

CATHEDRAL LIFE



Seasons

BY FR. MARK KOWALEWSKI,
DEAN AND RECTOR

This summer we're finally emerging from what many folks are referring to as "Covidtide" a season that's lasted well over a year and overstayed its welcome like a too long winter. The time of Covid has been a season that's kept us indoors and away from other people, a season of lost time, lost jobs and lost people.

But now from that long cold time I can feel the sun of summer and I'm looking forward to it maybe more than any other. Maybe like me you've taken summers and seasons for granted until now. I'm looking forward to actually going away somewhere staying someplace overnight that I don't call home. I'm looking forward to going up the coast with my brother and sister-in-law, spending time with close friends on the St. Lawrence River in New York State, and visiting Manhattan again. What are you looking forward to in these summer days after Covidtide?

We also need to learn what it means to be a community again as we get back together in person. We gather each Sunday now in the flesh to celebrate Eucharist – thanksgiving for being the body of Christ. We also

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will need to think about what happens after summer, when the fall comes, and we start up a new year afresh – what mission possibilities await us in this season after Covidtide?

And I hope in these days of summer we can grieve what we have lost, but more importantly what we think about what we have gained, or at least learned over the past year and a half. Here are a few things I can think of: I've learned the importance of being where I am. Monks and nuns have always taught us to remember the words of Psalm 16, "My boundaries enclose a pleasant land." God meets us where we are. I can be at one pace and learn to be happy in the time and place I find myself. I don't need to be restless and if I am, why? On a related note, I've learned that things can get done without such a frantic pace.

I've also learned the joys and challenges of digital presence be it church services, classes, or meetings over zoom. We've been able to meet more people over a greater divide of place because we needed to. But now how can we use this new tool to connect us?

I'm sure I'll think of more things I've learned and so will you. I'm sure we will think of the time we will never get back again as well. I grieve that I thought so much about what I wasn't doing rather than what I could do. I know you will have your own griefs, and I know some of them are profound.

And now it's the summer on the verge of leaving Covidtide behind. And all along we have been accompanied by one who is Lord of all time and seasons who always tells us fear not, and I am with you. All shall be well. And it will and it is.



I hope in these days of summer we can grieve what we have lost, but more importantly what we think about what we have gained, or at least learned over the past year and a half.

FR. MARK KOWALEWSKI

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist
Sunday at 9:00 AM

Coffee Hour
Sunday at 10:00 AM

Christian Education
Sunday at 10:30 AM

Evening Prayer
Tuesdays & Thursdays
at 6:30 PM (online only)

Compline
July 11, 2021 at 7pm

(There will be no compline
in August or September)

A Season of Sabbath

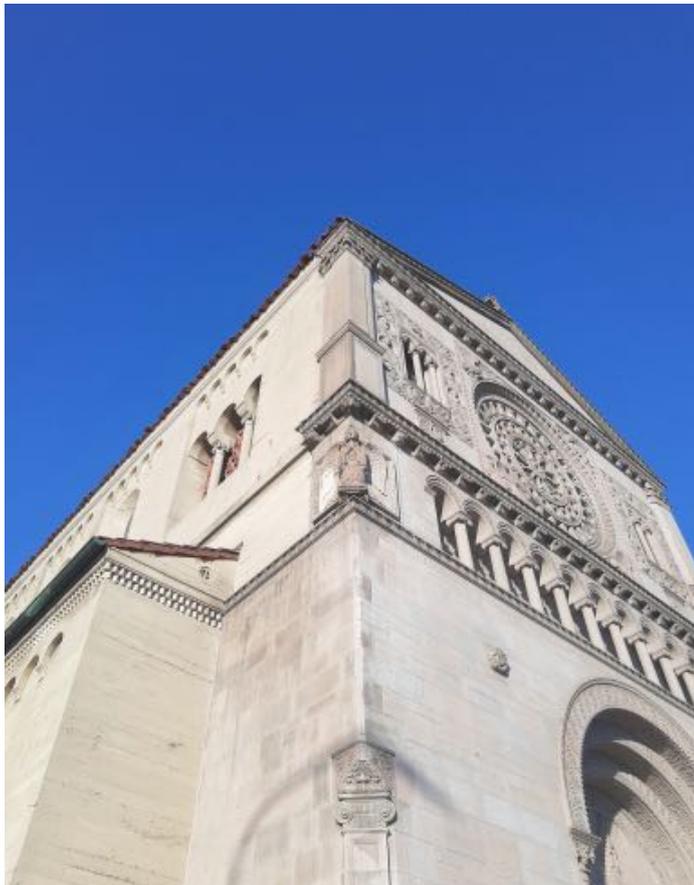
BY FR. DANIEL ADE,
DEAN AND RECTOR

Summertime at St. John's always allows a slower pace. We need it more than ever this year to help us come out of the last year and a half. Not only have we been through a pandemic, but we experienced heightened unrest about race and political upheavals that threatened the very foundations of our nation. All this has brought us anxiety, fear, isolation, disillusionment. How do we emerge from the season we are now leaving?

We might be tempted to jump right in and get busy and busier making up for lost time, but maybe what we need right now is a season of sabbath, a time to get our bearings, to learn to come back together, and get to know one another in person again. Sabbath isn't time to do nothing. It's meant

to reset the clock, to get our bearings again, to understand who we are, and to renew our relationships with God and each other.

What we know is that we can't just get on with it, pretend the past year and a half has had no effect on us. Some of us are ready to rip off our masks and give everybody a hug. Others of us still are reluctant to leave the house. We need to be patient with each other, give each other grace. So let's take a deep breath in this season of sabbath. We will have our slower pace, and simpler worship. We will take our time getting back to "normal" and we will be back in each other's presence. If you are someone for whom that's hard, that's ok and maybe think about taking the risk of stepping out.



Let's also remember that physical presence is part of what it means to be the body of Christ, that's the old and the new normal. Let's ease back into that. We can help each other become that body again, stretching our muscles, learning how to walk again before we can run. So along with each Sunday's worship, our Vacation Bible Study, Compline, our ongoing digital Sunday worship, and Evening Prayer we will have times to be with each other over sabbath meals after the 9:00 service on the last Sunday of the month in June (for LGBTQ Sunday), July, August, and on our celebration of Belize Day in September. There won't be a lot of over programming during this sabbath season, but there will be rest, and community, and prayer and worship and above all Eucharist – thanksgiving for having come this far by faith.



Adult Vacation Bible School

THE MAN GOD EXALTED: READING DAVID IN II SAMUEL

Summer is a season in our liturgical life where the readings appointed allow us a more leisurely look at sections of the Bible read over the course of several weeks so that we can get a sense of the longer narrative. We take advantage of these opportunities at St. John's in what we call Adult Vacation Bible School. Some of us have childhood memories of vacation Bible school arts and crafts projects involving imaginative uses for popsicle sticks. While we won't be making anything to display on the refrigerator, will be diving deep in the pool of a narrative that has fascinated people over a millennium in a class we are calling, The Man God Exalted: Reading David in II Samuel.

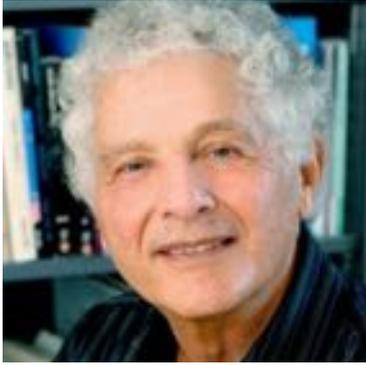
The Books of Samuel tell the story of how a shepherd, the youngest of many sons, becomes the most renowned king of Israel. We hear about a complex man who can at times soar to heights of ecstatic devotion to God, and yet is capable of grave acts of immorality like killing his lover's husband. This story is filled with twists and turns and intrigue.

We won't be going chapter by chapter through II Samuel, but we will be looking at how the story reveals David, as well as some of the other characters in these stories, through the great literary elements of the narrative, the archaeology of ancient Israel and what we can piece together as we read through the lens of this intriguing biblical book, itself the result of layers of tradition edited together over centuries.

The class begins Sunday June 13 through July 25 at 10:30 am. You can participate in person or on-line. In addition to Fr. Mark, who will be our tour guide through the class, the following outstanding scholars will join us digitally.

*"No arts and crafts
but a deep dive
into the water of
Scripture"*

ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL GUEST SPEAKERS



June 20, 2021

"The Great Turning-Point: David, Bathsheba, and the Fall of the House of David."

Robert Alter, Professor in the Graduate School and Emeritus Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of California at Berkeley, where he has taught since 1967. He is a scholar both of biblical literature and of contemporary fiction. His writing on the art of biblical narrative makes him one of the preeminent scholars of the Bible in our time.



July 4, 2021

"Her Side of the Story: Michal, daughter of Saul?"

Marti J. Steussy, MacAllister-Petticrew Professor of Biblical Interpretation emerita at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She was a translator for the Common English Bible. She has written *Samuel and His God* and *David: Biblical Portraits of Power*, among her academic books, and is also the author of two science-fiction novels.



July 11, 2021

"Excavating David?: The United Monarchy and the Archaeology of Israel"

Erin Darby, associate professor of Early Judaism in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Tennessee. She specializes in the history, archaeology, and literature of ancient Israel and Jordan. Her research at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem and the American Center of Research in Amman, Jordan, has been supported by several competitive grants and fellowships. She is also the co-director of the 'Ayn Gharandal Archaeological Project in southern Jordan.



July 25, 2021

"King David: An Overview"

Steven L. McKenzie, Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and Spence L. Wilson Senior Research Fellow at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. His research and teaching interests include the history of ancient Israel, the literature of the Hebrew Bible, Hebrew language and grammar, the Dead Sea Scrolls, methods of biblical interpretation, and archaeology. He has appeared on the Discovery and History channels and in radio interviews as a consultant on King David and on reading and interpreting the Bible. He is the author of *King David: A Biography*, among his many other published works.



Communal Experiences

BY DR. CHRIS GRAVIS
CANON FOR MUSIC & CATHEDRAL ARTS

This Eastertide marked a promising development in the return to choral and congregational singing in the Diocese of Los Angeles. On April 27th, the Center for Disease Control announced that it was now safe for fully-vaccinated people to sing un-masked as part of an indoor chorus. In care for those most vulnerable among us, we'll be taking precautions as we move toward this goal.

For well over a year, COVID-19 has relegated us to celebrate corporate worship privately. But communal singing is an integral part of communal Anglican worship. We have longed to raise our voices in song once again — and not just the masked choir, but all of us together. Trinity Sunday — May 30, 2021, will mark the first time in nearly 15 months that the community of St. John's Cathedral has been able to sing a hymn together in person.

In St. Paul's epistle to the church in Ephesus, we are extolled to speak to one another with "Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs..." Specifically speaking, a hymn isn't just the familiar tunes we love (or perhaps privately loathe!). It's the text, and specifically it's a lyric that directs the language away from our personal religious experiences, and extols praise toward God. The first hymn we'll sing together will be known to many: Holy, holy, holy, sung to the familiar tune Nicaea. It will come at the offertory — the moment at which we present all that we have before the altar of God.

There is something particularly moving to me about this act. The pandemic has made us aware of many things in our lives. For many of us, it's made us keenly aware of just how much we miss those previously mundane communal experiences: the hug of a loved one, the presence of others, or the voices of those around us raised in song. But this beloved hymn in particular, with its words directed toward God, will be our community's collective statement of praise and gratitude toward the triune God, for all the blessings of this life.

I hope you'll join us in-person or online on second Sundays in June and July for sung Compline at 7.00 pm. Don't forget to join us in these deeply moving and ancient musical liturgies. And consider bringing a friend. We could all use the cathartic wash of beautifully chanted music in our lives. As always, there will be a lovely outdoor reception in the inner courtyard to follow these services.

Through this season of hardship and pain, we remain people faithfully rooted in worshiping God in the beauty of holiness. And as the Summer months turn to Fall, I look forward to welcoming you back to St. John's Cathedral, with our collective voices raised once again in blessed song.

"Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons
Blessed Trinity!"

- Reginald Heber (1826)

Together Again in Song

BY MR. STEPHEN SALTS
DIRECTOR OF
THE CATHEDRAL CHORAL ACADEMY

It is with the greatest joy and gratitude that St. John's announces the return of in person musical instruction for the children of our Cathedral Choral Academy this coming Fall. Beginning on Thursday, September 9, 2021, we will return to our weekly meeting of music rehearsal and fellowship from 5:00 – 7:00 pm at the Cathedral.

Every one of our choristers has deeply missed our cherished time together on Thursday evenings. Each week, the children explore new hymns, psalms, and anthems, as well as dive into topics ranging from music theory to Solfege to foreign languages. And, a favorite part of each Thursday evening, we all enjoy dinner together, followed by a dishwashing line that usually breaks out into song! The whole experience of being a chorister makes for a positive, team building atmosphere full of joy and fun.

The choristers and I are most looking forward to welcoming new children to our community. The Cathedral Choral Academy welcomes ALL children, regardless of previous musical experience. The most common age range is from 7 to 13 years old, and tuition is covered in full for each and every chorister, thanks to the generous support of St. John's Cathedral Arts sponsors. Please feel free to spread the word to your family and friends that we are always welcoming new children to our ministry.

Lastly, I hope you will join me in congratulating our talented choristers as we come to our



summer break following a year of online learning. I thank you all for your dedication and flexibility, and can't wait to be safely together again in song this Fall!

**For information about
the Cathedral Choral Academy
Contact
Stephen Salts at
ssalts@stjohnsla.org**

UPCOMING EVENTS



PRACTICE THE TITHE

JULY 11, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

Step out in faith-filled generosity. We ask you to take a step of faith this summer and practice the tithe on July 11. Take 10% of your income for one week and offer it in thanksgiving, in addition to your pledge to St. John's, to practice the ancient discipline of the tithe. You may not be able to do that every week, but let's walk together in faith as God's partners for a new work of witness to the world.

Also available to watch online via Facebook & Youtube,



COMPLINE

JULY 11, 2021 AT 7:00 PM

Join us for Compline on Sunday, July 11 at 7:00 pm.

All vaccinated people are welcome to attend in person.

Also available to watch online via Facebook & Youtube.



COMMUNITY OF DIVINE LOVE

AUGUST 15, 2021 AT 9:00 AM

Br. Dennis and Sr. Gretta will discuss the Community of Divine Love also our guest preacher for the day.

Also available to watch online via Facebook & Youtube,



LECTIO DIVINA

W/ MOTHER LYN CROW

AUGUST 22 & AUGUST 29 AT 7:00 PM

The African Bible study method was introduced at Lambeth Conference by the African delegation in 1998. A form of Lectio Divina, it has proved to be a deeply spiritual way of studying scripture while, at the same time, building a wonderful sense of community among the participants. It has been widely used in the Episcopal church ever since its introduction. Join Mother Lyn as we explore this refreshing method of study. Bring your Bible in whatever translation you choose.



BOOK BAG DRIVE & FOOD PANTRY

JULY 17, 2021 AT 8:30 AM

We are now accepting donations for Book Bags that will be distributed to the children of our Food Pantry guests. If you would like to learn more or have questions you may contact us at churchoffice@stjohnsla.org.

The Book Bag Drive is July 17, 2021

To make a donation go to www.stjohnsla.org/donate