



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

Jazz Vespers

Stratford Anglican Ministries Stratford ON

Sunday, February 15, 2026, ~ 4:00 p.m.

Clergy:

The Ven. Rob Lemon & The Rev'd Tianna Gocan

Musicians:

The Home Cookin' Dixieland Band:

**Larry Smith – Banjo/Guitar, Aaron MacDonald - Sax,
John Sherwood – Piano, Peter Hysen – Tuba/Bass**

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, the shepherd of Israel, their pillar of cloud by day, their pillar of fire by night. In these coming forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance, that in this pilgrimage of prayer we might learn to be your people once more. In fasting and service you bring us back to your heart. You open our eyes to your presence in the world and you free our hands to lead others to the radiant splendour of your mercy. Be with us in these journey days for without you we are lost and will perish. To you alone be dominion and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Music

READING: Matthew 17: 1-9 read by Chris Thrasher.

Music

Reflection by The Rev. Tianna Gocan

Music during which an offering is received to support the outreach ministries of Stratford Anglican Ministries.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Announcements.

Hymn: Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found Was blind but now I see.
2. T's grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.
3. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far And grace will lead me home.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first begun.

Please sit for the improvisations then please stand to sing Verse 1:

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found, Was blind but now I see.

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

A note from Band Leader Peter Hysen about the Home Cookin' Dixieland Band

The "Home Cookin' Dixieland Band" has been existence for over twenty years and has played at many festivals and private events. We perform either on stage or strolling and have been a favourite act at "The Wortley Jazz & Blues Festival" for the past several years. The bands repertoire consists of standard dixieland fare. For today's Jazz Vespers we are lucky to have on hand: Larry Smith - Banjo & Vocals; Aaron Macdonald - Sax & Vocals; John Sherwood - Piano & Valve Trombone; and Peter Hysen – Tuba.

All members of the band also perform with another highly sought after group "The Jitterbugs" Our full lineup consists of seven members: Trumpet, Sax, Trombone, Banjo/Guitar, Vocals / Piano, Bass, Drums We are happy to play in any configuration.
We have performed at three previous Jazz Vesper services and look forward to performing for you again. -- Peter Hysen

The next Jazz Vespers will be on Sunday April 12 at 4 p.m. with the Jazz Combo of the Stratford District Secondary School.

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

We are very grateful to the members of our church and community for their generous support of Jazz Vespers. The fees for the musicians come from the 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 speak with Archdeacon Rob Lemon.