

A New Day

at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

 The Cathedral
Church of Saint John
the Divine

Summer 2020

It's Your Cathedral

Over the more than 125 years of life at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, our community has weathered world wars, economic downturns, global turmoil, health crises, and devastating fires. Through every crisis, we've turned to the comfort of our church family to help stabilize and ground us.

This year, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic has forced us to rethink so much about our day-to-day lives, affecting even the nature of worship services--the bedrock of this Cathedral. Even more recently, the brutal police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor have sparked an upwelling of public protest against the anti-Black racism and violence so entrenched in American society. Through all of this intense change and turmoil, amidst the devastation of lives taken too soon, it speaks to the resilience and grace of the Cathedral community that we're finding new ways of caring for one another, strengthening our connections, uplifting one another, and worshiping together.

As with so many people around the country, our clergy and educators, teachers and textile conservators are

all looking forward to a time when we can return to something like life as usual. But we know that much must still change before all people, of all races and backgrounds, are free to share in a life of liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And yet, through the most challenging and painful days of the crisis, we have found new ways to unite, to support one another, and to take comfort in the solace of our connection.

While it's still too soon to judge how, and in what order, the necessary changes brought on by this reckoning with the twin plagues of coronavirus and racist violence will be wrought, one thing is clear: our community will endure. Only a few months ago, we couldn't have predicted the disruption to our daily routines, but neither could we have imagined the grace and power of our newfound, online forms of togetherness. As we move into the summer, we'll begin posting updates about the Cathedral's reopening plans to our website, stjohndivine.org. And even while we're unable to meet in person, the Cathedral's spiritual doors remain open. Thank you, as always, for continuing to find a home with us.



PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

Prayer as Protest

Drawing upon the teachings of Christ and the legacy of the Episcopal Church's connection to the vital social issues of the times, the Cathedral pledges to stand for the dignity and sanctity of Black life and the immeasurable value of every individual member of our community. At a time when so many people, in New York City and around the country, have experienced the COVID-19 deaths of family and members and friends, we are doubly devastated by videos of extrajudicial killings of Black people and first-hand experiences of ongoing violence targeted at people of color. As a house of worship, a neighborhood hub, and a cultural crossroads of so many different nationalities, races, and ethnicities, the Cathedral's

Singing the Lord's Song

Cathedral clergy and staff are currently at work on our reopening plans, and we hope to regather for in-person worship after September 7. In the meantime, we hope you'll join us for Morning and Evening Prayer online each Monday – Saturday. Our 11 am Sunday services are livestreamed on our Facebook and website. We welcome you to join us every day! These services

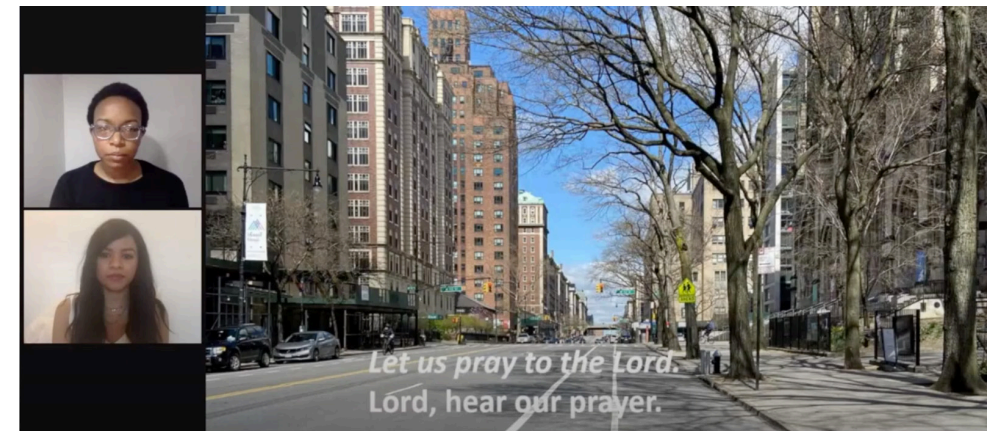


PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

mission and reason for being calls us to draw together in unity and denounce the divisive forces of racism, xenophobia, and hatred. At a vigil on June 5, where Cathedral clergy and members of the wider community stood in prayer and solidarity, we once again renewed the vow to support, protect, and stand by our community in times of crisis. stjohndivine.org/news



PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

The Cathedral That Meets at Your House

Our in-person guided tours and children's workshops may be on hiatus while the building is closed, but there's a Cathedral-full of art and creative adventure right at your fingertips! You'll find dozens of fascinating videos at stjohndivine.org, put together by Cathedral educators and guides, ACT camp counselors, and longtime friends of the community. Embark upon a Cathedral visit with a virtual Vertical Tour; take a deep-dive into the history and symbolism of the great Rose Window; learn about works of art in the Cathedral collection; and much more.



PHOTO: Cathedral Archives

Along with art and history, music is also a core feature of Cathedral life, and our digital offerings include a robust variety of online performances to enjoy. With recitals streamed each Tuesday at 6 pm on our Facebook page and videos of pieces sung by members of our esteemed choir frequently posted to our website, there's so much for a music lover to explore. Queue up a video, sit back, and let the joyous tones transport you to the Cathedral, all from the safety and comfort of your home. stjohndivine.org/online

There in one view we grasp the mighty whole,
Or with new worlds amaze th'unbounded soul.

Phillis Wheatley
Inducted into the American Poets Corner in 2008

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine salutes
artists and creators

The Cathedral Steps Up

Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers and donors and the inspiring leadership of our staff, the Cathedral Community Cares Sunday Soup Kitchen has remained active throughout the shutdown. The Cathedral is proud to partner with city organizations and institutions to make sure all our neighbors have their most basic needs met. Our partnership with the catering staff of Abigail Kirsch, along with financial support from our community, has allowed us to continue serving healthy, tasty bagged meals to hundreds of clients every week. Addressing people's needs, both material and spiritual, is at the heart of what we do at the Cathedral,

and we're deeply grateful for your continued support and assistance. stjohndivine.org/donate

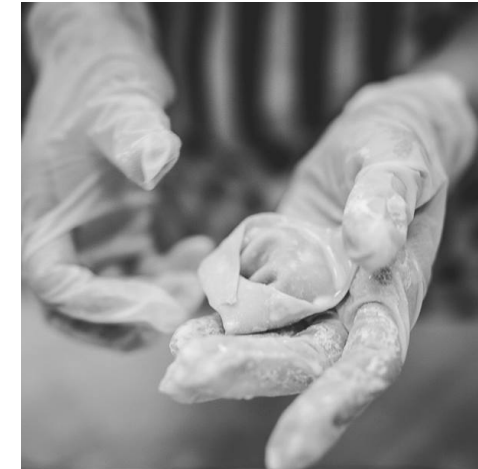


PHOTO: Yulia McVeigh

Support the Cathedral

2020's twin epidemics of the coronavirus and racist violence have thrown the scourge of social and economic injustice into high relief. The Cathedral's highest priority is to address the immediate needs of our community, particularly those hardest-hit by COVID-19, poverty, and hunger. Our Response and Recovery Fund supports vital programs, including feeding a surge of people in need of nutritious food through our soup kitchen,

enabling virtual learning for the diverse families served by our after-school and child care program, and responding to an increased need for pastoral care as this crisis takes an emotional toll on our community. We are deeply grateful to our community for your support in this time of crisis. To learn more about the Cathedral's Response and Recovery Fund and to make a donation, visit us online at stjohndivine.org.



PHOTO: Scott Matthews