



St James Episcopal Cathedral

We are pilgrims on The Way

For those who feel called to this ministry, please send a pdf of your OTM profile and resume to:
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Called to be...The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

St James Cathedral is located in Fresno, California. It is the Cathedral church of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, which spans the Central Valley of California. The diocese includes 19 worshipping communities, the Cathedral, and the Episcopal Conference Center at Oakhurst (ECCO). We are a diocese of resurrection having spent the last decade involved in litigation, and celebrated our renewal with the Presiding Bishop's Revival in November 2016, when our Bishop, David Rice, was also installed as our Diocesan Bishop. We are a diocese that finds itself exploring the spaces between the ellipses in our visioning statement "Called to be..."

The Community of St James...Our Story

During the past several months, the congregation of St James has been participating in several discernment activities which have allowed us to consider who we are, what we value, what our strengths and challenges are, and how we're being called to be the Cathedral.

Advent 1 of 2016, the congregation moved from Holy Family to the Cathedral, under the guidance of the previous Rector. While there was some anxiety about moving to a new physical location, the majority of the congregation was open to making this change. Our average Sunday attendance is 150, and there are 300 families on the rolls.

Immediately upon moving in, the Food Bank was restarted by a group of committed volunteers. While they started by serving approximately 20 families on Wednesdays, they are now up to approximately 200 families, every Wednesday. Food Bank volunteers include not only church members, but also individuals who are also clients of the Food Bank.

At the same time the Food Bank reopened, the Thrift Store was revitalized. The Thrift Store offers clothing for all ages, household items, and some religious items for purchase. This ministry, like the Food Bank, is facilitated by a group of dedicated volunteers. Proceeds from the Thrift Store go to support the ministry of the Food Bank.

We have a growing Pastoral Care Team, which is headed up by Deacon Nancy Key. The Pastoral Care Team provides visitations to home or hospital bound members, keeps an updated prayer list, and offers spiritual support to anyone in need.

We also have a small, but powerful group of volunteers who live out their faith in action through the Social Justice Policy & Advocacy Team. This team, in consultation with Faith in the Valley (a non-profit PICO organization which rents space in the west end of the administration building), works to bring education to the cathedral community on affordable housing, health care, immigration, and environmental issues.

In December, 2017, the previous Rector who had transitioned the congregation from Holy Family was called to be CFO in the Diocese of Los Angeles. The clergy and congregation of St. James have used this as an opportunity to engage in multiple discernment activities. These have allowed us to consider who we are, what we value, what our strengths and challenges are, and how we're being called to be as the Cathedral.

St James is a Christ-centered community that is rooted in prayer and sacraments, while also seeking ways to live into our faith. Opportunities for service, hospitality, and witness abound both within and outside our walls. Our congregation wants to explore and learn, to deepen our spiritual maturity, and to discover how we're "Called to be..."

We are a passionate community that cares for each other. All of us have gifts of the Spirit that we wish to share in some way with the congregation and the world. Each time that a call goes out for a project or a need, we discover that many people have been quietly waiting for an opportunity to serve. We are looking for a Dean who can help to raise up lay leaders, work collaboratively, and encourage us to share our gifts, skills and ministries with each other.



Worship

Presently there are 2 services held each Sunday at the Cathedral. Previously, there had been three services: 7:30am contemplative, Rite II, no music; 9:00am Taize inspired, Enriching our Worship, small choir; 11:00am Rite II with choir. At the end of 2017, the music director of 8 years retired and we are still in the transition of finding a new permanent music director. The choice to move to move to 2 services was the result of discernment; the congregation felt too spread out and that they didn't know each other.

We also have a bi-weekly Spanish language Eucharist held on Wednesdays which is presided over by a retired priest. While this has been a wonderful teaching tool for non-Spanish speakers, it does not adequately meet the need of our larger community. Prior to our return to the Cathedral, there was a weekly Sunday Eucharist in Spanish; we would like to see that return when we call our new Dean.

One of our growing edges is in claiming our identity as a Cathedral, which includes how we engage not only our congregation, but the diocese. Understanding that we are the center of the diocese means welcoming lay leaders and clergy from different parts of the diocese to participate in liturgy with us. The new Dean will need to be able to work in consultation with the Bishop in planning diocesan liturgies hosted at the Cathedral, and be willing to invite clergy and laity to participate in those services.



Preaching

As a congregation, we are deeply nourished by the preaching we hear each week. We are drawn to preaching that blends scholarship, lived experience and scripture in ways that make the Gospel come alive and is meaningful in our daily lives. We appreciate the diversity of voices that the Cathedral clergy offers—having retired priests, bi-vocational priests, the deacon, the Bishop and/or Canon and the Dean preach gives us a range of perspectives that can push us out of our comfort zones.

We seek a Dean who won't be afraid to take engaging risks in their sermons, and who is willing to share the pulpit regularly with other Cathedral clergy.



Staff and Governance

St James is closely connected with the diocese for staffing and funding reasons. As such, it is important for the Dean to be able to work in consultation and collaboration not only with the laity of the congregation, but the Bishop's Office, Diocesan Council and the Chancellor.

The Chapter of the Cathedral is composed of 13 lay leaders who were elected to serve by the congregation, as well as the Dean, Diocesan Chancellor and the Bishop. The clergy serving the cathedral have seat and voice, but no vote. Each September the Cathedral holds elections for the Chapter, and those elections are then affirmed by Diocesan Convention in October. New Chapter members take office in January. We continue to work on improving communication between the Chapter and the community, but know that this is a growing edge for us.

The following is the staff of the Cathedral:

Acting Dean: The Rt. Rev. David C Rice

Interim: The Rev. Cn. Anna Carmichael

Assisting Priest: The Rev. Cn. Keith Brown (retired)

Assisting Priest: The Rev. Jim McDonald (retired)

Deacon: The Rev. Nancy Key

Music Director: Tim Peargin

Reception: William Patterson

Facilities Manager (also for the Diocese): Gurpreet Singh

At this time there is no church administrator, but William is available to assist as needed. There is also funding in the Cathedral budget for a Youth Minister, but we have held off on filling that position until the Dean arrives.

Role in the Community

St James sits on the corner of Cedar and Dakota, two major streets within Fresno. The campus is 10 acres and has 7 buildings on it, as well as a plot of land that has been “undiscovered”.

In early 2018, the Diocese was able to purchase the building on the furthest corner of campus which had previously housed “New Creation Ministries,” which was a “conversion therapy” center. The Diocese, and the cathedral community, believed that this organization was not in keeping with our value to be a welcoming, inclusive and inviting to all of God’s people. At present, the use of the building is undetermined, but Diocesan Council is in discernment about ways in which that building can provide ministry in the community.

As previously mentioned, the Thrift Store is fully operational, but only open one day per week. There is some significant deferred maintenance on the building (including repainting the exterior). Due to the lack of sufficient heating and cooling of the building, it has been necessary to close the Thrift Store during days that are especially hot or cold.

Zoe Eden Community Hall is a carpeted gymnasium that hosts the weekly Food Bank distribution. The upstairs meeting room is currently rented by Beth David Messianic Temple, which meets on Saturdays. There is also a karate group that uses the gym once a week. There is an additional meeting room downstairs that can be rented to groups. Rental of the gym or the meeting room is coordinated with the Facilities Manager.

The campus also has a 10 room school building with play ground area. This building had previously been rented by a non-profit charter school. The bathrooms need to be renovated to be ADA compliant. The Facilities Manager is working with the Diocesan Chancellor to lease this facility.

The chapel is the smaller of the two worship spaces, and can hold up to 100 people. It has an altar, piano and the columbarium. Around the perimeter of the chapel is a bronze Stations of the Cross, which is open to the public.

The cathedral is the larger of the two worship spaces, and can hold up to 200 people. It has a piano and an organ, as well as a complete sound system. Also in the cathedral is the Fireside Room, which opens up to the worship space via accordion doors.



St James Cathedral: Who God is calling us to be...

Throughout our Listening Sessions, we identified that we feel God is calling us to be a welcoming presence and in service to our community, and that we engage in our ministries being rooted in prayer and sacrament.

In order to be more welcoming and to recognize both the long term members of our community, as well as new comers, we have started a name tag ministry. However, we know this is only scratching the surface. We have a strong desire for a newcomer's class/ministry, as well as other fellowship opportunities that help us connect with one another, God, and our neighbor.

The areas we feel God is calling us to pay attention to are:

--We are hopeful that our new Dean will help us identify our gifts and skills around youth and adult education/formation. We have budgeted for a Youth Minister, but have not begun the search process for that person. This spring the Canon to the Ordinary and Deacon led both the Lenten Soup Suppers, as well as the intergenerational Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation of Faith class. Currently, our Sunday morning adult forum is led by several lay leaders. We have families with young children, but no formation classes; this is a high priority for us.

--We are hopeful that our new Dean will also have a desire for service and see the Cathedral as a place where "church" happens every day of the week. Our Food Pantry is a thriving ministry, and we'd like to

have our new Dean help us discern other ways we may expand upon this ministry by inviting in community service agencies to help meet the needs of our clients. We are also hopeful that our new Dean will encourage and inspire us to engage other ministries that are important in our context—partnering with local schools for tutoring, connecting us more with Faith in the Valley, attending events such as March for our Lives, the Women’s March, etc.

--We are hopeful that our new Dean will help us to live into what it means to be “Cathedral” and the seat of the Diocese. We are curious to learn how to better engage with other congregations in the diocese, including but not limited to: hosting diocesan worship services, hosting diocesan workshops and educational opportunities, hosting the diocesan School for Deacons, etc.



Current Ministry Portfolios

Each Chapter member takes on a Ministry Portfolio at the start of the year; an area for which they have responsibility in working with clergy and lay to assist with the education, formation and life of the Cathedral. At present, these portfolios include:

Communications: The monthly newsletter, the weekly e-news, and the website

Cathedral Life/Fellowship: Easter Brunch, the Easter Egg Hunt, Mass at the Beach, Soup Suppers, Coffee Hour, etc.

Adult Education/Formation: Partnering with Cathedral Life for Lenten soup suppers, Adult Forum on Sundays, weekly Bible Study, Interfaith Scholars Weekend, Confirmation Class, Newcomers Class, etc.

Youth Education/Formation: (These are our dreams) Youth group, Godly Play, Acolyte training, service/outreach projects

Budget & Finance: Preparing the annual budget, Stewardship campaign

Social Justice/Outreach: Partnering with Faith in the Valley on voter registration, candidate forums, immigration reform, health care reform and affordable housing; serving as a sponsor for the LGBTQ film festival in Fresno “Reel Pride”; participating in March for our Lives; participating in the Women’s March, etc.

Food Pantry/Thrift Store: Liaison with the Food Pantry and Thrift Stores to offer operational support
Liturgical Life: Working with clergy and altar guild to plan for the seasons of the church year

Cathedral Partners & Development: Looking for ways to expand the use of the cathedral campus by outside groups to help support the facility; exploring opportunities for planned giving, grants, and other revenue streams



The History of San Joaquin and St James Cathedral

The history of this diocese is one of both Good Friday and the Resurrection. In 1910, the Episcopal Diocese of California, with the consent of General Convention, formed the Missionary District of San Joaquin, which included 14 counties through the Central Valley of California. In 1961, with the approval of General Convention, the Missionary District became the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin.

The diocese became known as one of the more conservative diocese within The Episcopal Church, particularly around issues of the ordination of women and the blessing of same-sex relationships. At the 2007 diocesan convention, a majority of the delegates voted to realign as the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin under the leadership of John-David Schofield. In 2008, Bp. Schofield was deposed by the House of Bishops.

Also in 2008, *Remain Episcopal* (those Episcopalians not aligning with Bp. Schofield), in a special diocesan convention, elected the retired bishop of Northern California, Jerry Lamb, to serve as provisional bishop of the diocese. Executive Council of The Episcopal Church also agreed to offer financial assistance to the reorganizing of the diocese.

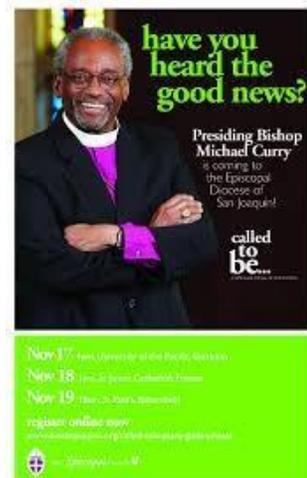
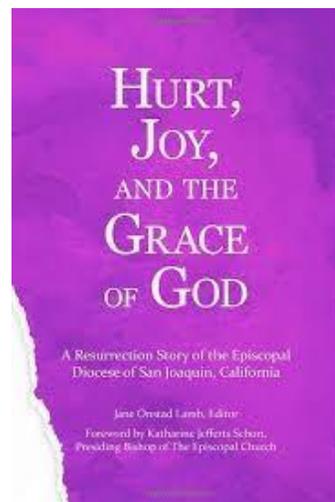
In March 2011, Bp. Chester Talton, was seated as the next provisional bishop following Bp. Lamb, and the reorganizing of the diocese (including litigation over properties) continued.

In March 2014, Bp. Talton retired, and Bp. David Rice of the Anglican Church of New Zealand, was called to serve as provisional bishop. In 2017, Bp. Rice was elected as Bishop Diocesan.

In 2016, the Fifth District Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, thus returning 25 church properties, ECCO (the conference center) and St James Cathedral, to the diocese.

Since that time, the diocese has been engaged in the selling of many of the properties, with the exception of 19 churches, ECCO and St James Cathedral. The diocese was also awarded debt forgiveness in the amount of \$6,000,000 by The Episcopal Church.

In many respects, the cathedral is like a new church plant. The congregation which was formerly located at Holy Family Episcopal Church became the “seed” community for the cathedral, and we are still discerning what that identity means. The diocesan offices of the Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary, as well as the offices for Faith in the Valley are located at the Cathedral, as well as the Dean and Deacon’s offices.



Cathedral Demographics

We are an intergenerational worshipping community, but our largest population is over 65. We are also a predominately Anglo/Caucasian congregation. However, we do have a small percentage of Hispanic/Latino members, as well as a small percentage of African American members. Even with these demographics, we are curious about the possibility of having a bi-lingual/bi-cultural Dean to help us connect more with our surrounding neighborhood.

Given the age range of our congregation, most of our members live either with their spouse/partner, and there are a few families in the congregation as well. Unlike many neighboring congregations, we are an LGBTQ welcoming and affirming congregation, and have historically participated in Fresno Pride.

The congregation is made up of college professors, farmers, teachers, mental health professionals, retirees, small business owners, and those who work in the trade industry. We also have a variety of artists in the congregation, who have been waiting to be invited to utilize their skills for the benefit of the life of the cathedral.



Fresno Community

Originally founded as a railway station, Fresno has become not only a metropolitan area, but is also tied to large-scale agricultural production. In 2016, the census estimate for Fresno was 522,053 and is the fifth most populous city in California. According to 2010 census data, 50% of the city is made up of Caucasians, 46% Hispanic/Latino, 12% Asian, and 8% Black/African American.

Fresno is 220 miles north of Los Angeles, 185 miles southeast of San Francisco, and 170 miles south of Sacramento. Yosemite National Park is 60 miles to the north, Kings Canyon National Park is 60 miles to the east, and Sequoia National Park is 75 miles to the southeast. There are eight distinct neighborhoods making up the city of Fresno, each offering restaurants, museums, theaters and shopping. Fresno is also home California State University, Fresno, Fresno City College, Fresno Pacific University, a minor league baseball team, an international airport, and several military units.

The largest employers in the Fresno area are the medical centers (Community Medical, St Agnes Medical and Kaiser Permanente), the City of Fresno, and Fresno State.

In Conclusion

We seek a Dean who will... **Work collaboratively and consultatively with the laity, cathedral clergy, and diocesan staff

****Foster discipleship and encourage us to take appropriate risks**

****Help us continue to learn and live into what it means to be a Cathedral congregation**

****Help us navigate our growing edges around youth ministry, connecting to our community, and serve as a welcoming and prophetic worshipping congregation**

****Walk with us as we continue to discern who God is calling us to be...**



