



THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT JOHN



THE CATHEDRAL CHIMES

LENT 2016

In her thought-provoking work, *H is for Hawk*, Helen MacDonald writes, "life reaches a point where you realize that it is a thing made of holes, 'things that were there, and are there no longer. And you realize, too, that you have to grow around and between the gaps, though you can put your hand out to where things were and feel that tense, shining dullness of the space where the memories are.'"

When a person dies, it is said that her absence "leaves a hole" in our life. It is simply the reality of our existence that many things and people we once knew we no longer see. Whether we move away and lose contact with people who were once important in our daily experiences and growth, or if we become estranged from friends, and certainly if we are parted by death, holes appear in our lives with some regularity and, as we grow older, with increasing frequency. I don't bemoan that fact; it is just a truth that we acknowledge. And, yet, it is difficult.

Not all of the holes in our lives are caused by forces beyond our control. Some, in fact, are created by the choices that we make. Through our actions we separate ourselves from others, increasing alienation with those we love, or drawing away from God himself. Such choices damage us by damaging the relationships we are created to enjoy. Created in the image of God, who is communion in the Trinity, we are meant to seek communion as the greatest expression of our being. We call the choices that damage such communion with God, and others, sin.

Understanding that our existence is affected by our experiences and choices, there are two ways that the fabric of life can become distorted. We can focus only on the holes. When we do this, we see only the losses in life, and our perspective becomes one in which the richness and joy of life can be swallowed up in the holes that inevitably appear. These occasions of loss grow ever more powerful in our consciousness so that, like black holes in the fabric of spacetime, they absorb all the light and energy in our lives. Depression, anxiety, and despair are the unfortunate and dangerous results of gazing only at the holes, ignoring the much larger expanses of colour and pattern that fill the fabric of our existence.

On the other hand, we can also pretend that the holes don't exist. When we encounter the losses in our journey, we try to paper over them and avoid talking about the hurt or the sorrow, or we busy ourselves to such an extent that there is no time or energy left to devote to contemplate what has passed out of our experience. Like the proverbial leak in the dike, our experience of grief and loss can be plugged for just so long, until it begins to leak out in unexpected ways. A person can "stay strong" for just so long.

As in all things, life is about balance. It is important to look clearly at the moments in our lives when we experience loss or hurt, disappointment or sorrow. These are the holes that give our lives texture. They are the places, as Helen MacDonald says, where we can feel the "tense, shining dullness of the space where the memories are." It is just as essential, though, to realize that the holes become layered over as we move from one part of life to the next. The holes don't disappear; other experiences that we have reduce the obvious nature of the gaps. Like a rainbow that appears in front of a black cloud, the darkness is not completely blocked, but it is softened with the beauty of promises to come. Health comes with balance.

Finding balance in life takes time. Where, though, do we find such time?

As it happens, the Church has set aside a season in which we are allowed to take the time to look closely at the texture of our lives, holes and all. That season is Lent. For forty days we are called to examine the dark places

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Friends of Cathedral Music



FRIDAYS IN LENT AT 7PM, 2016

February 12 **Esther Fredrickson and Joy Zalkind**, flautists
Music for two flutes, from the Baroque to modern times. Featuring the beautiful counterpoint of G.P. Telemann and the minimalist music of Philip Glass.



February 19 **The Duquesa Piano Trio:**
Debra Terry, violin; Lisa Collins, 'cello; Jiu-Ling Hsu, piano
The Duquesa Trio, from across the United States, is proud to come together to offer an entirely new program. The works presented are by Rachmaninov, Schumann, and Shoenfeld and represent a cosmopolitan array of styles.



February 26 Oboist **Kevin Vigneau** joins organist **Maxine Thevenot** and baritone **Edmund Connolly** in songs of Hugo Wolf and Ralph Vaughan Williams, sonatas by J.S. Bach and Vivaldi, *Gabriel's Oboe* by Morricone, and Bach's sublime aria *Mache dich mein Herze rein* with a special guest appearance by violist Kimberly Fredenburgh.



March 4 A Bach Trio: three suites for solo 'cello
James Holland, Dana Winograd and Joan Zucker, 'cellists



11 **Albuquerque Youth Symphony Program Chamber Musicians**
Dr. Bea Strong, chamber music coordinator
Mrs. Sayra Siverson, music director



March 18 **Polyphony: Voices of New Mexico**
directed by Maxine Thévenot, presents
Masterworks from, and influenced by, the Renaissance
Tickets available at www.polyphonynm.com



THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN, 318 SILVER SW

Concert tickets are available in advance online, or at the door.

www.fcmaabq.org

In collaboration with the Cathedral Outreach program, Friends of Cathedral Music is offering a \$5 reduction on their concert ticket to anyone who brings two or more non-perishable food items to the concert.

Concerts are preceded by a light supper and conversation with the artist at 6:00 p.m. Sign up for the suppers on the bulletin board nearest the parking lot door entrance.

Binding Up What is Broken: Sunday Lent Series on Reconciliation

Each Sunday in Lent, a different speaker will focus on an aspect of reconciliation to which we are called.

February 14: Joaquin Moyà is the executive director of Horizons Albuquerque at Bosque School, a nonprofit transformative, tuition-free academic program for low-income public school students. Joaquin speaks on the ways in which we can experience reconciliation in the face of racism and prejudice.

February 21: The Rev. Susan Hutchins, is a Deacon in the Diocese of the Rio Grande and Coordinator of Border Ministries. She lives and serves in Palomas, New Mexico, where she has organized key services for communities on both sides of the border. Susan leads a discussion of the work of reconciliation in her every-day ministry and how it is changing lives.

February 28: Mr. Dennis Plummer is the Executive Director of Albuquerque Heading Home. Working with Mayor Richard Berry, beginning in 2011, Dennis was active on the Mayor's Task Force that brought Albuquerque Heading Home into being. Dennis talks about his efforts at reconciliation as they seek to make homelessness rare, short-lived, and non-recurring.

March 13: The Rev. Donna McNeil, Executive Director of the New Mexico Council of Churches, and an Episcopal priest, reflects on her ecumenical and interfaith work, and how reconciliation takes shape in those contexts.

Continuing Connections with the Church in India



In May of last year, we were blessed by a visit of the Rev. Sathianathan Moses and his wife, the Rev. Grace Moses. As they participated in the life of the Cathedral, being part of our worship, meeting various Cathedral members and sharing meals with them, folks became acquainted with these priests for whom we pray each and every Sunday. During their nearly three

weeks in Albuquerque, and then during a two week stay in Ruidoso, they gained some small understanding of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of the Rio Grande. This was the follow-up to my visit to India, to meet Grace and Moses for the very first time, in February, 2014.

Father Moses and I have known one another since 1994, though for the first twenty years through correspondence across the 9,000 miles that separate us. By exchanging photos of our families and churches, we have developed a close friendship, watching the changing of our churches and the growth of our families. There have been so many blessings over the years of knowing this lovely couple, and the greatest was meeting them, face-to-face, at the Chennai airport in 2014, as we embraced and Moses set an enormous garland of flowers around my neck and a silk shawl around my shoulders.

Now the time has come for a return to India. You'll recall that, in the early part of 2015, I began to advertise this tour. On February 8 I'll be leading ten individuals to India to explore the history and culture of north India, including visiting churches belonging to the United Church of North India, the parallel to the church in the South to which Moses and Grace belong. We will land in New Delhi, and from there begin our tour that will include the holy city of Varanasi, Agra, Jaipur,

Udaipur, and Khajuraho. As February 10 is Ash Wednesday, I plan to worship and receive ashes at St. George's Cathedral in New Delhi, accompanied by our group.

Following the departure of the tour group after two weeks, I will travel south. My first stop will be in Bangalore, where Moses' and Grace's daughter, Vinola, lives with her husband, Binesh, and their son, Mark. From there I travel to Chennai to spend six days with Grace and Moses, participating in Grace's new church and experiencing more of the life of this amazing city. My final location to visit will be Rameshwaram, where Moses' son, Winston, lives with his wife, Kiruba, and their two children, Emmie and Hani. Winston is also a priest in the Church of South India and is responsible for seven churches and a school in that remote part of Tamil Nadu. I'm eager to see his churches and learn what ministry in his context looks like. From Rameshwaram I'll return to Chennai, and from there fly home on March 13. I want to thank Bishop Vono and the Diocese of the Rio Grande for support for Continuing Education, and two generous community members for supporting this trip.

My thoughts and prayers will be with you as you journey through Lent at St. John's. The Reconciliation Team is sponsoring an incredible Lenten Series on Sunday mornings with gifted leaders in various fields of reconciliation work. Please take advantage of this opportunity; you will be blessed and inspired by it. Please do not neglect your Sunday attendance during Lent. It is a time of great spiritual blessing that is directly related to the time we spend in worship, prayer and fellowship.

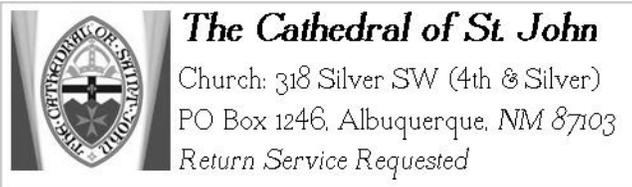
I will be posting regular updates on Facebook, both my personal page and the Cathedral's page ([facebook.com/stjohnsabq](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsabq)). In addition, I'll be writing updates for the Cathedral News each week, sharing some thoughts on our experiences as we experience the cultures of India. Please pray for the safety and health of our group. We will remember you each day in our prayers.

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of ourselves, those loci of loss and grief. We are called to invite God into those places in new ways, not to pretend that they will disappear entirely, but that God's transforming love will help us see them through a new light, the healing Light of Christ. Through the self-examination in which we engage during Lent, we gain a broader perspective on our lives, the mountaintops, as well as the valleys, the tableaux of joy and exploration, as well as the dark spaces that surround them. Into the fullness of our lives we invite God, so that he might help us find balance, peace, and the abiding sense of his love for us.

God, too, knows the experience of having holes in his Being. There were five of them: two in his hands, two in his feet, and one in his side. It was the Apostle Thomas who was first invited to reach his hand into those holes, to know the "tense, shining dullness of the space where the memories are," the memories of the deep and abiding love of God that seeks our healing and wholeness.

I hope earnestly that you will not let this Lent go by without engaging the holes in your life. Seek the balance and peace of knowing that grief and loss is but another side of love and belonging. Reflect on the breaks that are the result of choices you have made, and ask God to help you repair them so that your relationship with God and others can be restored. Finally, be willing to place your hand into the holes that exist in the being of God, "feel that tense, shining dullness of the space where the memories are," the memories of the deep and abiding love he has for you. That is the source of our life, the strength for our journey, and our hope for eternity.



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The season of Lent, the forty days leading up to Easter Day, begins with Ash Wednesday. In that service, the celebrant reads these words: "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." There are many opportunities at the Cathedral for living into this invitation.

Ash Wednesday is February 10

- 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
- 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
- 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes (family friendly) in Kaseman Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes. Music by the Cathedral Choir. Bishop Vono will preach.

Prayer Opportunities in Lent

Stations of the Cross will be offered each Friday in Lent, starting February 12 at noon, led by the Society of Mary. All are welcome. This is a deeply reflective way to follow the final hours of Jesus' life in prayer, scripture, and chant.

Lent Study Opportunities

Monday Discussion Group meets Monday at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. The group is currently studying the *Gospel of Thomas*. All are welcome. Contact Canon Drinkwater.

Family Resources for Lent are on the Cathedral website (stjohnsabq.org/education/family-resources), click on Seasonal Resources. You'll find things to do with children and for personal Lenten enrichment.

Lent Retreats

Brotherhood of St. Andrew Conference for men is February 25-27 at the Bosque Center. This promises to be an extraordinary opportunity for Spiritual Growth. Cost is \$100 for the retreat or \$181 for retreat and lodging. Contact Tom Bates (tombates@dishmail.net) to register.

Mysterious Lent: a Retreat for Women of the Diocese will be held on March 5 at Epiphany Episcopal Church in Socorro. The Very Rev. Canon Carole McGowan will lead a discussion of the Mystery of God and mystery novels. Registration is \$20. Forms are in the Gallery and at MysteriousLent.eventsbot.com.