



The Angelus

July 2023

From the Rector's Desk

Throughout human history, prayer and important speech have had something of music in them. Just as lovers often use language with each other in a way that is peculiar to them, so human beings interact with the Lord of the Universe. Whether the important speech or prayer sounds like poetry, chant, what we call singing, or even instrumental music without words that still allows for a deep flow of meaning and connection. The language used at Hmong, animist funerals is not everyday language and is chanted. Yeshiva students reciting the psalms out loud sound like they're singing. And on and on throughout cultures and time. What we call "saying" prayers, in "regular" language that "make sense" in a strictly useful and linear fashion are not the norm, even if we find great value in it now.

So it's not surprising that when we enter into communion with God in Christ at the Mass, when we enter into the praises of the heavenly temple with our "Holy, holy, holy," our Prayer Book language has the sound of poetry, even if it's "just" a "spoken Mass" we're celebrating. And at our principal service on Sunday morning, the more we sing and chant, move rhythmically in the steps of the dance we call liturgy, and share the silences that allow the Word to be perceived with body and mind and soul, the more that we know these notions of communion are not a mere moral enterprise but are an experience of the God Who is Love and of our God's Beautiful Kingdom.

This is one of the main reasons, I believe, we can feel the loss of a music director so keenly. Certainly, we miss Dr Ben Dobey keenly on a personal level. But if we sit still long enough, we realize we feel that loss because of the nature of prayer and communion itself.

Music....

Thanks be to God, we have had faithful people to work on a team together to lead us in our sung prayer as we experience some disorientation in our life of music and prayer. Thanks be to God for leaders Sandie Palmer, Karen Christopherson, Tricia Morton, and above all our very fine and stalwart choir. How they are able to offer such high quality and faithful service at such a time is beyond me—unless it's because of the Holy Spirit working within faithful hearts and skillful souls. Amen.

So what does the future hold for this essential part of our life with God and mission in the world as a congregation in the Anglo-Catholic tradition? What is next for our music and liturgy? Here's a short summary of what your vestry and I are up to in that regard.

Some months ago, in consultation with the vestry, I put together a small group of people to look into the possibility of us starting a music ministry sometimes called a “treble choir.” “Treble” in this case means the high sung parts in music, usually sung by younger voices, maybe ages 8-18, let’s say. These higher voices are part of a choir with older and lower voices. Such a choir is what is standard in what some call Anglican choral music.

(Treble choirs can sing varieties of choral music, of course. But this make up of voices is what some composers wrote for intentionally. And it turns out our hymnal is loaded with music that sounds good with this kind of choir.)

This small group I’ve put together is made up of some Grace parishioners and choir members and is led by Fr Jack Connelly. Fr Jack is not a priest in a parish but is actually a Grace member who quietly attends our 8 am Mass when he is in town. In his prior parish ministry, he has worked directly with a treble choir and knows what it is to have young voices



involved in liturgy and their families attending, as well as what such a choir can mean to the larger community. I encourage you to get to know Fr Jack if you have the opportunity.

This group has been studying the many dimensions of what such a choir involves in parish and community life, even interacting remotely with the director of such a program in Evanston, Illinois. (A couple of years ago, our vestry and I even had a video conference with a director on the east coast who had started just such a program and knew all the ins and outs of getting something like this going.) And the vestry has asked this group to give its practical and spiritual take to the vestry on whether this could be what Grace’s future could include. This group is being called, in other words, to help us “discern” if this is a direction in our life that would please God.

This group will speak with the vestry sometime this summer as it wraps up its time together and after having visited the church in Evanston. The vestry will try to discern further itself if this could be what God wants for us. And, of course, the vestry and I would have to do some deep listening with you, the parish, to discern with all of you if this is the path God is calling us to take. When would we talk and listen with the parish? Likely sometime later this year, though nothing “official” is planned yet.

I myself am very warm to this idea for many reasons. Not least is that I believe it’s consistent with our mission, identity, and spirituality; it can be a way that’s authentic for us to evangelize young and old; and it could be a gift to the larger community, a very important form of outreach. Our Anglo-Catholic forebears who worked in the slums that were the poisonous fruit of the industrial revolution in England, always brought people into the beauty of worship and holy space at the same time they labored to serve with the poorest of the poor and the most downtrodden. In the catholic vision, the Kingdom of God is just and beautiful all at the same time.

But please know that I have not dreamt all this up just to announce it to you as a done deal, find some deep pockets to fund it, and then in a few months inform you and everyone of how it's all going to be with our music ministry. It is instead my fervent prayer that, even as I tell you honestly what I am sensing could be the right path for us (that's an essential part of my ministry among you), we will peer into the possibility of a treble choir program for Grace TOGETHER. With your help and holy listening, the vestry and I will be able to make the decisions about such things as we are empowered by you and Christ to do, as the people you have elected for your vestry.

More to come later about what our prayer, discernment, listening, and conversation about this as a parish might look like, including who might lead it, how much it could cost and where the money might come from, how it could shape us further as a parish, or whether it's right for us at all.

So, in the meantime, please talk with your vestry members about this. Ask questions of them and me. Get acquainted with Fr Jack. Give a listen to what choir members are up to. Be sure and thank our music ministers heartily and often. Give thanks to God and His saints for all we are and have.

And pray, pray, pray.

I commend to you especially, when pondering the mystery of God, the beauty of the Bridegroom Christ and His love, and the delight of music and language to prayerfully ponder the Song of Songs in the Old Testament (aka, the Song of Solomon). It's a short read and a prayerful delight.

“Beauty is the glory of Truth.”

Peace,
WLB+

May Financial Focus

<u>May Income</u>	<u>YTD Income.</u>	<u>Annual Budget 2023</u>
\$10,842	\$165,430.	\$311,941
<u>May Expenses.</u>	<u>YTD Expenses.</u>	<u>Annual Budget 2023</u>
\$31,416.	\$141,426.	\$337,664

JMKAC features GEC's former Sr. Warden, artist Kristen Plucar



Kristen's exhibition title is *Regional Responses to the Art Preserve*, and it will be up through October 2023. She would love for friends from Grace to know they are welcome to come and see it anytime! The Arts Center is free and open Tuesdays through Sundays. Kristen's artwork is an illustration titled *Never Trust a Sleeping Hodag...*

Music/Treble Choir Committee Update

Members of the committee (Jack Britton, John Keller, Ryan Sorenson, Mary Snyder, Lindsey Patterson and Lucas Detwiler) have been meeting monthly under the leadership of Father Jack Connelly to explore and discern whether Grace Church is called to initiate a treble choir program. We've enjoyed the additional input from Andrew Lewis, Music Director, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Evanston, IL. We are now going to schedule an in-person visit in mid-July to St. Luke's to observe the choir in action. Please pray for the committee members as we seek to understand God's will for our parish.

Leona Aparicio Home from Diocesan Middler Camp



Bursting with joy and enthusiasm Leona Aparicio has just returned from the diocesan Middler Camp (she is 12 years old and going into 7th grade) located at Waypost Camp on Mission Lake near Hatley, Wisconsin. Leona has been attending church summer camp since she was in kindergarten and has built many close relationships as well as adding new friends to her experience. A typical day at camp starts with a 7:00 am wake up call followed by breakfast and Bible teachings with group discussions. Holy Eucharist is celebrated before lunch and then an hour to rest up before the fun activities of arts, crafts, and sports including fishing, field games, archery,

and Dungeons and Dragons. Favorite dinner meals included lasagna hot dogs, tacos, and pizza. Lights out at 10:45 but not before campers and staff gather around to singing and dancing which Leona found very uplifting. Her favorite songs, accompanied by guitars, are "Soul on Fire" and "Pharaoh, Pharaoh."



Coffee Hour

If you enjoy coffee hour please consider donating and/or signing up for it (sign up sheet is located on table in narthex.) To keep it going when no one has signed up we would like a supply of packaged gluten free, sugar free or regular cookies to have on available. Your consideration and generosity are much appreciated.

Open Church Doors and Safety

Because of our building design we are blessed to be able to keep our sanctuary doors open during the day to offer our brothers and sisters in the community a place of meditation, prayer, and refuge from the elements. However, we also recognize that we need to be aware of maintaining safety for our parish members and staff. With that in mind, we offer some tips to recognize problematic behaviors and signals, and de-escalation techniques.

Observable behaviors which signal a threat:

- Clenched jaw and/or balled fists
- Pacing or restlessness
- Trembling or shaking
- Violating others' personal space

Recognizing escalating behavior:

- Flushed, tightened jaw, clenched fists, shaking, flaring nostrils
- Rapid breathing, raised voice, nervous laughter
- Poised to strike or lunge
- Standing in position to attack or defend

De-escalation Practices:

- Remain calm
- Change the setting, urging the person from the area, if possible
- Respect their personal space
- Listen: give your full attention, nod, ask questions
- Empathize: present with genuine concern and willingness to understand without judging

Body language to de-escalate:

- Instead of: Standing rigidly directly in front of the person, keep a relaxed and alert stance off to the side of the person
- Instead of pointing your finger, keep your hands down, open and visible at all times
- Instead of excessive gesturing or pacing, use slow, deliberate movement
- Instead of faking a smile, maintain a neutral and attentive facial expression

Verbal communication to de-escalate :

- Instead of "Calm down", say "I can see that you're upset"
- Instead of "I can't help you", say "I want to help, what can I do?"
- Instead of "I know how you feel", say "I understand that you feel..." and describe what you see
- Instead of "Come with me", say "May I speak with you?"

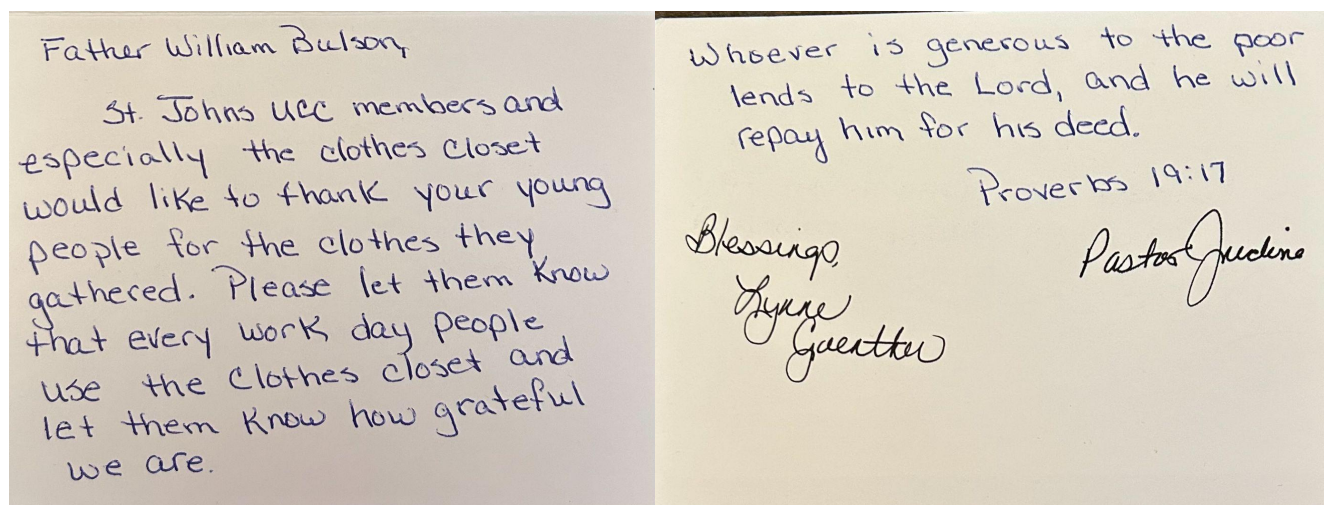
I distilled this guide from a publication of the Public Safety Commission. It's useful in that it provides tips on how to be aware of the needs and challenges of those around us. Moreover, it provides language and

posture when interacting with an individual who may be experiencing emotional trauma or affliction. On reflection, it seems like the recommended de-escalation postures are useful in any upsetting situation, even with those with our own family and friends. Please prayerfully read, internally digest, and absorb these important suggestions. And please pray for Grace Church as we work to provide a quiet haven to all.

Mary Snyder, Senior Warden

Thank You

Fr Bulson received a thank you note from Pastor Judine of St John's UCC church after our Sunday School students, as part of their Lenten projects, had delivered clothes to St John's clothing ministry.



Anglican Quote

Every once in a while, people ask what prayer has to do with living in the world and doing something that matters, especially when it comes to ending injustice. People most often bring this up when they see us doing things like our centering prayer group, which is led by Kritsin Plucar and meets on Sunday evenings in Christ the King chapel after Evening Prayer. In that kind of prayer, sometimes called “contemplative prayer,” “still prayer,” “Christian meditation,” etc., nobody is really doing anything. Not even asking God to be a better person or to help with something in the world. Not even thinking about life and reaching conclusions about oneself or the world. Contemplative or still prayer is wordlessly just being with God. The end.

So here is a quote about contemplation and living a full Christian life from Rowan Williams, who was Archbishop of Canterbury, 2002-2012. This is from his book *Holy Living*:

That is to say, responding in a life giving way to what the Gospel requires of us means the transforming of our whole self, our feelings and thoughts and imaginings. To be converted to faith does not mean simply acquiring a new set of beliefs, but becoming a new person, a person in communion with God and others through Jesus Christ.

Contemplation is an intrinsic element in this transforming process. To learn to look to God without regard to my own instant satisfaction, to learn to scrutinize and to relativise the cravings

and fantasies that arise in me—this is to allow God to be God, and this to allow the prayer of Christ, God’s own relation to God, to come alive in me. Invoking the Holy Spirit is a matter of asking the third person of the Trinity to enter my spirit and bring the clarity I need to see where I am in slavery to cravings and fantasies, and to give me patience and stillness as God’s light and love penetrate my inner life.

Only as this begins to happen will I be delivered from treating the gifts of God as yet another set of things I may acquire to make me happy. And as this process unfolds, I become more free—to borrow a phrase of St Augustine (Confessions IV.7)—to “love human beings in a human way,” to love them not for what they may promise me, to love them not as if they were there to provide me with lasting safety and comfort, but as fragile fellow creatures held in the love of God. I discover...how to see other persons and things for what they are in relation to God, not to me. And it is here that true justice as well as true love has its roots.

Vestry Notes for April and May

- New bills have come in for equipment repair due to the August 2021 lightning strike. Insurance will cover a good portion but not all of the expenses.
- Building security issues were discussed. Fr and Dn Paul will update protocols and vestry will be trained on opening and closing procedures and other safety issues.
- Plans are in process for Grace’s 175th anniversary dinner in December.
- Mass in the Grass is planned for Sept 10th in green space by marina. Shannon will promote the event.
- Everyone is invited to the marriage celebration and reception of Fr William and Tomomi on May 31st
- New security door to be installed in the hallway from kitchen to office and will arrive in 6-8 weeks.
- Garage has been cleaned out and unneeded items removed from the basement. John Davis to check out the concerns on mold and mildew in the basement.
- Spring cleaning has been scheduled
- Fundraising ideas discussed.
- John Davis to look into recruiting video system operators from Boy Scouts and high schools.
- GWF grant requests have been made for Walsingham Pilgrimage and Rhyme phone proposal.
- Ongoing fundraising ideas were discussed. Robert McMillan will look into a brat fry for “Downtown in Elkhart Lake” event on August 14. Blessing of hunters at All Saints Chapel in November and Mass in the Grass could be promoted.
- Budget issues were discussed including financial assistance to the Rohingya family should a need arise.

Mark Your Calendars



- **July 30 Bishop Matthew Gunther’s Visitation**
- **August 5 Afternoon Memorial Service and Concert for Dr Ben Dobej (details to follow)**
- **September 10 Mass in the Grass (details to follow)**
- **October 14 Walsingham Festival and Luncheon (Sign up for luncheon now)**

It is with great joy that we announce that Fr William Bulson and Tomomi Kanemaru's marriage was blessed by our Bishop Matthew Gunther on May 31st on the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin.



July Birthdays

Doug Jenkins 7/9
 Konrad Testwuide 7/13
 Debbie Imig 7/14
 Greg Burgett 7/18
 Claudia Fischer 7/20
 Mia McMillan 7/22
 Mary Snyder 7/24
 Dustin Yang 7/25
 Denise Yang 7/30
 Mary Gallimore 7/31

July Anniversaries

Nancy & Art Imig 7/3
 Alison & Steve Weinert 7/5
 Sarah Clabots-Kim 7/15
 Debbie & Bob Imig 7/17
 Betty & Cal Potter 7/19
 Rachel & David Annis 7/25
 Mary Jo & Konrad Testwuide 7/28

Parish Staff

The Right Reverend Matthew Gunter, *Bishop*
 The Reverend William Bulson, *Rector*
 The Reverend Paul Aparicio, *Deacon*
 The Reverend Deacon Nicci Beeck, *Parish Administrator*

The Vestry

The Reverend William Bulson, *Chair*
 Mary Snyder, *Senior Warden*
 John Davis, *Junior Warden*
 Brian Heck, *Treasurer*
 Helen Mullison, *Chancellor*
Vestry: Jack Britton, Tasha Crouse, Mary Gallimore, Jane Hanson, Shannon Luckey-Mueller, Robert McMillan, Jean-Margaret Merrell-Beech, Pat Sather, Connie Schneider

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Grace Episcopal Church

