

EX CATHEDRA

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL OTTAWA

PENTECOST 2023

DEAN REACHES NEW HEIGHTS IN D.C.

As a young ordinand 30 years ago, I never dreamt that one dark and stormy night I would etch my name on the Washington National Cathedral slate roof, but that is exactly what I was encouraged and delighted to do during a tour at the North American Cathedral Deans Conference in April.

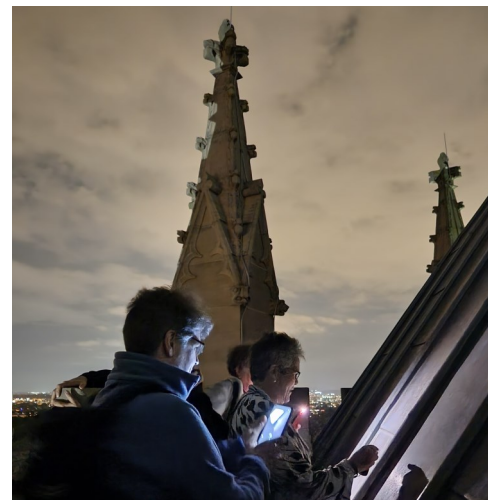
Over 90 deans and has-deans, spouses and partners, gathered to explore the theme of “The Sacred and the Civic: Voices of Faith in the Public Square.” After an excellent lecture on “How Christian Nationalism Threatens Democracy and Christianity,” a panel of deans spoke about how that plays out in their local contexts. I shared the story of celebrating the eucharist in our empty

cathedral during the convoy occupation of downtown in 2022, as honking horns, gas fumes and ill-concealed rage swirled around outside. Much discussion ensued with my colleagues, as we sought to unpack this and other similar experiences. Chaplains from the United States Senate and House of Representatives spoke of the fine line they must walk between being pastoral and non-partisan in politically charged environments. And a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture helped me realize how little I know and how much more I have to learn and understand.

Throughout the conference, fruitful conversations and much laughter did our hearts good.

Beautiful music and lovely liturgies lifted our souls.

Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa is hosting the conference from April 18th to 21st in 2024. We can expect excellent attendance, for as my American colleagues resoundingly and often proclaim: “We LOVE coming to Canada!” It will be wonderful to share our cathedral and city with them.



Dean Beth leaves her mark on the rooftop

MAKING THE STAIRWAYS TO (ALMOST) HEAVEN SAFER

By Katherine Spencer-Ross

The time has come for Christ Church Cathedral to reclaim the two flights of exterior steps at its Sparks Street entrance. Since the Cathedral was completed 150 years ago the steps on its north front have served the building's main entrance; however, for the last number of years they have largely been relegated to the emergency exit role for safety reasons. Because of this, plans are currently underway to replace the steps this year.

These steps play an important dual role in the Cathedral life, both symbolic and pragmatic. They represent our entry into the beautiful sacred space within, as well as the ministry going out to the community. Practically speaking, they are meant to offer safe and easy access in and out of the building.

Although the design is still being finalized, the intent is to construct the Sparks Street steps to reflect the Cathedral's heritage character while adhering to current building codes and a desire to make the steps more user-friendly. Since the current configura-

tion is rather precipitous, the proposed design extends the steps further into the forecourt, which allows a gentler, and safer, slope and includes a landing at the halfway mark. Wrought iron railings on either side of the steps will feature arches that echo the doorways to which they lead. A plainer railing will run down the centre of each set of steps and the side walls will be faced with stone to match the Cathedral's original Nepean Sandstone.

It is hoped that work will begin this construction season; the steps will be replaced one flight at a time

to provide an ongoing emergency exit if needed.

A significant campaign will be launched to fund this work. Replacement of the Sparks Street steps is the first of three major building upgrades. In 2024, we plan to replace the existing Queen Street steps with a ramp and upgrade the door and internal foyer in concert with the City of Ottawa's Queen Street improvements. In the third year, we will carry out essential maintenance, including replacement of windows in Lauder Hall. We need your support for this required work on our Cathedral building. Please stay tuned for further details.



Proposed redesign to lengthen stairs and add landings to improve accessibility

THE BRIGHT YELLOW SYMBOL OF PENTECOST

By Canon Doug Richards

Let me start by saying I am not a gardener. Around my and Richard's place there are lovely flower beds—planted by the people who used to live in the house. Fortunately for us, the beds are filled with perennials that do not require a lot of maintenance, so they look beautiful most of the time.

Years ago, I saw a TV show called “The Canadian Gardener,” which featured gardeners from across Canada giving a tour of their gardens. One evening, the show visited a garden in Whitehorse, where the gardener had one plant that was his pride and joy: a dandelion in a beautiful ceramic pot. He was convinced it was the only dandelion plant in northern Canada and cherished it, putting the pot out when the threat of frost was over and taking it into his house before the first frost. I've come around to that gardener's point of view. My heart fills with joy in spring when blankets of



yellow flowers cover lawns and boulevards.

Dandelions don't bloom long. The flowers, once pollinated, quickly fold into themselves and disappear as if they have died. But give them a little bit of time, and they open up once again, in a delicate white puff. When the wind blows, they come apart and the seed at bottom of each is carried somewhere to bloom next year.

Over the years I have noticed that dandelions are usually in bloom around Pentecost and I have realized what a great symbol they are for that important event. On Pentecost we celebrate the birth and ministry of the Church, and the dandelion reminds us to be like bright yellow blossoms, showing God's beauty and love for all to see.

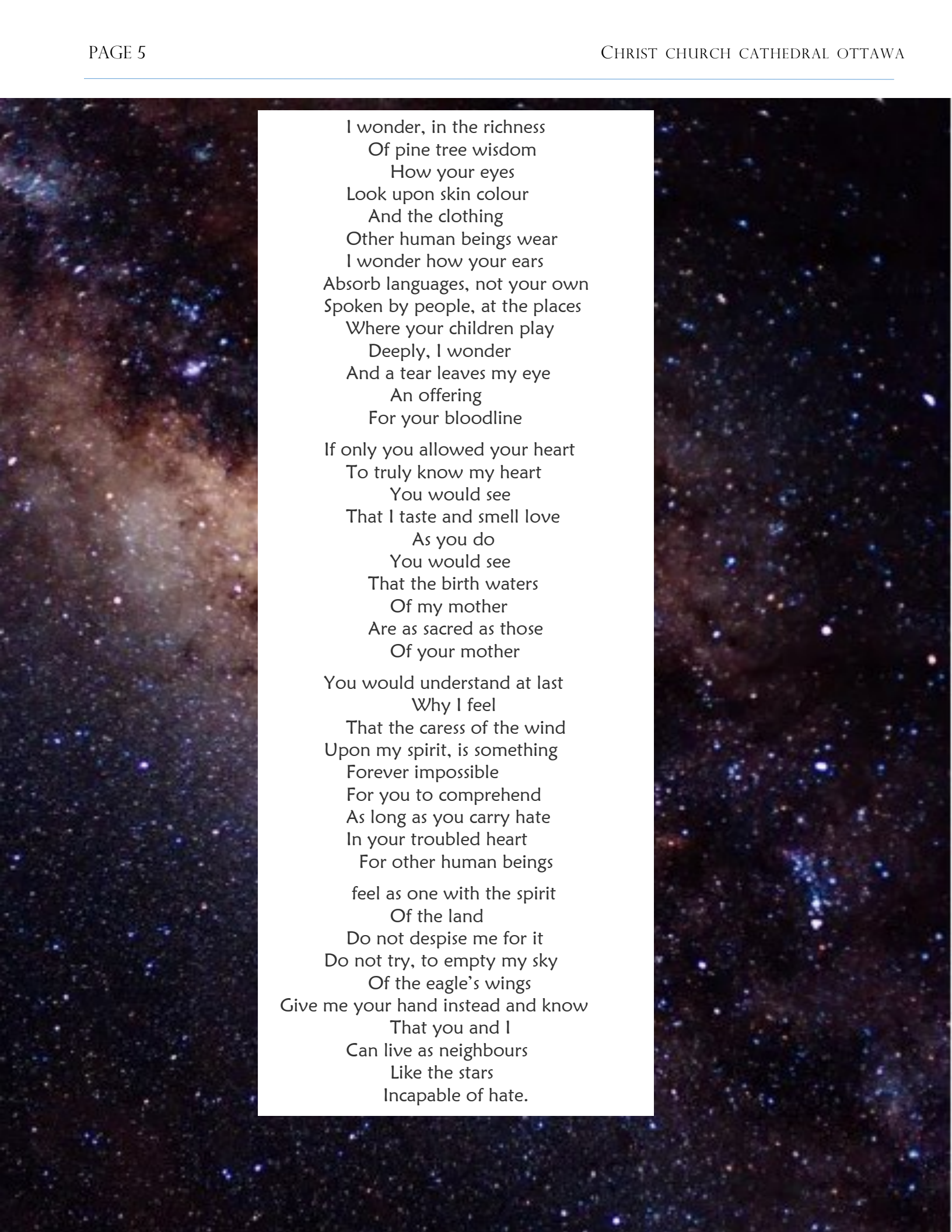
But that's not all, because we are also called to be open to the working of the Spirit. We do not know when the Spirit of God will

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LIKE THE STARS

By Albert Dumont

Like the stars
I am incapable of hate
No matter how the force
Of your actions against my spirit
Wound me
I, as a human being
Could never bring myself to wish
That your culture and identity
Would forever disappear
You hope, through cruelty
To crush the shell of the turtle
Who stands to protect
The medicine
Of my inner fire
Which burns solely
To keep kindness alive
In my human heart
Still, I search
Your soul, for goodness
I see dying embers
And again, I renew my vow
To keep strong my desire
To defend your right
To take your place
In the circle
Of emotional and spiritual wellness
Granted by Creator
Where human beings
Can better themselves
In meditation of your life
I sit, before the great trees
Of my homeland
My thoughts rise
To grip the branches
Of the tallest pines
Where I know the spirits
Of the eagle and the raven
Wait to guide me



I wonder, in the richness
Of pine tree wisdom
How your eyes
Look upon skin colour
And the clothing
Other human beings wear
I wonder how your ears
Absorb languages, not your own
Spoken by people, at the places
Where your children play
Deeply, I wonder
And a tear leaves my eye
An offering
For your bloodline
If only you allowed your heart
To truly know my heart
You would see
That I taste and smell love
As you do
You would see
That the birth waters
Of my mother
Are as sacred as those
Of your mother
You would understand at last
Why I feel
That the caress of the wind
Upon my spirit, is something
Forever impossible
For you to comprehend
As long as you carry hate
In your troubled heart
For other human beings
feel as one with the spirit
Of the land
Do not despise me for it
Do not try, to empty my sky
Of the eagle's wings
Give me your hand instead and know
That you and I
Can live as neighbours
Like the stars
Incapable of hate.

MEET JARRETT CARTY—OUR DEACON ON THE MOVE

By J.B.Coutts

It's a good thing the Reverend Dr. Jarrett Carty's introduction to our cathedral will be as preacher on Pentecost—by the sound of things, corralling him in a pulpit may be the only way to get our new deacon to stand still.

Jarrett did manage to fit in a long chat over coffee recently to talk about the path that's brought him to us; but it was a chat that left a clear impression of a very busy person.

His main gig is principal and professor of Concordia's Liberal Arts College, where his research and teaching range from Martin Luther's political theory to the history of science. (And yes, Concordia is still in Montreal; Jarrett commutes, mainly by train, taking advantage of uninterrupted time to work).

Jarrett grew up in nearby Osgoode and received both bachelor and master's degrees from Carleton before heading to Notre Dame for his PhD.

Our new deacon is not a newcomer to serving our diocese—he worked as a vol-



unteer at Centre 454 when he was a student and for the past five years, Jarrett has been deacon at All Saints, Westboro. During that time, he considered the priesthood.

Eventually, reflecting the Anglican Church's increased emphasis on the diaconate as an order in its own right (rather than always a step toward becoming a priest), Jarrett realized that was the role he should fill.

In addition to joining us at the cathedral, Jarrett will remain on staff one day a week at the diocese as chaplain to Belong Ottawa

(the collective name for our three day ministries, St. Luke's Table, Centre 454 and The Well).

The rest of Jarrett's busy-ness? There's his family, his wife Nikki and two daughters Hannah (11) and Olivia (8); dogs to walk, biking, running and the family cottage, where he likes to indulge his fondness for renovating and building. "I am constantly doing something," he admits.

And now, happily, he'll be doing some of those things with us.



VICAR
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blow on us, or where it will take us. But, when it does, great things happen. Think about the early church: It began as a small group of people huddled in a room. When the Spirit came upon them, they ran out of the room and began to proclaim the Good News in the streets of Jerusalem. Pentecost calls us to do likewise.

PILGRIMAGE GIVES MEANING TO FAMILIAR HYMNS

By Annabel Scott

The hotel wake-up call rang at 6 a.m. sharp on a sunny Tuesday morning in Jerusalem: Day 2 of the pilgrimage, and we had to be on the bus to Bethlehem by 7 am.

Thanks to this careful planning by our tour leaders—Bishop Shane Parker and Peter Sabella—we were the first to arrive in the Church of the Nativity; so early, in fact, that we listened to the sounds of an Armenian morning prayer service rising from the grotto of the church (along with clouds of incense).



Pilgrims visit the grotto of the church of the nativity

When the monks had finished their prayers we descended into the grotto to see up close a place which serves as a foundation of Christianity—the birthplace of Jesus. We sang “Silent Night” just steps away, and an indescribable energy filled the space—it was a beautiful and sacred moment, one of many throughout the pilgrimage.

In March of this year I was one of 30 pilgrims who travelled to the Holy Land on a pilgrimage led by Bishop Shane. Throughout the 10 days of the trip, prayers, scripture and music

played an integral role in my understanding of Jesus’ life and death.

At each holy site, we read scriptures and sang hymns, reflecting on them as we took in the beauty of our surroundings. It brought a deeper meaning to songs I’d been singing my whole life—songs I sing frequently as a girl chorister here at Christ Church Cathedral. I am so grateful to have had this experience, and even more grateful to be reminded of it with every service I sing.



Annabel at the Mount of Olives



The pilgrims at the ruins of Herod's castle in Masada

RAISE THE ROOF: A DIOCESAN HYMN SING

By Andrew McAnerney

There are few things better for the body and soul than singing together. Unfortunately, during the last few years opportunities to gather and sing hymns have been rather less than most would have liked, but Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa has a solution – a diocesan hymn sing at 4 pm on Sunday, June 4th!

The Cathedral boys choir and lay clerks will lead an hour of favorite hymns from Common Praise followed by some well earned refreshments. The Cathedral director of music, James Calkin, will accompany on the organ and the associate music

director, Andrew McAnerney, will provide brief insights about the words, music, writers and composers. Hymns will include: How great thou art, Tell out my soul, Praise my soul the King of heaven, Love divine and a favourite selected by vote towards the end of May.

To participate, please register by visiting <https://rsvp.church/r/2bdfOuYgso> that we may prepare adequately for the refreshments afterwards. Everybody is welcome, no experience is necessary, and it is suitable for the whole family. Come join us to sing or listen as we raise the roof of our Cathedral!

Ex Cathedra

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Anglican
Diocese of
Ottawa

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Sunday June 4th at 4pm
for
**RAISE THE ROOF:
a Diocesan Hymn Sing**
Everyone Welcome!

