



NEWS & NOTES

from the Bishop's office of the Episcopal Diocese of
Spokane

September 2020

Vol 4 | Issue 9

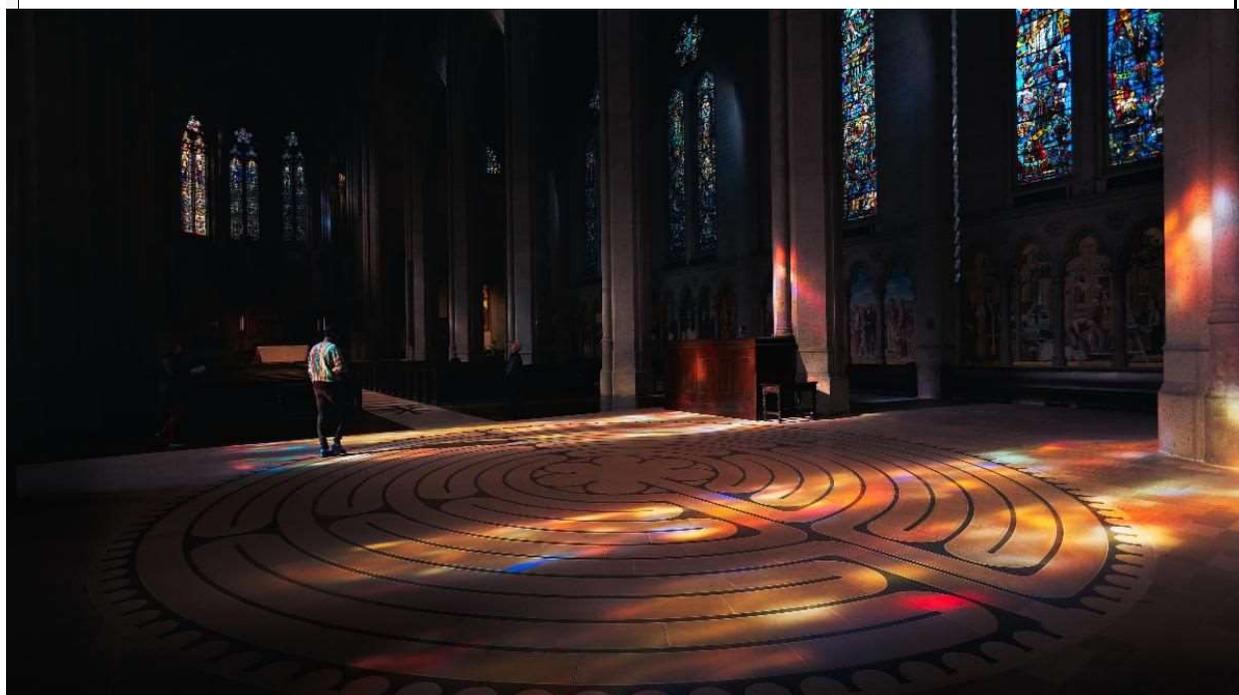


Photo: Erez Attias on Unsplash.

Sacred Space

I have been thinking this past month about sacred space. How do we understand space to be sacred? How do we recognize it? What type of space can

What do we do when the norm is interrupted and our sacred spaces are closed off? This is the time for us to look beyond our normal and seek the sacred in other spaces. Again,

be sacred? All these are questions that I have been reflecting on. If we need an easy definition of sacred space (not the only one), it might be "that place that has been made sacred by God and where we encounter God." The story of Moses as the burning bush: God said to Moses take off your shoes for the ground you are on is sacred. Moses was in the presence of God, he was clearly in sacred space.

Some places are easy to recognize as sacred, some places are way less obvious. I was able to go out to Camp Cross this summer to look at the work being done by the staff, as they worked hard to redo the decks and paint all the buildings. Camp Cross is easy to recognize as sacred space. Your soul sings in delight as soon as you see camp, and continues to sing as you sit on the deck, pray on the dock, walk the trails, and worship in the many outdoor chapels. Camp Cross has the advantage of being sacred space in nature and in buildings. It is truly a treasure of our diocese. Our cathedral is another obvious sacred space, serving the whole diocese, and the whole city. Our cathedral stands as a beacon on the hill over Spokane, calling out to all to come and worship in the beauty of holiness. Indeed, all of our congregation's buildings invite us to enter into sacred space, enter and encounter God, and be in fellowship with one another. This is one reason why this past summer has been so difficult for many of us, our sacred spaces have not been available in our normal ways.

some of those are obvious, and some harder to see. This summer I bought an RV and mom and I have been camping. Nature is a place we can encounter God. God created all that exists and called it holy. Everywhere we go can be seen as sacred, as made sacred by God and a place to encounter God. The challenge of course is that humans have also put their mark on nature, and it is not always easy to see the sacred in a landfill, or the ditches alongside roads that are full of trash. Perhaps that is when we can see the sacred in the highway clean-up signs, indicators that people care enough to pick up trash left by others.

What about Zoom meetings and live-streaming, can we come to find those as sacred spaces as well? For many of us we are spending significant hours each day on our computer, using Zoom and other platforms as a way to connect with others, even to worship together. We don't normally think about the internet as sacred space, but perhaps we can begin to see it in this way, as a way where we can encounter God.

Perhaps the reality is that any space has the possibility of being sacred space if we open our eyes to God, who is present there. For there is no place where God is not present, no place we can go to hide from God, no place that God does not love as part of God's own creation. So the only real question is whether or not our eyes can be open to the sacred that is always around us. May you find the sacred in all the spaces of your life this month.

+Gretchen

From the Bishop's office:

ONLINE WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

As congregations are continuing their own worship, and more begin online or in-person services, we would still like to offer online worship to the diocese. We will join our Cathedral starting Sept 13th.

For September we will offer our Cathedral's 9:00am worship starting on the 13th.

Sept. 6th - 10:30am - Bishop Rehberg and Margaret Rehberg to offer Morning Prayer

Sept. 13th - 9:00am - The Cathedral of St. John to offer Morning Prayer with Hymns

Sept. 20th - 9:00am - The Cathedral of St. John to offer Morning Prayer with Hymns

Sept. 27th - 9:00am - The Cathedral of St. John to offer Morning Prayer with Hymns

Find information on how to access this online worship on our [online worship page](#).

IN-PERSON EVENTS & VISITATIONS CANCELLED FOR FALL

On advice of Diocesan Council, all in-person meetings have been moved online, and in-person events have been cancelled. In-person visitations will also be cancelled, but the Bishop and diocesan staff will be working with individual congregations to set-up alternative online visits.

ACCEPTING CONVENTION NOMINATIONS

The nominations for diocesan convention form is now open and ready for submissions. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving on a diocesan committee or board, you may nominate them by using the diocesan form here. Diocesan Convention will vote on all nominees at the coming Diocesan Convention 2020 (Online).

Seeking nominations for:

- **Secretary of Convention**
 - Nominate and elect one clergy OR one lay for a one-year term
- **Standing Committee**

- Nominate and elect one clergy AND one lay person for a four-year term
- **Diocesan Council**
 - Nominate and elect two members for a 3-year term, clergy or lay.

[Read more on the Diocesan convention website](#)

[[Nominate Now](#)]

CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

We have some exciting workshops to bring the entire diocese this year for our online Convention on October 17, 2020. These workshops are completely free and open to anyone in the diocese to attend. The catch is you can only choose 1. Each workshop will run online, Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 9am to 12pm noon. We are pairing with amazing leaders from the Episcopal Church to offer 3 workshops:

Welcome and Belonging in the Digital Sphere - 9am-12pm Sat., Oct. 17, 2020

[\[REGISTER\]](#) **Deadline to register, October 1, 2020**

How to connect with those joining your congregation digitally, taking them from watchers to active participants - beyond Sunday morning.

In this workshop we cover four main points:

- How to make the pivot from in-person expectations to online expressions.
- Why engaging everyone in the work matters.
- What digital hospitality looks like.
- Where intentional community can happen.

This workshop is offered by Jerusalem Greer, staff officer for evangelism for the Episcopal Church, in consultation with members of our diocese.

Becoming Beloved Community NOW - 9am-12pm Sat., Oct. 17, 2020

[\[REGISTER\]](#) **Deadline to register, October 1, 2020**

In this workshop, The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop, will help us to deepen our commitment to the long-term work of racial healing, justice and reconciliation. They will offer an engaging "walk" through the Becoming Beloved Community labyrinth, with an emphasis on Truth (telling the truth about our fraught history with racism), Justice (repairing broken systems that ravage native, black, brown and asian people) and Healing (breaking the hold white

supremacy in our culture and ourselves). Learn more about the Episcopal Church's commitment to Becoming Beloved Community at www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community.

Tilling our fields and planting new seeds - 9am-12pm Sat., Oct. 17, 2020

[REGISTER] Deadline to register, October 1, 2020

The Rev. Katie Nakamura, the staff offer for Church planting for the Episcopal Church, working with members of our diocese, will bring us lessons from the church planting world for all of our congregations today. What can we learn from those congregations just getting started about how we can plant new seeds? What lessons are they learning that apply to each of our places now? How can "old" congregations learn from the "new" so that all may have new life? This workshop will help all of us learn new ways of doing ministry, and remind us of some old ways!

PAULSEN HOUSE CLOSED UNTIL PHASE 4

Our offices will be closed in an abundance of caution, until phase 4 of the Washington State Governor's phased reopening plan. We will be working from home and will be checking our email frequently. If you leave a message at the diocesan office, please know we will be checking our voicemail weekly.

Labor Day Office Closure 9/4-9/7

BISHOP'S SEPT & OCT SCHEDULE

Find the diocesan calendar [online here](#).

Date	Itinerary Item	Location
9/4-7	Labor Day Office Closure	Diocesan Office
9/11	COM Meeting	Online
9/18	Diocesan Council	Online
9/26	Fall Gathering Day	Online
10/17	Convention Workshops	Online
10/17	56th Annual Diocesan Convention	Online

Please note there are regular Zoom meetings for lay leaders with the Bishop held Thursdays at 7:00pm and regular Zoom meetings for clergy with the Bishop, held Tuesdays at 11:00am and 7:00pm.*

[Episcopal Diocese of Spokane](#)

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See what's happening on our social sites



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