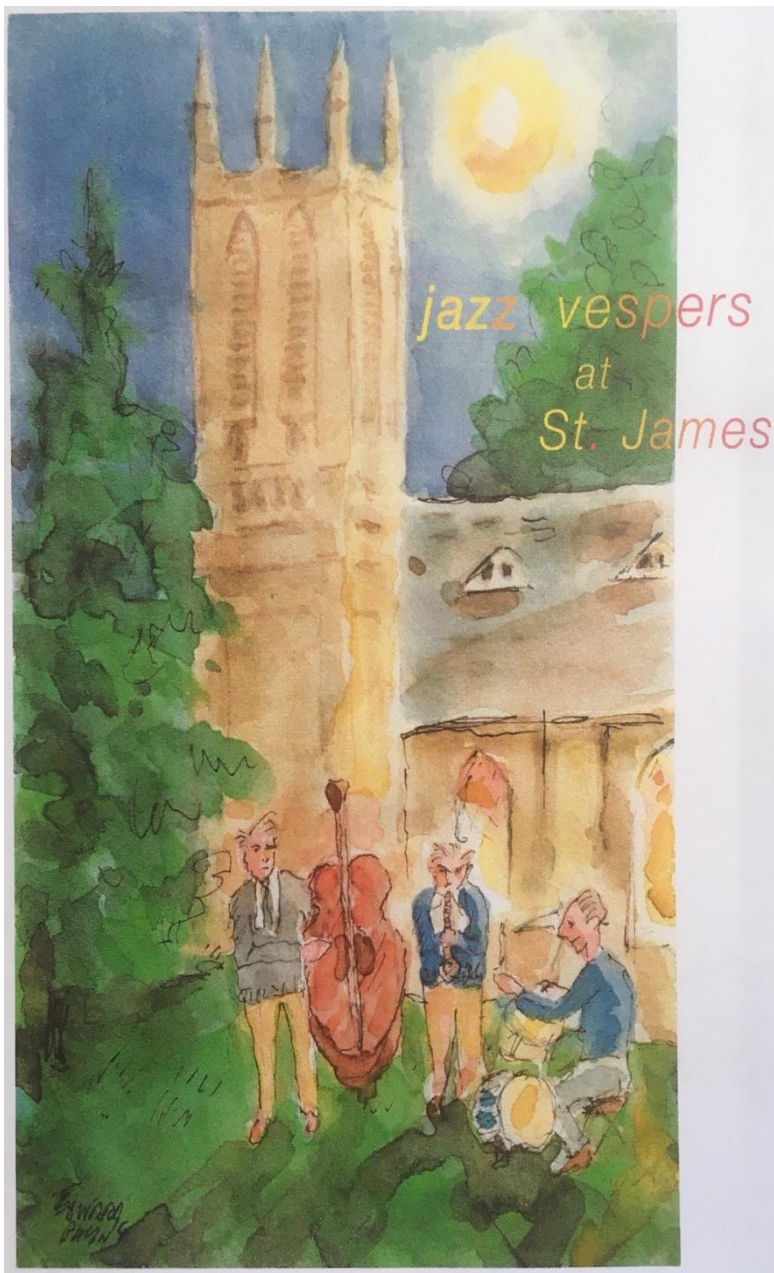




Many thanks to artist Teddy Payne for the water colour given to St. James, which is reproduced here.

Jazz Vespers

*St. James Anglican Church Stratford ON
Sunday, November 23, 2025, ~ 4:00 p.m.*

Clergy:

The Ven. Rob Lemon & The Rev'd Tim Elliott

Musicians:

The Paul Shilton Quartet:

Paul Shilton – Piano, Larry Larson – Trumpet,

Mike McLennan – Bass, Andy MacPherson - Drums

The evening Office of Vespers has roots extending into the worship life of the Jewish people. Our tradition has molded and shaped these forms of worship and prayer through an evolutionary process that is both faithful to our heritage and open to creating new traditions of praise. The Jazz Vespers Service is itself a synthesis of several traditions, each finding a unifying voice through the unique musical heritage that we call jazz. The makers of jazz develop consummate technical achievement as both a composer and a performer. The virtuosity of the performer is not an end unto itself. The musical tradition is about the task of giving voice to the hopes, dreams, frustrations and pain that expresses human experience. Jazz is the musical incense that collects and carries the prayers of a people. (From an article by the Rev. Norm Freeman, Episcopal priest 1952-2024).

Order of Things

Music as we gather.

Word of welcome

Thanksgiving for the Light (said together)

***Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe!
Your word brings on the dusk of evening,
Your wisdom creates both night and day.
You determine the cycles of time
Arrange the succession of seasons,
And establish the stars in their heavenly courses.
Lord of the starry hosts is your name.
Living and eternal God, rule over us always.
Blessed be the Lord whose word makes evening fall. Amen.***

Music

Scripture Reading: **Luke 1: 46-55** Read by: Rev'd Tianna Gocan

Reader: The word of the Lord. ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Music

Reflection by the Ven. Rob Lemon

Music during which an offering is received to support the outreach ministries of St. James Church.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Announcements.

Hymn: Abide with Me

1. Abide with me: fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord,
with me abide.

When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide
with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its
glories pass away.

Change and decay in all around I see. O thou who changest not, abide
with me.

3. I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the
tempter's power?

Who like thyself my guide and strength can be? Through cloud and
sunshine, O abide with me.

4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless, ills have no weight, and tears
no bitterness.

Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou
abide with me.

Please be seated for the improvisation.

5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes. Shine through the gloom
and point me to the skies.

Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death,
O Lord, abide with me.

Bless you for coming. Please join us for refreshments at the back of the church.

The Paul Shilton Quartet:

Paul Shilton has composed music for eight productions at the Stratford Festival: All's Well that Ends Well, Julius Caesar, The Adventures of Pericles, Edward the 2nd, An Ideal Husband, and Dark Lady of the Sonnets (a CBC Radio co-production) as well as the 2024 production of 12th Night.

Larry Larson continues to enjoy an incredibly varied life of music-making. After 30 years in the KW Symphony, he loves each new opportunity to play with dear friends on many stages!

Michael McClellan is an award-winning composer, arranger and bassist.

Prior to his 12 seasons with the Stratford Festival, he was one of Toronto's busiest jazz bassists.

Andy Macpherson is a percussionist, visual artist, and mathematician who has been playing vibraphone, drums, and percussion for almost five decades. He is the leader of the New Vibes Jazz Quintet, based in Waterloo Region. Andy focuses on being active, creative, and contributing to his community, sharing his many passions.

Sincere thanks to Mark Allwood and John Lederman who conscientiously deliver the Jazz Vespers posters around town.

We are very grateful to the St. James parishioners for their generous support of today's Jazz Vespers. Support for the musicians comes from St. James' parish budget and is augmented by sponsors so that we can experience high quality jazz music. If you'd like to be a sponsor for future jazz vespers please contact the Rector, Archdeacon Rob Lemon.

The next Jazz Vespers will be held on Sunday February 15 at 4 p.m. celebrating Mardi Gras.