



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, April 12, 2026, ~ 4:00 p.m.*

Clergy:

Archdeacons Tanya Phibbs & Rob Lemon

Musicians:

The Jazz Combo from the Stratford District Secondary School

Jazz Vespers is a very present form of a very ancient tradition. From the earliest days of the Christian church, there has been some sort of reverence made to mark the end of the day. The name Vespers began to be used as long ago as the sixth century. Today, Vespers is a time when people can gather to chase away the shadows of the coming night or the day that's been; seek comfort and sustenance; renew energy for the coming days; or find peace for an hour or so from an all too harried, complex, and busy world. Come and be moved, comforted, uplifted, challenged, encouraged, or whatever else you may need. And come and hear how these musicians interpret the centuries.

Order of Things

Music as we gather.

Word of welcome

Thanksgiving for the Light (said together)

We praise and thank you, O God, our Father, through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him you have enlightened us by revealing the light that never fades, for dark death has been destroyed and radiant life is everywhere restored. What was promised is fulfilled: we have been joined to God through renewed life in the Spirit of the Risen Lord. Glory and praise to you, our Father, through Jesus your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, in the kingdom of life eternal, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Anglican Church of Canada, Book of Alternative Services page 65)

Music

READING: John 20:19-31 read by Rebekah Lemon.

Music

Reflection by Archdeacon Rob Lemon

Music during which an offering is received to support of the SDSS music program.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

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 sit for the improvisations.

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 today.

Today's musicians:

The SDSS Jazz Combo has been playing together since September of 2025 and has performed at many events in Stratford and the surrounding area. It consists of 8 music students and is led by Kensington Ische. Together, the members choose pieces, discuss the form of the charts, and create setlists for gigs.

Trumpet - KENSINGTON ISCHE

Kensington Ische is a grade 12 SDSS student who has been in the music program for all 4 years of high school, and has been playing trumpet since grade 6.

Trombone - EMILE GRIMES

Emile Grimes is a grade 11 student at SDSS. He's a swimmer and musician who studied jazz with the U of T professor William Carn and hopes to continue growing as a player.

Tenor sax - Quinn Rieck

Quinn Rieck is a grade 12 student at SDSS. He has been playing and taking saxophone lessons for 6 years.

Trumpet - Ben Bride McCune

Ben Bride McCune is a grade 11 student at SDSS. He has been playing trumpet since grade 7 but has been taking lessons on guitar and mandolin for 8 years.

Alto saxophone - GRACIE RADKE

Gracie Radke is a grade 11 student SDSS, who has been playing alto saxophone since grade 9. She also plays piano and guitar in addition to the saxophone.

Double Bass - PASHA RUSIN-FRANKE

Pasha is a grade 12 student who has studied jazz bass technique for the past two years, playing with the Provincial Honour Band last fall.

Piano - JENNAH CRESSMAN

Jannah Cressman is a grade 11 student who plays saxophone and flute in addition to piano, which she has been taking lessons on for 10 years.

Drums - MAX STEINMAN

Max Steinman is a grade 11 student who has played and taken drum lessons for 10 years.