Saturday, April 4, 10 am and 2 pm*

Join us for our popular, annual egg decorating workshop! Children can create colorful patterns on their eggs with tissue paper, glitter, glue, and paint, and build a nest for decorated eggs with twigs, feathers, and clay. Please bring two hard-boiled eggs per child. Recommended for children ages 4 – 8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Purchasing tickets in advance is highly suggested for both the 10 am and 2 pm workshop as there is limited space in the workshop and can be made online or by calling (866) 811-4111. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival. Please note that this is an egg decorating activity, not an egg hunt!

PHOTO: Cathedral Archives



## Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

*Sunday, April 5, 8 am and 11 am*

The Palm Sunday liturgy takes participants on a journey from Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem through the Passion story of his betrayal, persecution and death as experienced through processions, readings and music. Please note, the 11 am service will start with the Liturgy of the Palms outside, followed by a procession to the Cathedral.

## OBSERVING THE SEASON: HOLY WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

### April 6 and 8, Holy Monday and Holy Wednesday

8 am Morning Prayer

12:15 pm Holy Eucharist

5 pm Evening Prayer

### April 7, Holy Tuesday

8 am Morning Prayer

10:30 am Holy Eucharist with Reaffirmation of Vows and Consecration of Chrism

5 pm Evening Prayer

### April 9, Maundy Thursday

8 am Morning Prayer

5 pm Evening Prayer

7 pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar with the Cathedral Choristers and Choral

9 pm The Reading of Dante Alighieri’s *Inferno*

After the 7 pm liturgy, join poets, actors, and lovers of great literature for the annual American Poets Corner reading of Dante Alighieri’s *Inferno*.

### April 10, Good Friday

8 am Morning Prayer

12 pm The Liturgy of Good Friday

The Cathedral Choir tells the story of Jesus’ Passion in music.

2:30 pm Stations of the Cross or *Via Crucis*

Readings, in Spanish and English, and congregational chanting and hymns take participants through twelve stations, ending in the Biblical Garden. Begins in the Narthex.

7 pm Organ Meditation

### April 11, Holy Saturday

7 pm The Great Vigil of Easter with the Cathedral Choral

The Cathedral celebrates the Resurrection at this evening service, celebrated by the Bishop of New York, which begins in darkness and candlelight and tells the story of humanity’s redemption.

### April 12, Easter Day

8 am Holy Eucharist

11 am Festal Eucharist for Easter Day with the Choristers, Choral, and Cathedral Brass

4 pm Choral Evensong

## With Angels and Archangels: Spotlight on Angelic Images

*Saturday, April 18, 10:30 am*

Discover images of angels in the Cathedral’s glass and stone. Learn about the role of angels in the Hebrew, Christian and Islamic scriptures, the angelic hierarchy and how to identify angels by their field marks. The tour concludes with an ascent to the triforium for a birds-eye view of the breathtaking Archangels Window. Binoculars recommended. Participants must be 12 years of age and older for the ascent. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek. Tickets are \$18 per adult, \$15 per student/senior.

## The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

*Sunday, April 19, 1 pm*

Please see details for March 1.

## Cathedral Through Time

*Saturday, April 25, 10:30 am*

Please see details for March 21.

## The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

*Saturday, April 25, 1 pm*

Please see details for March 1.

## Radical Love Live

*Sunday, April 26, 7 pm*

Radical Love Live is an innovative series of live events and in-depth podcasts exploring human spirituality from a fresh perspective, beyond ideology and institutions. Based at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and produced in partnership with the Congregation of Saint Saviour, each event will consist of presentations and discussions with featured speakers, interstitial music, and spiritual practice.

## Great Organ: Raymond Nagem

*Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 pm*

Associate Director of Music and Organist Raymond Nagem performs a recital of works by women composers, featuring pieces by Clara Schumann, Florence Price, Nadia Boulanger, and Rachel Laurin. For tickets and more information, visit stjohndivine.org.

# May

## Feminine Presence: Images of Women at the Cathedral

*Friday, May 1, 10 am*

From the beginning, women have always been the backbone of the Christian faith, but not always numerously depicted in its art. With modernity in mind, Cathedral leaders incorporated both ancient and more contemporary tales of extraordinary women in the building’s fabric. Explore these stories via iconography, art, and architecture with Cathedral guide Gary Gelfenbein. Tickets are \$18 per adult and \$15 for students and seniors.

## Nightwatch Crossroads: Christian

*Friday, May 1, 6:30 pm*

Please see details for March 13.

## Blessing of the Bicycles

*Saturday, May 2, 9:30 am*

A Cathedral tradition, this special blessing ceremony, now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, celebrates the lives of bike riders and cycling in its many forms. This service is open to all.

## Wonderful Weavings Children’s Workshop

*Saturday, May 2, 10 am*

Exploring the Cathedral’s tapestries and the stories they tell, children will learn about the Medieval craft of weaving. Together, families will weave on looms they create from cardboard, paper and plastic before taking home their own textile creations. Recommended for children ages 4 – 8 years old. \$10 per child, with accompanying adult. Check in at Visitor Center upon arrival.

## Cathedral Through Time

*Saturday, May 2, 11 am*

Please see details for March 21.

## Spirit of the Cathedral

*Monday, May 4, 6 pm*

Save the date for the Cathedral’s tribute dinner honoring Bruce Macleod, President Emeritus, Board of Trustees, and Frank Brown, President. For more information, contact Priscilla Bayley at [pbayley@stjohndivine.org](mailto:pbayley@stjohndivine.org) or (212) 316-7570.

## Gateway to the New Jerusalem: Spotlight on the Iconography of the West Front

*Saturday, May 9, 10:30 am*

The Cathedral’s western façade provokes much comment and curiosity as well as the occasional conspiracy theory. This stimulating one-hour tour decodes the thematic programs underlying its art and architecture. Led by Senior Cathedral Guide Tom Fedorek. Tickets are \$18 per adult and \$15 for students and seniors.

## The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

*Sunday, May 10, 1 pm*

Please see details for March 1.

## Ordination of Permanent Deacons

*Saturday, May 16, 10:30 am*

Visit [dioceseny.org](http://dioceseny.org) for more information.

## The Cathedral in Context: Spotlight on Morningside Heights

*Saturday, May 23, 1 pm*

Please see details for March 1.

## Memorial Day Concert

*Monday, May 25, 7 pm*

Join us for the New York Philharmonic’s first free concert of the season! Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the performance. The audio of the performance will be broadcast onto the adjacent Pulpit Green, weather permitting.

## Looking Back

Winter at the Cathedral is always a joyous time, full of seasonal services, programs, concerts, and special events. This past winter was particularly exciting, as we celebrated the reopening of the full length of the Nave, Crossing, and the chapels after a long period of cleaning and restoration work. **Crafts at the Cathedral** made full use of the spectacular Cathedral space, and ushered in the holidays with festive cheer (and lovely, handcrafted gift ideas).

The annual Christmas concert, **Fantasias and Carols: A Cathedral Christmas**, on December 14, featured music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, George Frideric Handel, and Giovanni Gabrieli performed by the combined Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra, and soloists, all under the direction of Director of Cathedral Music **Kent Tittle** and Associate Choirmaster **Bryan Zaros**.

2019 was memorable as the **40<sup>th</sup> year of Paul Winter's Annual Winter Solstice Celebration**, featuring **The Paul Winter Consort** and the 25 dancers and drummers of the **Forces of Nature Dance Theatre**. This year's performances, on December 19, 20, and 21, featured gospel singer **Theresa Thomason**, a beloved favorite of past Winter Solstice Celebrations.

On December 24, **Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols** featured the Cathedral Choristers under the direction of Kent Tittle and Associate Choirmaster **Bryan Zaros**. Later that evening, the Christmas Eve Festal Eucharist began with a musical prelude at 10 pm and service at 10:30 pm. The Bishop of New York, **The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche**, celebrated the Eucharist and preached.

Founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, the annual **New Year's Eve Concert for Peace**, December 31, is a signature Cathedral event, gathering old friends and new for more than 30 years. Led by Kent Tittle, the Cathedral Choir and Orchestra performed



music ranging from Baroque works of Handel and Bach to contemporary works of Hoiby and our own Artist in Residence **David Briggs**.

The Cathedral community was saddened by the passing of **The Very Reverend James Parks Morton**, Dean of the Cathedral from 1972 – 1997. His funeral service was held at the Cathedral on January 11 (SEE ARTICLE).

The presence of children on the Close is always a joy, and a fitting continuation of our celebration of the life and work of Dean Morton, who during his tenure inaugurated many of the programs, like **ACT (Advancing the Community of Tomorrow)**, that have sparked the imaginations of generations of kids and families. The weekend of January 24 – 25 was a particularly youth-centric couple of days on the Close: the **Diocesan Chorister Festival**, on January 25, brought together young singers from throughout the Diocese and beyond for an exciting day of rehearsals, workshops, games and tours. The day culminated in a festive Evensong featuring the combined choirs. Also on January 25, families were invited to participate in a day of **ice skating and art making** hosted by ACT and the Cathedral's **Department of Public Education of Visitor Services**.

The art activities on January 25 led up to the February 1 opening of **Children's Creations of Color**, an exhibition of artworks by kids from ACT, **The Cathedral School**, and the local community in celebration of Black History Month and people of color. The opening was part of **March On: A Community Celebration of the Harlem Renaissance at 100**, which also featured performances by the **Harlem Chamber Players** and the **Harlem Opera Theater**.

On January 29, the Cathedral welcomed author and academic **Rashid Khalidi** for a talk about his new book, *The Hundred*

*Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917–2017*.

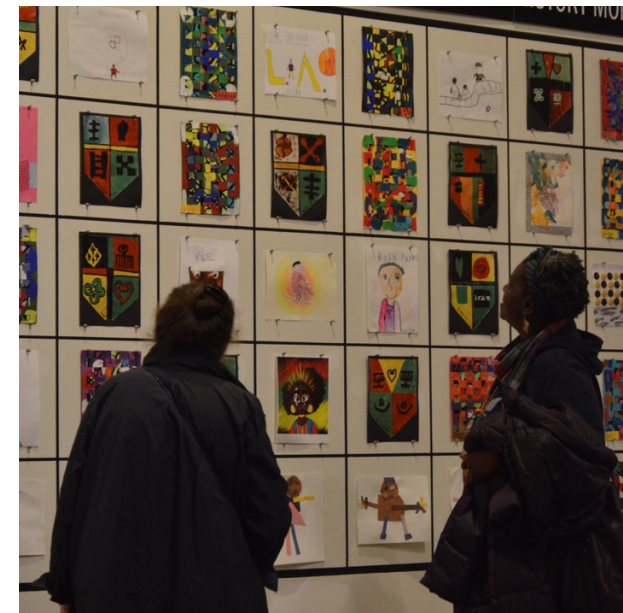
The **Commemoration of Absalom Jones**, on February 8, is always a celebratory day at the Cathedral: congregants and musical groups from the Diocese again filled this grand space, honoring the life of Absalom Jones, abolitionist and clergyman (and the first African-American person ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church).

The 2019-2020 season of **Great Music in a Great Space** continued with an organ recital by Kent Tittle on January 28, and a joint performance by the Cathedral Choir and world music ensemble **Rose of the Compass** on February 10. Rounding out the late-winter season of music, the **Diocesan Adult Choir Festival** on February 22 welcomed singers from around New York for a full day of choral activities.

Art was also in the air in late February—literally, in one case. Photographs by **Neal Slavin**, part of his ongoing **BELIEF: Prayer Project**, were placed on view in the Crossing. Slavin's images depict different prayer styles, cultures, and customs around New York City, exploring the fundamental need of people to gather together and connect spiritually in order to face things beyond their understanding.

And, suspended high above the Nave, **The Miraculous Draught**, by Ukrainian-born artist **Aljoscha** brought together 153 compounded, almost weightless, self-contained sculptures in the form of a large biofuturistic organism, seemingly kept afloat from the ceiling of the Nave by an inner impulse. The installation will be on view through mid-May of this year; read on in this issue for more information.

Photos clockwise from top left: Christmas Concert 2019 (photo: Blair Jarvis); Children's Creations of Color (photo: Isadora Wilkenfeld); dancers celebrating the Harlem Renaissance (photo: Isadora Wilkenfeld); author Rashid Khalidi (photo: Isadora Wilkenfeld); Dean Morton's funeral (photo: David Rider).



## Looking Ahead

Spring is that most poetic of seasons, when days begin to lengthen and trees to bud, and the Cathedral makes the annual preparations for **Lent**, followed by **Holy Week** and the exaltation of **Easter**. As the English Romantic poet Christopher Smart puts it:

*Sweet is the lily's silver bell,  
And sweet the wakeful tapers smell  
That watch for early pray'r.*

Art and music are annual harbingers of spring at the Cathedral. **The Miraculous Draught**, a sculptural installation by Ukrainian artist **Aljoscha**, opens on March 1. Check our website for special tours and meditative Lenten programs centered around the exhibition, and read more in this issue for info on the artist and his vision. Alongside *The Miraculous Draught*, an exhibition of photographs by longtime friend of the Cathedral **Neal Slavin** is on view in the Nave this spring. His images, taken from the ongoing **BELIEF: Prayer Project**, explore the modes and meanings of spiritual reflection among diverse communities—truly a fitting theme for the Lenten season.

The 2019-20 season of **Great Music in a Great Space** continues with a performance by Artist in Residence **David Briggs** on March 10, featuring the music **Edward Elgar** and **Claude Debussy**, and the world premiere of his organ transcription of **Johannes Brahms'** Symphony No.1. Two choral performances later in the month add to the beauty of spring at the Cathedral. The first, by **Musica Sacra** on March 18, presents **Josef Gabriel Rheinberger's** stunning Mass for Double Choir in E-Flat Major, complimented by motets of Johannes Brahms and **Anton Bruckner**, plus **J.S. Bach's** *Komm, Jesu, Komm*. On March 31, the GMGS season culminates in a monumental performance of J. S. Bach's famed St. John Passion. The combined Cathedral Choirs plus orchestra and soloists, all under the lead of Director of Cathedral Music **Kent Tittle**, make this a concert not to be missed.

Alongside the Cathedral's own concert series, there are also hosted performances and special events to add to your calendar this season. On March 11, the **Yale Schola Cantorum** and **Philharmonia**, joined by the **London Bach Choir**, visit the Cathedral as part of their East Coast tour, performing works of English musical splendor. On March 19, we commemorate the victims and survivors of the 2011 Japanese tsunami and nuclear disaster with **Winds of Hope**, featuring performers **Ralph Samuelson**, **Steve Gorn**, **Elizabeth Brown**, **Sumie Kaneko**, and **Gamin**.

Ongoing programs continue this spring, with favorites like **Nightwatch Crossroads** offering spiritual enrichment for teens and young people on March 13, April 3, and May 1. A new addition to Cathedral programs is **Radical Love Live**, an innovative series of live events and in-depth podcasts exploring human spirituality from a fresh perspective, beyond ideology and institutions. Hosted by **Congregation of St. Saviour** members **Kelly Wilson** and **Mark Dilcom**, episodes are taped at the Cathedral each month. Visit our website for more info and dates!

Worship is, of course, integral to the life of the Cathedral. If you've never joined us for **Holy Week** services, we welcome you to stop in for one, or two, or for the entire week! Holy Week begins on April 5 with **Palm Sunday**. Our Palm Sunday liturgies, at 8 and 11 am and 4 pm, take participants on a journey from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem through the Passion story of his betrayal, persecution and death.

On **Holy Monday** and **Holy Wednesday**, April 6 and 8, we offer a meditative, spoken Eucharist at 7 pm in addition to our regular daily worship schedule. **Holy Tuesday**, April 7, is a special day in the life of the Church, as the clergy of the Diocese of New York gather to reaffirm their ordination vows and observe the consecration of sacramental chrism oil. **The Maundy Thursday Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar**, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus, begins at 7 pm on April 9. Good Friday offers the **Good Friday Liturgy** and **Choral Lamentations** in preparation for the **Great Vigil of Easter** on Saturday and, on the following morning at 11 am, the **Festal Eucharist for Easter Day** on April 12.

The Maundy Thursday reading of selections from *The Inferno* of Dante Alighieri is one of the Cathedral's beloved traditions, as each year distinguished poets, eminent translators, visiting scholars and Dante enthusiasts read cantos in the Crossing. This year is particularly special, as it will be **Marie Howe's** first as our newly elected **Poet in Residence**. Please join us in welcoming her!

As the days continue to lengthen and spring slips seamlessly into early summer, we close out our season of Great Music in a Great Space with one last performance on April 28. **Dr. Raymond Nagem**, Associate Director of Music and Organist, performs a recital of music by woman composers, including

**Clara Schumann**, **Florence Price**, **Nadia Boulanger**, and **Rachel Laurin**—a lovely tribute to some of the finest creators of music for the organ.

The **Blessing of the Bicycles**, on May 2 this year, is one of the quintessential Cathedral events. For those who have never attended, it's an only-in-New York confluence, bringing bikers, rollerbladers, and anyone who gets around the city on two wheels into this sacred space for a (surprisingly brief) service of goodwill and hopes for safe travels in the year to come.

As spring transitions into summer, the Cathedral salutes the final days of May with our annual **Memorial Day Concert** on May 25. The first of the New York Philharmonic's series of free summer performances, this beloved concert is particularly grand when experienced on the fresh green lawns of the Close—the music, performed live in the Crossing, is broadcast on speakers outside. We recommend bringing a blanket, a snack, and a friend (or two), and making an evening of it, as the late May sun slowly sets to the accompaniment of luscious orchestration.

Clockwise from top: Easter (photo: Ken Yanagisawa); David Briggs (photo: Michael Hudson); Holy Week (photo: David Rider); Kent Tittle (photo: Karen Rubin).



## Columbarium Expansion

The Cathedral, like other places of worship throughout the course of human history, provides sacred space for the earthly remains of those who walked among us. During the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Cathedral began plans to incorporate a Columbarium within its chapels. Columbaria, places for the solemn and respectful storage of cremated remains, are an integral reminder within the church of the cycle of life and death, and serve as restful spaces in which to celebrate and remember loved ones.

The first portion of the Cathedral's Columbarium was installed in the Stuyvesant Baptistry, which was designed by Cram and Ferguson. One hundred and twenty vaults, constructed entirely of marble, becoming one with the very walls of the Cathedral, were built. Within twenty years, the space was totally filled. In the 1990s, the Stuyvesant Columbarium expanded through the east entrance of the Baptistry into the 14<sup>th</sup> century Gothic Chapel of St. Ansgar, designed by William Vaughn. 500 vaults covered in warm tones of Rojo, Amber and Carrera marble were situated under the two great stained-glass windows by Kempe of London depicting Old and New Testament scenes anticipating the Incarnation, and the Acts of the Apostles in the early Church. These vaults, each comprised of up to 4 niches, have now been filled.

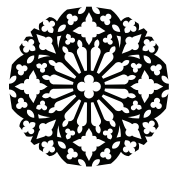
To provide a Cathedral setting for burial in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Cathedral has elegantly expanded the Columbarium further

into the Chapel of St. Ansgar with an additional 682 vaults, which comprise up to 1,364 niches for the urns. Each vault, depending upon size and location, can hold between one and four urns. The capstone is made of Perle Blanc limestone, whose ivory hues embody the Old World atmosphere of this beautiful chapel. The chapel itself provides a quiet meditation space for those visiting and is also a serene place for memorial services preceding committals.

The Columbarium is open to people of all faiths from around the world. Vaults can be purchased in advance, or at the time of need. For more information about niche availability, visit our website at [stjohndivine.org](http://stjohndivine.org).

PHOTO: Isadora Wilkenfeld





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# Spring at the Cathedral

## 2020

## In Memoriam: The Very Reverend James Parks Morton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jim's greatest legacy was the nurture he brought to interfaith and ecumenical relations, establishing the Cathedral as a prominent meeting place for religious clerics, scholars, and artists. One of the first major symposiums he organized for the Cathedral, in June 1974, was a week-long gathering of Jewish and Christian leaders to confront the Holocaust, in an open, multi-disciplinary exchange. The week-long event featured dozens of prominent speakers, poets, and performers, including such distinguished guests as Elie Wiesel; Walter Burghardt, SJ; and Rosemary Ruether. Considering the escalating pattern today of antisemitic violence across America and in our own New York, we can look back with gratitude upon Jim's exemplary dedication to loving one's neighbor across religious difference, and to the possibility each one of us has to grow spiritually by a genuine and respectful encounter with other faith traditions. He manifested this dedication throughout his Cathedral years, and then following them. In 1997, upon his departure as Cathedral Dean, he founded the Interfaith Center of New York, a non-profit whose work is to overcome prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding by activating the power of the city's grassroots religious and civic leaders.

As an artist, I have long appreciated Jim's understanding of art as means for devotion to God. Over his life, Jim amassed an impressive collection of over 300 pieces of religious art, which he and Pamela generously gave to the Cathedral a few years ago. Works in the James Parks Morton Interfaith Art Collection are currently on view in the Cathedral's Education Bay, and as an act of prayer for Jim's entry into the larger life, I encourage you to spend some time with this art. It is quite moving to see the faith expressions of the artists in the Cathedral, chartered to be a house of prayer for all people. You may also wish to visit Edwina Sandys' *Christa* in the Cathedral's Chapel of St. Saviour. To both praise and controversy, Jim first brought this sculpture, which depicts a naked and vulnerable woman hanging on a Cross and wearing a crown of thorns, to the Cathedral in the 1980s, as part of a small exhibition on the feminine divine. I am honored that, during my own episcopacy, we have placed the *Christa* permanently above an altar.

Although a man of big ideas, Jim was humble about himself, and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He and Pamela celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on December 30th, and he would have reached his 90th birthday in January. To Pamela, to her daughters Polly, Sofia, and Maria, who faithfully cared for Jim in his last years, and to their wider family, I extend my condolences and pledge the loyalty of our diocese and the Cathedral. Please remember our brother James in your prayers and at your altars, and pray for his family and all who mourn.



PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

### Stay in Touch

We welcome your suggestions and thoughts on the newsletter. Please write us at [editor@stjohndivine.org](mailto:editor@stjohndivine.org).

## The Appointment of Frank Brown

The Cathedral is pleased to welcome J. Frank Brown as President of the Cathedral Board. Frank Brown is a Managing Director and General Atlantic's Chief Risk Officer, leading the firm's global risk management program. Prior to that, he served as General Atlantic's Chief Operating Officer for nine years. Before joining General Atlantic in 2011, Frank served as Dean of INSEAD, a leading international business school, from 2006 to 2011. Under his leadership, the school increased participation of female students in the M.B.A. program by more than 50%, and established the Abu Dhabi campus, the Blue Ocean Strategy Institute, and the Social Innovation Centre. Prior to INSEAD, Frank had a distinguished 26-year career at PricewaterhouseCoopers, including leading its \$3.5 billion Advisory Services practice. Frank is the author of *The Global Business Leader: Practical Advice for Success in a Transcultural Marketplace*, and is a frequent speaker on leadership topics.

Frank is a member of the Board of Directors of The Home Depot, where he also serves as Audit Committee Chairman. He received his B.S.B.A. from Bucknell University and studied in an advanced management program at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Frank served for several years on the Cathedral Board under former President Bruce MacLeod, and is steadily familiarizing himself with all the comings and goings, services and events on the Cathedral Close.

Welcome, Frank!

PHOTO: General Atlantic

