

Jazz Vespers at Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Painting by: Teddy Payne

Jazz Vespers

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Stratford ON
Sunday, November 22, 2026, ~ 4:00 p.m.

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.

Musicians:
The Michael Wood Trio: Michael Wood, Vibraphone; Ralph Bushmeyer, Guitar; Clark Johnston, Bass.

Clergy:
The Ven. Rob Lemon & the Ven. Tanya Phibbs

Order of Things

Music as we gather.

Word of welcome

Thanksgiving for the Light (said together)
We praise and thank you, O God, for you are without beginning and without end. Through Christ you are the creator and preserver of the whole world; but, above all, you are his God and Father, the giver of the Spirit, and the ruler of all that is, seen and unseen. You made the day for the works of light and the night for the refreshment of our minds and bodies. O loving Lord and source of all that is good, accept our evening sacrifice of praise. As you have conducted us through the day and brought us to night's beginning, keep us now in Christ; grant us a peaceful evening and a night free from sin; and, at the end, bring us to everlasting life. Through Christ and in the Holy Spirit, we offer you all glory, honour, and worship, now and for ever. Amen. [1]

[1] Anglican Church of Canada, Book of Alternatives Services, Evening Prayer.

Music

READING: Matthew 25: 31-46. Read by: Rev. Tianna Gocan

Music

Reflection by the Ven. Tanya Phibbs

Music during which an offering is received for the work and ministry of Holy Trinity

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:

With over three decades as a percussionist and jazz vibist, **Michael Wood** is equally comfortable on stage, in the orchestra pit, or in the class room setting. A veteran of the Stratford Festival Orchestra as well as auxiliary percussion credits with Canada's National Ballet, he has performed at the Royal Alex, Hummingbird Centre, Elgin, Roy Thompson Hall, Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts, Arts Centre in Ottawa, Hamilton Place, and Kitchener's Centre in the Square. A Yamaha Artist Clinician he has adjudicated extensively in British Columbia, Ontario and Manitoba and presented workshops for both the British Columbia Music Educators' Association (BCMEA) and Ontario Music Educators' Association (OMEA) in addition to the 2006 Music Fest Nationals in Ottawa. Michael has been invited to present Vibraphone Master Classes at the University of Windsor, Wilfrid Laurier University, University of Ottawa and Western.

Ralf Buschmeyer is an Ontario-based freelance musician and educator. He currently teaches for Heritage College in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada and plays with a variety of musical acts. Ralf picked up his first guitar at the age of 13 and hasn't set it down since. Growing up, Buschmeyer was influenced by artists like Ray Charles, Eric Clapton and Booker T & the MGs, who collectively inspired him to first start playing music. Since then, his musical style has evolved from blues and rock to R&B and jazz, resulting in a unique sound that resonates with any music lover. As an accomplished jazz guitarist, instructor and composer, Ralf Buschmeyer's music echoes the eclectic journey he's taken and graciously invites the audience along for the ride.

Clark Johnson started his professional career as a bassist in 1994 and since has had the opportunity to work with the likes of Peter Appleyard, Diana Panton, Reg Schwager, and Don Thompson – just to name a few. He performs regularly with Drew Jurecka, James Brown, Neil Brathwaite, Ashley St Pierre, as well as many other great musicians. Clark has released three CDs with Shields Johnston Fielding featuring his original compositions and can be heard on many other recordings. Clark holds a Master's degree in Music Composition as well as a Bachelor of Education from York University. Clark is currently on faculty at McMaster University, Mohawk College, and Hillfield Strathallan College

We are very grateful to Norm Fielding and Veronica Douglas for their support for today's Jazz Vespers. The fees for the musicians come from the parish budget and are augmented by sponsors so that we can experience high-quality jazz. If you'd like to be a sponsor for future jazz vespers, please speak with Archdeacon Rob Lemon. An income tax receipt is provided.

Many thanks to Mark Allwood and John Lederman who deliver the posters around town.

The next Jazz Vespers will be held on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. with the Paul Shilton Trio. They will provide the music for the special children's service around the Creche.



Advent Lessons & Carols

Prepare your heart to the coming of Christ
with an afternoon of prayer, hymns, and Scripture!



November 29th at 4:00pm

at Holy Trinity Anglican Church Stratford

Songs Of the Season

New Venue!!

Our 17th annual Christmas benefit concert to support the Food Bank, featuring popular seasonal & Gospel songs by Elvis, plus secular & Country favourites and more!



Doug McKenzie...



Shon Carroll..



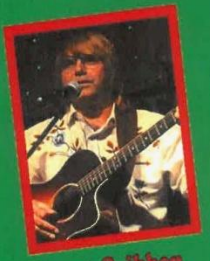
Jeff Marsh..

"Elvis x 3!"

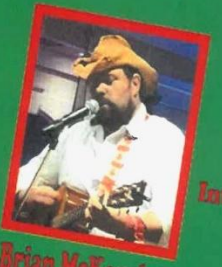
Special Guest..



Karen Ward Kennedy



Jimmy Gribbon as "John Denver"



Brian McKenzie as "Toby Kamuck"

and.. Introducing..



Max Rush..

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
41 Mornington St., Stratford
Sat. Dec. 5th, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Admission Free with donation to Holy Trinity Community Food Bank

For information: 519 574 1076


JOIN US FOR
A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH
AT 7:00 PM
Holy Trinity Anglican Church
41 MORNINGTON STREET
STRATFORD
CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE OF
EMMANUAL, GOD WITH US