

Building Faith: The Role of Place & Space in Worship

2007 Triennial Woodstock Festival of Liturgy, Art & Music

May 15, 2007

This July, St. James Church in Woodstock, Vermont will host its fourth Triennial Festival of Liturgy, Art & Music. This year's celebration marks the 100th anniversary of St. James' current church, a distinguished neo-Gothic building designed by the noted architects Cram, Goodhue, & Ferguson of Boston and New York. The festival will focus on the interplay of worship with architecture, the visual arts, choral music and liturgy. The four day event, July 19-22, also involve Pentangle Council on the Arts, the Woodstock Historical Society, and a number of the other churches and synagogues of this historic and beautiful village.

This year's educational programs should provoke thought and discussion. Our conceptions of what makes a good space for worship varies between individuals, and has evolved over time. There is also a classic tension between preservation and innovation. Our speakers include distinguished national scholars and clergy as well as local authorities, and they bring a diversity of perspectives on these questions. The keynote will be delivered by Dean Richard Giles (Philadelphia Cathedral), a noted author and one of America's leading proponents for rethinking the relation of worship and architectural space.

The discussion of architectural history will be anchored by art-historian Douglas Shand-Tucci, the author of the definitive biography of Ralph Adams Cram. He will present a lecture entitled *The Table of Holy Desire: The Chancel of Trinity Church Boston & the Liturgical Movement in the Episcopal Church*. Jack Anderson, Director of the Woodstock Historical Society, will describe Woodstock's churches in the Vermont historical context. Connecticut architect Duo Dickinson, author of seven books including *The House You Build*, will examine the challenges of "building faith," followed by a discussion with a panel of scholars, architects and clergy.

Liturgy and music will also play a key part in this year's festival. As in past festivals, the Chapel Choir of Downing College, from Cambridge University in England, will contribute its artistry and polish. Services at St. James include two classic Anglican evensongs, a service with Medieval music, and a solemn Sunday Eucharist, with brass, poly-choral music and the Bishop of Vermont presiding. Our Lady of the Snows will participate in its Saturday afternoon Mass at 5:30, and there will be a musical offering at the Friday afternoon Shabbat service at the Woodstock Area Jewish Community. In a secular vein, Pentangle Council on the Arts will co-sponsor a festival concert in the Town Hall Theater on Saturday night. This choral "battle of the bands" will showcase our visitors from Cambridge along the St. James Choir and other groups from the Woodstock area and beyond.

The schedule of events includes:

Thursday, July 19, 2007

5:00 pm: Opening Service: Purcell Evensong (Downing Choir)
Rev. Christina Brannock-Wanter, Officiant

6:00 pm: Keynote Address: Very Rev. Richard Giles

Friday, July 20

9:00 am: Service: Eucharist with Medieval Music (St. James Choir)
Rev. Christina Brannock-Wanter, Celebrant

10:30 am: Educational Program:
Douglas Shand-Tucci: *The Table of Holy Desire: The Chancel of Trinity Church Boston & the Liturgical Movement in the Episcopal Church*
Jack Anderson: *Churches of Woodstock in a Vermont Context*

12:30 pm: Lunch

2:00 pm: Educational Program:
Duo Dickinson: *Building Faith: The Relation of Space, Place and Design in Worship*
Panel Discussion: Douglass Shand-Tucci, Rev. Richard Giles, Rev. Christina Brannock-Wanter, Rev. Thomas L. Mosher, The Hon. Mark Mitchell

4:30 pm: Book signing

6:30 pm: Congregation Shir Shalom – Shabbat Service
Rabbi Michal Woll

Saturday, July 21

10:00: Educational Program: Tour of Woodstock's Historic Places of Worship
Rev. Thomas L. Mosher, Guide

5:30 pm: Mass, Our Lady of the Snows, with Medieval Music (St. James Choir)
Rev. Thomas L. Mosher, Celebrant

7:30 pm: Multi-Choir Concert at the Woodstock Town Hall Theater, in collaboration with Pentangle Council on the Arts
Featuring the Downing College Choir, the St. James Church Choir, the Woodstock Unitarian-Universalist Church Choir, Acabella, WrenSong, and other choirs from the Woodstock area.

Sunday, July 22

10:00 am: Festival Eucharist, featuring Venetian Renaissance poly-choral music (Green Mountain Brass Ensemble, Downing Choir, St. James Choir, guest singers)
The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely, Bishop of Vermont, Celebrant

5:00 pm: Service: 20th Century English Evensong (Downing Choir)

All events are open to the public. For further information, visit our website at <http://www.stjameswoodstock.org/> or telephone 802 457 1727. There will be a ticket charge for the Saturday Evening concert (tickets available from Pentangle, telephone (802) 457-3981); all other events are without charge, although contributions will be gratefully accepted. St. James Episcopal Church on The Green hosts the event; organizational contacts are The Rev. Christina Brannock-Wanter and Prof. Oliver Goodenough.