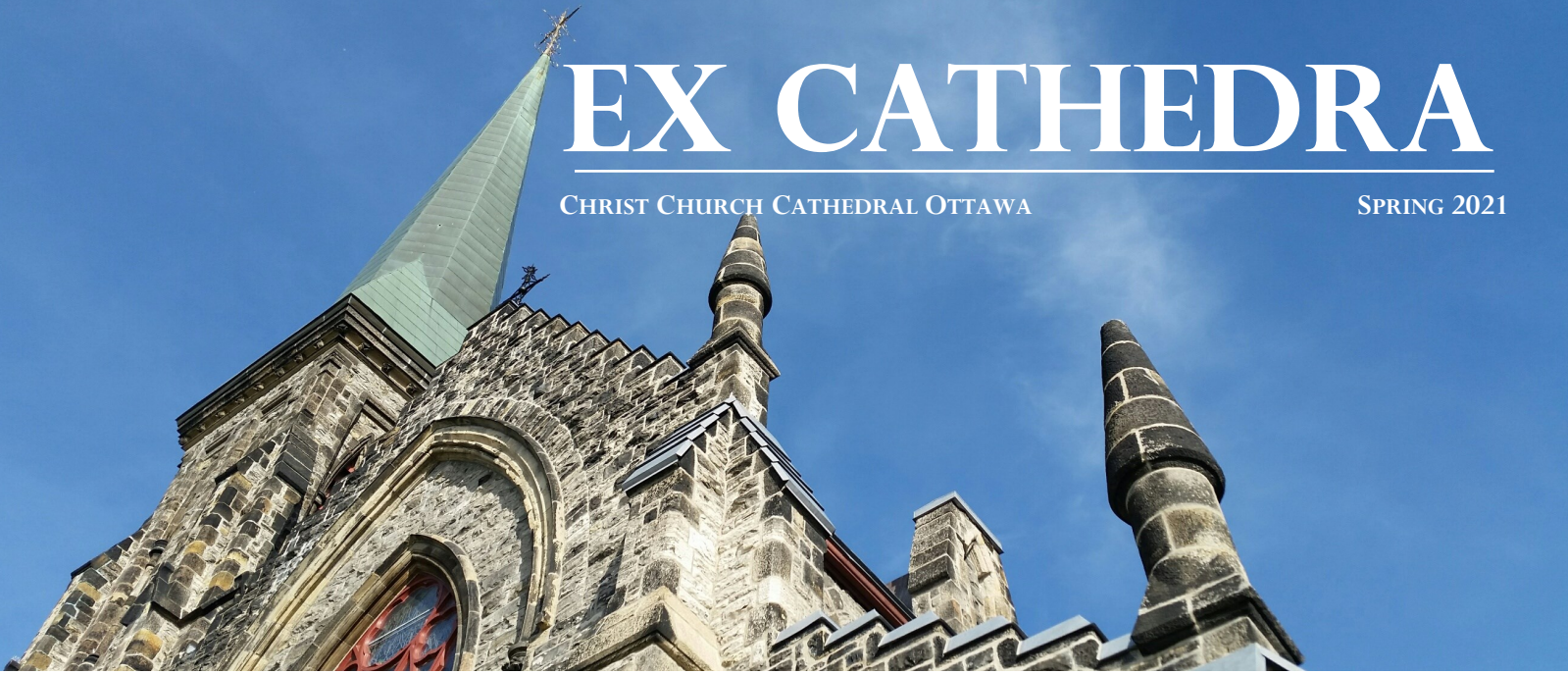


EX CATHEDRA

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL OTTAWA

SPRING 2021



DEAN BRETZLAFF OFFERS A NEW LENS

When I returned to Canada from New Zealand, before my new job began, I had the opportunity to take a photography course at Sorrento Centre in British Columbia. Every participant had a different brand and style of camera, from the quick point-and-shoot variety like mine, to multi-lens, high-end professional gear. We spent a couple of hours each morning learning from our instructor, Sarah Crawley, and then we had a themed assignment to complete before the next day's class. There was a lot of laughter as we had fun experimenting during those sultry summer days!

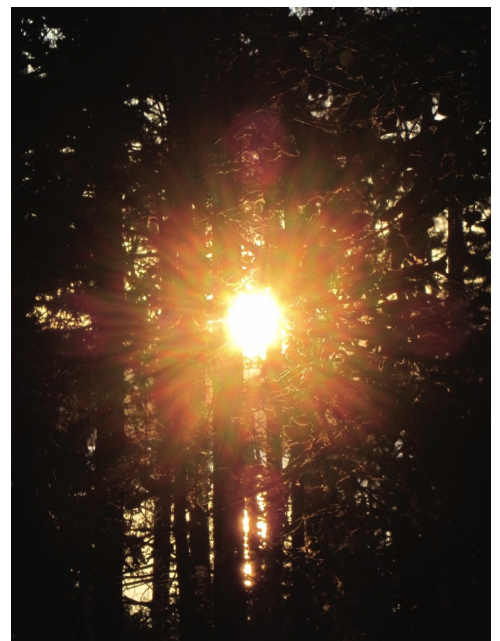
Three things from that course have remained with me all these years later: your "eye"

and composition are way more important than your equipment; we don't "take" photographs, we "make" them; and the best way to grow your photography skills is to get out and make lots and lots of photos, not worrying about the end product but enjoying the process.

Quite an analogy for our faith, isn't it? We don't need a degree in theology to see, know and be grounded in God's love. How we put scripture, tradition, reason and experience together makes our faith relevant, alive and interesting. Taking the risk of sharing our stories and journeying with others opens life up to new opportunity and joy.

These principles seem simple and yet over time, it is easy to forget them. So being refreshed

and renewed is important. In our life of faith, the ever-changing seasons provide natural points to check in, assess our spiritual health, and readjust as needed. Hopefully the season of Lent was such a time for you, and that the new life and light of Easter will bring you energy and vision. For each of us has the ability to see



continued on page 6

THE SUGAR MOON AWAKENS US ALL TO SPRING

By Albert Dumont

If ever there was a season capable of telling us stories about the sacredness of water, it is spring! The snows of winter storms are melting, the frozen earth warms, its moisture thaws, producing water, the rains come down often and a great cleansing occurs. Mother Earth has been sleeping all of the cold moons.

The sugar moon, the first of the spring moons, urges her "Wake up, wake up, you have much work to do!" Mother Earth does not reach for a Tim Hortons coffee to help rouse her from her deep slumber. She stirs, yawns and stretches when the first cracks

of thunder act as the ultimate alarm clock for her. She recognizes at last that yes, it is time to rise up and commence her many rituals, bringing health and wellness to the land. But first, just like most of us (I hope), she showers. Mother Earth relies on the April showers and the steady, heavy rains which fall periodically, to truly awaken her. After being reinvigorated and refreshed, she is ready to do what the spring moons expect of her.

Spring, is also a time to look into the activities of our family members living now in the springtime of their lives. At this time of the year we can

count on the energy and spirit of the season to assist us in our counsels with these youngsters so eager to learn from the stories of the land. The springtime of life for a human being is the most important time for them so far as I'm concerned. What happens and perhaps what does not happen, will shape the worldview of our little ones. They will have purpose in life or they will not. If we fail to properly prepare our children for the summertime of their life, we can expect dysfunction in them in later years.



THE TOMB IS EMPTY—A MESSAGE FOR EASTER

By Canon Doug Richards

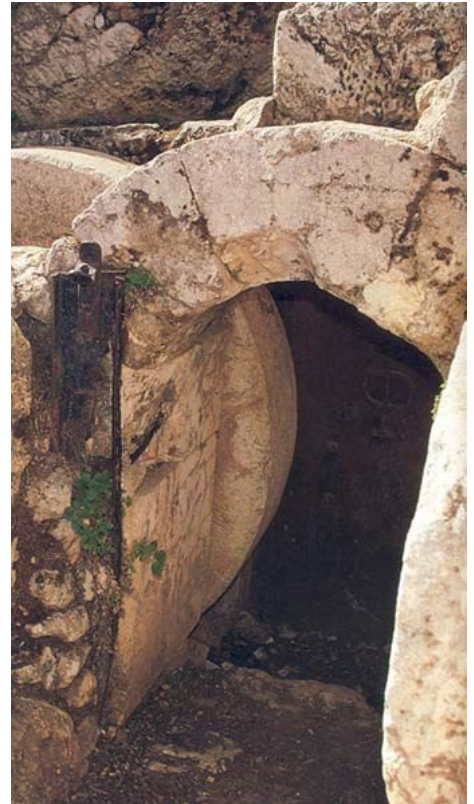
In 2003 David Haas, a contemporary church composer, wrote a beautiful piece of music for Easter called “The Tomb is Empty.” Every verse of the hymn invites us to experience the empty tomb in a meaningful way. It starts out very simply, by inviting us to ‘Come and see where once the body lay.’ It captures the shock and surprise of the women who first experienced the Resurrection. ‘Can it be true’ are words that repeat a couple of times, almost as if we can not believe our eyes. The verse ends with the proclamation that Jesus is raised to new life.

In the second verse we are invited to hear the words that the Angel spoke to Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James on that first Easter morning. ‘He is not here’ are shocking words because when we go to a grave we expect that there will be a body. The message of the Angel gives us hope that in our daily lives

we can participate a life-changing event.

The third verse invites us to touch the place where Jesus’ body was laid. Walking into the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and touching the stone was very emotional for me. It felt like I was back with the women when they entered the tomb and they were able to see and to touch the place where he had lain. As the hymn says, I felt like shouting out “Christ Lives indeed. Alleluia!” It is in singing about seeing and touching that we can enter into the song and know that Christ is alive.

In the final verse, instead of being invited to come and experience the empty tomb we are told to ‘Go and serve.’ We are reminded, once again, that we are called to a life for others, not for ourselves. We cannot stay in the tomb, we need to move out into the world to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ is alive and with us. We are told to go out into the world and ‘Raise



those who sleep in tombs of fear.’

These are words I think we all need to hear. As this pandemic continues, it is easy to live in fear, to stay indoors, to stay away from people. That message can overwhelm and isolate us, but Easter reminds us that even though we are inside our own homes, we can reach out to others, by phone, email, or even handwritten notes. Each of these gives hope that we are not alone in this moment and

See Vicar on page 6

MAINTAINING CHURCH IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

By J. B. Coutts

The brass and silver shine, the linens glow white and smooth, the flowers and hangings bring ever-changing colour. All help create the atmosphere of *church*, the beautiful backdrop to the joys, sorrows, mystery and comfort our ritual and liturgy bring.

Many members work in more than one category (disclosure: your author is a bedecker) and take joy in what they do.

“I think everyone who works on the Altar Guild feels the same — it is a type of worship and we like doing it,” says Pen-

ny acknowledges that connection between the sacred and the domestic as well: “It’s getting ready for company. We have flowers ready, the table is laid, everything’s dusted — but we’re getting ready for Holy Communion.”



Penny Armstrong changes the altar frontal for Good Friday

The female bias in altar guild work is apparent in a small booklet entitled *A Manual for Altar Guilds*, which sets out rules (quite a lot of rules) for work and behaviour under the supervision of the “Directress.”

Work, rather charmingly, is to be done “Conscientiously, in a spirit of humility and *as perfectly as possible*” (italics

Behind the beauty we mostly take for granted lie the dedicated efforts of more than 30 members of the congregation who make up the Altar Guild. For the most part unseen and definitely unsung, the guild can be roughly divided into washers, cleaners, polishers, pressers, bedeckers and sacristans (who set up, assist at and clean up after the weekday noon Eucharists).

ny Armstrong, the guild’s president. She notes that while the Cathedral employs professional cleaners for most of the building, only priests, servers and members of the Altar Guild are allowed behind the altar rail, because it is sacred space.

Altar guilds, with their focus on domestic skills, have long been almost exclusively the territory of women. and Penny



Tools of the trade

mine; I like the humility implied by that *as possible*). We are supposed to hold meetings once a month, which we don't, not formally, though there's a lot of chatting and emailing. We are not to raise money by holding dances or card parties, which seems a shame. In fact, we don't do fundraising, beyond collecting donations for flowers, which



Dawn Bell-Jack presses fair linen

must fund all the work of the guild.

Dawn Bell Jack, who has worked for 27 years as a wardrobe mistress at the National Arts Centre (probably doing more ironing in a year than most of us manage in a lifetime), is in charge of laundering and ironing the large fair linens, the cloths that cover the altars. "There's no real trick, it's just practice," she says. Dawn does her work at home, as do those who

wash and iron the small fair linens; most of us work in the church, often on Fridays, solo or in pairs. The flower



Kids, don't try this at home



J.B. Coutts arranges flowers

arrangers try not to scatter petals on freshly vacuumed rugs, dusters try not to disturb musicians as they practice. All of us, working, together and separately preparing our building to be church.

Landing this Eastertide: The Cathedral's first ever YouTube Concert Series!

Log on each Sunday after Easter at 3:00pm for musical refreshment featuring Cathedral and Community artists performing from the splendour of our sacred space.

April 11 - James Calkin, organ

April 18 - The Queen Street String Quartet

April 25 - Nicholas Walters, organ

May 2 - Martine Jomphe, piano



WELCOMING THE HEART OF ST. LUKE'S

by Rev. Victoria Scott

HearthEdge is a movement for renewal, begun in England, fuelled by people and churches sharing their assets, experience, resources, and need. This network of churches works at the heart of culture, community and commerce, with those at the margins and on the edge, building association, learning, and resource. HeartEdge brings people together to share ideas and experience, do theology and develop church and community. You can read more about it online.*

Since January, Christ Church Cathedral and St. Luke's have been embracing the spirit of HeartEdge, partnering for Sunday morning live-streaming, while the sanctuary at St. Luke's serves the most vulnerable and margin-

alized in the Somerset West neighbourhood, with St. Luke's Table operating six days a week. This is an example of just the kind of sharing that HeartEdge encourages: St. Luke's does not have the technology and expertise for live-streaming, while the Cathedral does. It has been very meaningful for me to share in various roles with the Cathedral clergy team, including preaching and celebrating, and for a St. Luke's reader to participate on a Sunday morning.

St. Luke's offers heartfelt thanks to the Cathedral for a warm welcome, and a lifegiving connection — at the heart, and on the edge — in these pandemic days.

* www.heartedge.org/



DEAN

From page 1

through many lenses and the freedom to change our perspective, to compose a different view, to look at things from a new angle. And when we do, we may be surprised by what we see!

May we all find laughter as we experiment. May we find new companions with whom to share the journey. And may our unique snapshots of faith bring life, wholeness and healing to all.

VICAR

From page 3

that others continue to care for us.

I invite you to listen to the YouTube recording of Haas's hymn online.* May it inspire you to experience both the joy of Easter and the challenge of giving hope to others during these pandemic days and afterwards.

* <https://youtu.be/plzBfclxsrk>



KEEPING THEM WALLS FROM A TUMBLIN' DOWN

Try not to think of it as losing a parking lot: we're gaining a neighbour! A whole bunch of neighbours, as the muddy, rutted parking lot on the west side of the Cathedral begins its transformation into a 152-suite seniors residence.

We've known for more than a decade change was coming: the Cathedral Hill development was always intended to use the property on both sides of the church building. But while the condo went up more or less as expected to the west, the eastern lands have been another story. The original plans were for an office building but the site was not suited to that (just as well, given the revolution in office use people expect COVID-19 to bring). Residential use was

the next option, but who the developer would be and what they would do with the land has been rethought many times.

Finally plans were unveiled for a "Signature Living" retirement residence. Before that work begins, however, we've undertaken restoration work on the aging foundations and east wall of the Cathedral, because the chance will never come again.

In mid-March, a team of masons from MH Stoneworks arrived on site and started the work of raking the crumbling mortar from between the stones in the outer wall of the Cathedral, replacing and rebuilding each section of the wall, to

keep it standing firm and waterproof for another century or more.

When the craftsmen finish the walls above grade, they'll dig a trench to restore the foundation below grade. We expect the work to be completed in about 12 weeks and at



Raking out mortar and removing damaged stones

that point, the construction work will begin next door.

Although this has been a year of many challenges and changes, the Cathedral has been blessed throughout with strong financial support from all of you — which, combined with extra gifts from some supporters, the relief offered by the diocese to all parishes and a heritage grant from the City of Ottawa — means we don't need to ask for special funds to complete this work.



Stoneworks team take a break from reinforcing mortar and stone

A THOUSAND DOVES, A THOUSAND GIGGLES, AND HOPE

By Canon Hilary Murray

Early in March the Girls' Choir got together for a Zoom meeting to make origami doves for the Diocesan Refugee Ministry's Thousand Doves Project.

For 40 years, the Diocese of Ottawa has helped some of the world's most vulnerable people build new lives here; the Thousand Doves Project is intended to celebrate and support that work. Groups across the diocese are signing up to collect pledges and make doves, which will be hung in the Cathedral at Pentecost.

It was amazing to see how naturally the majority of the girls' choir connected over the virtual airwaves with laughter, chatter and lots of fun as we made our doves.

Those of us who had never made paper doves before jumped between the Zoom call and an online instructional video.

As we were coming up to the one-hour mark I was asked if we could go longer. My response was an absolute YES! And we continued our conversations and productive creating for another hour — making a total of 70 origami doves. (They're all being safely kept in our homes waiting for installation and unveiling in the Cathedral.)

This time together reminded me of the power we have as girls and women and how important it is to be together as girls. It was a joy to be a part of the group, not as a chaplain or the adult in the room, but simply as one of

the girls sharing in this playful project of dove making. Often, I believe, we forget what it's like to be carefree, silly and focused on having fun while hanging out with other girls and women. That kind of community should be celebrated and encouraged as part of the beauty of the feminine image of God's creation.



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www.ottawacathedral.ca

Editor: J. B. Coutts
info@ottawacathedral.ca

