



# Open

*Journal of the Associated Parishes for Liturgy & Mission*

A Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2007

## Shape of liturgy

*"The mission of the church must be that which God is up to. It must be that cosmic, that important, that good." So begins Joe Morris Doss' inspiring article on how Justin Martyr's 2<sup>nd</sup> century description of liturgy reveals the heart of the Church's mission. How do we know that thanksgiving and justice are our mission in Christ? Our ancient liturgy reminds us every week, says Bp. Doss.*

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## Emerging worship

*What implications does the emerging church have for Episcopal worship? This article by an investigative priest, moved by the*



*missionary liveliness of the emerging church, describes the genius and weakness of this new movement, and how it might be a resource for the renewal of our own missional tradition.*

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## Gathering & Sending

*The end and the beginning of our Eucharistic worship are not the bookends of the liturgy; they are, says John Hill, the bookends of our daily baptismal life. In that light, what intention do we bring to these vital moments in our common worship? How might we re-think our "gathering and sending" rites?*

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## Chaplain's column

*Where can we find active, creative re-imagining of Eucharistic community? Let's look the renewal of college and university chaplaincies says Amy McCreath, chaplain at MIT. This inaugural column describes the unique lifeways of college students, and how one campus ministry is celebrating and marking them. The first in a series.*

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## Rochester Jazz

*What does good liturgy look like? This is the first in a series of "Real Stories of Good Liturgy." From a member of a parish in Rochester, we read a sparkling description of a spectacular Jazz Mass. Carlos Mercado brings the downbeats alive.*

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## IALC Review

*The International Anglican Liturgical Consultation (IALC) has been a leading voice in the development of the liturgy for over twenty years. Leonel Mitchell reviews an historical of this group and its work for the Anglican Communion.*

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FROM THE EDITOR

## Welcome, Join, Share...

Liturgy is life itself – revealed, honored, understood, and engaged.

This is the theme of our articles in this issue of *Open*. In the second century liturgy of Justin Martyr, we see the essence of our lives in God understood as Eucharistic thanksgiving and Kingdom justice. On MIT's campus, in the work of the Lutheran Episcopal Ministry, liturgy serves to connect students' daily lives to the ongoing work of God in their midst. At a parish in Rochester, a Jazz Mass reveals God's rhythms in backbeat and roll.

This work of careful awareness and creation has been the work of APLM since its founding. When Episcopal liturgists gathered in the 40s yearning to bring renewal and life to

average United States (and now Canadian) parishes, they were attempting to re-engage a worshipping people with the spirit of the living God inherent in the ancient liturgies we had inherited. The work continues, with passion, scholarship, joyfulness, and enormous trust in the God we together worship and serve.

If you are an old friend of APLM's, welcome back to *Open*. If you are new to us and our work, enjoy this fruit of our shared exploration and practice. When you are done, I invite you to a series of possible actions:

**NOTICE** Go back to your parish with new eyes, appreciative of the ways in which the liturgy engages God's own holy life, and notice your desire for that when the liturgy falls short. Engage your imagination and engage your community.

## Christ Church, Rochester, New York Jazz Mass, June 2007

by **Carlos Mercado**, member, Christ Church



Each June, Christ Church is in the middle of the Rochester International Jazz Festival which has grown in six years from 15,000 to over 100,000 and hosts big names like Wynton Marsalis and Dave Brubeck as well as some spectacular up and coming musicians. Down Beat and the New York Times both have deemed it one of the four best jazz fests in the nation, along with Newport and New Orleans.

For the second year, we held a Jazz Mass with Fr. Tim Elliott of Toronto as musician and preacher. Tim spent 25 years in Parish Ministry and now has his own practice helping folks discern their life's calling and how to improvise to achieve it. He is a gifted jazz pianist and first-rate preacher.

We filled the nave (except for the organ construction zone at the rear of course) and hosted many out of town visitors, which is always good. I remember jazz services back in the 60s, and I thought they were a bit hokey, but I have grown and also jazz musicians understand their relation to liturgy much better. Thank you, Duke Ellington!!!

This year our musicians were Tim on piano, assisted by Russell Miller from Eastman School, Mitsu Ogihara on acoustic bass, Charlie Dye on drums, and Sam Sommers offering vocals.

The prelude was "Night and Day." (Which of course raises the liturgical question – should this be used at Vespers instead? I suspect no liturgical damage was done.) The opening hymn was "O God our Help" sung to a swinging 3/4 beat with improvs. For the Song of Praise, we sang "Blue Skies Shining on Me." Given the spectacular summer weather we were having, it was an inspired decision. Perhaps at Christmas we'll use "Let it Snow." (One of our choir members has actually composed an Anglican Chant to those chords!) Psalm 30 was read with Tim improvising behind it; that was when we could see the blending of musical and theological education come forth.

Tim is a great preacher. We began the sermon by singing (without warning) the old camp song "O Tell Me Why" and he built upon that. He reminded us that we don't know why most of the time. In fact behind us, time is closed, but before us it is open and only closed to the cynic. He ended inviting us to reflect on the great Jerome Kern tune "All the Things You Are."

We sang Amazing Grace at the offertory. I think this hymn has been way overdone at every public gathering and civic funeral; it is as if America knows but one hymn. Still, when you get it in the hands of great jazz musicians, new life gets breathed into it. It does work best as an old blues tune. The Sanctus was from a Chicago Jazz Mass of Andrew Tecson. It would work on any Sunday, and I would like to hear the entire setting. During Communion, Sam (a bass) sang "Let us Break Bread together" and "There's a Balm in Gilead." Since we had an unusually large number receiving, Tim thoughtfully added another great bit of theology by playing "I'm Beginning to See the Light." Our closing hymn was "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." The tune was written by a Canadian and the words by an American. We all know it from Sunday School, eh? Charlie started off with a New Orleans drum beat, worthy of a procession from Elysian Fields, and we rocked into the old hymn. We have a friend in Jesus who is also a good dancer!

Given the glorious weather and success of previous years, the Rochester International Jazz Festival drew 120,000 during its nine days. Now we are meeting with its founder, John Nugent, to plan a series at Christ Church next June to host a series of jazz artists from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Anyone see the ethnocentric connection between Church & Jazz? And, best of all, Fr. Tim Elliott will be back, too. It is always good to praise God, but it is really fun to do it with jazz.

*Carlos Mercado has been a member of APLM's Council since 1987. He lives in Rochester, NY with his wife, APLM Coordinator Trina, and is in the deregulated energy field. He is a member of Christ Church in the center of the city and is active in both Church and community affairs, especially those dealing with urban rail transit. He has sung in his parish choir for thirty years and currently chairs its Music Committee.*

**RESPOND** If you had a reaction to an article, please email me at [editor@aplm.org](mailto:editor@aplm.org). We are looking for both short letters to the editor, and longer responses.

**WRITE** We welcome submissions. If you have an idea for an article, please email me at [editor@aplm.org](mailto:editor@aplm.org) and share it with me. (However, we cannot guarantee the publishing of unsolicited articles.)

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**SHARE** If you are already a member, give a membership to a friend.

**NETWORK** If you belong to another organization or have a blog, please link *Open* and/or *APLM's* website where it is appropriate. And let us know!

Peace,  
Leslie Nipps  
*Open* editor

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Although we cannot guarantee publication, all submissions (preferably Word files sent electronically), cartoons, letters, and other communications may be sent to the editor at [editor@associatedparishes.org](mailto:editor@associatedparishes.org).

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