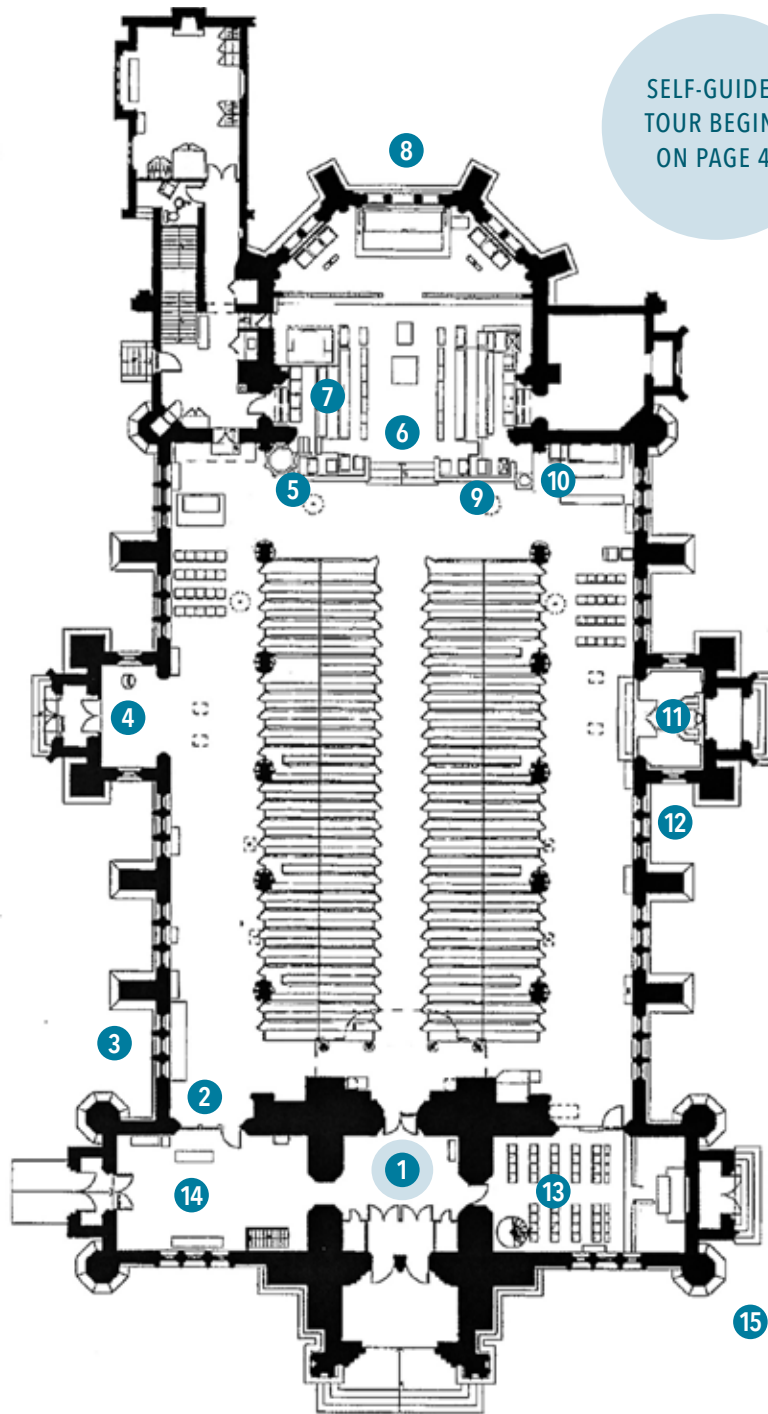


# ST JAMES CATHEDRAL

**HISTORY** & SELF-GUIDED TOUR





SELF-GUIDED  
TOUR BEGINS  
ON PAGE 4.

## A LITTLE HISTORY

AT RIGHT: THE FIRST ST JAMES CHURCH, 1816 ETCHING



St James is the Cathedral Church of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

In 1793 a new Lieutenant Governor, John Graves Simcoe, arrived in the newly-created territory of Upper Canada. He chose the town of York, later Toronto, as the site of the capital.

By 1797 a piece of land had been set aside for a church. Parliament buildings and a fort were the first buildings to be constructed. Christian services were held in the parliament buildings for 10 years before a church was constructed on the site. The first church was a simple wooden structure in the Georgian style, its door opening onto a lane now known as Church Street. The church opened on Easter Sunday, 1807.

This first church was soon too small for the growing population. In 1818 the church was extended, with a door opening onto King Street, complete with a tower housing the town's first bell. Known simply as 'the Church' in York, it was not until 1828 that it was dedicated to St James. Soon after, it was demolished and a larger stone church built in the Classical style that could seat 2,000.

Two fires proved to be critical moments in the life of the church in the 19th century. The first was in 1839. The building was not yet completed, and lacked a tower. The rebuild after the fire included the missing tower. In August 1839 its rector, John Strachan (pronounced *strawn*, in old Scots style), was consecrated as the first Bishop of Toronto. What had been a simple parish church had become a Cathedral housing the Bishop's seat – *cathedra* being the Latin for chair.

That first Cathedral was destroyed 10 years later by another fire that started a block away on Holy Saturday, 1849. A burning ember landed on the tower, and people could only watch helplessly as fire took hold and the tower collapsed.

This second fire enabled the congregation to build a new Cathedral suitable for an expanding city. By this time, the Gothic style was considered the ideal form of church architecture. An international competition was held to design a Gothic-styled cathedral. British-born Toronto architect Frederic Cumberland won – and the Gothic Revival Cathedral of today, built of local brick and Ohio stone, opened on June 19, 1853.

The tower, pinnacles, and porches were completed in 1874 to the design of architect Henry Langley, first Chair of Architecture at Toronto University. The illuminated clock was installed the following year as a gift from the citizens of Toronto.



# A SELF-GUIDED TOUR

 **OBSERVE**  **SYMBOLISM**  **MY JOURNEY**

## 1 NARTHEX (MAIN ENTRANCE)

 **OBSERVE** Note the patterned tile floor. The tiles are early 20th century French, from Paray-le-Monial, world famous for its handmade tiles. On the wall is a small carving commemorating the ordination here in 1960 of the first Inuit priest into the Canadian Church. Overhead is the tallest church spire in Canada that not only houses our carrillon bells made in Troy, N.Y., but also a peal of 12 change-ringing bells installed in 1997. As you go through the glass doors into the nave (main body) of the Cathedral, note the shield etched into the glass with emblems of St James. The ship recalls the boat in which he was fishing when called by Jesus, and the ships that carried pilgrims to his shrine at Compostela. Pilgrims carry walking staffs like the one shown, and on their return wear scallop shells to show they have completed their pilgrimage. Shells also symbolize baptism. The sword commemorates James's martyrdom.

 **SYMBOLISM** The Narthex is a place of entry and preparation. St James is patron saint of pilgrims, and the glass etchings symbolise key moments on the spiritual journey.

 **MY JOURNEY** Where am I on the journey of faith? Embarking? Weary? Expectant? Uncertain?

## 2 FLAG (LEFT CORNER, BEFORE WINDOWS)

 **OBSERVE** This flag (known as a colour) was not moved into St George's Chapel with the others from the Royal Regiment of Canada (see section 14) because it was too fragile. It will hang here until it turns to dust.

 **SYMBOLISM** Throughout history, flags have symbolised deeply held values.

 **MY JOURNEY** What are the deeply held values I live by?

## 3 NAVE WINDOWS (WEST AISLE, ON LEFT AS YOU ENTER)

 **OBSERVE** The nave windows are by Clayton Bell of London, England. The first set of three (left) depicts two people instrumental in the English Church: King Alfred the Great (871-899), and Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury (959-988). The second set of three shows



King John signing the Magna Carta in 1215 at Runnymede. The next window portrays the Reformation in England and the separation of the Anglican Church from the supremacy of Rome. It shows Hugh Latimer or Nicholas Ridley, preaching before King Edward VI in 1550. When Mary became Queen in 1553, both men were arrested and burned at the stake in Oxford. The last two sets of three windows, near the organ pipes, depict the start of the Anglican Church in Canada. One shows the consecration of the first Bishop for the Colonies, John Inglis. The other shows Bishop John Strachan, presiding over the first synod of the Diocese in Holy Trinity Church in 1851 (the Cathedral was still under construction). Above, he holds the plans for the Cathedral, with angels holding pictures of his two foundations: St James Cathedral and Trinity College.

 **SYMBOLISM** Stained glass windows tell stories. They help us locate our lives in a bigger story.

 **MY JOURNEY** What bigger story is my life a part of?

## 4 MID-WEST PORCH

 **OBSERVE** The white marble baptism font was the only item to survive the fire of 1849. Note the small 1960s windows. The ones on the south side show the first church of 1807, the present Cathedral, and a group of Indigenous Peoples representing the remote missions of the Canadian Church. The high window above, one of the most beautiful in the Cathedral, shows the three Marys being greeted by the angel at Christ's tomb on Easter morning. It was made by the Robert McCausland Co of Toronto. Note too the memorial to Captain John Henry Gamble of HM 17th Regiment of Foot killed while serving in Afghanistan in 1879.

 **SYMBOLISM** This porch is full of history, including a font that survived one of the Cathedral's two great fires.

 **MY JOURNEY** What in my home would I most want to rescue from a fire, and why?

## 5 PULPIT

 **OBSERVE** The pulpit was installed in its present position in 1870. The paintings on the plaques were by Sydney Watson, Principal of the Ontario College of Art and a parishioner of the Cathedral. They depict the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, as well as St James blessing the congregation. Note how the pulpit is shaped like a chalice, with bunches of grapes hanging below representing the Eucharist (also known as Mass, Holy Communion, or Sacrament) and the blood of Christ (the wine of the Eucharist).



? **SYMBOLISM** The pulpit is where sermons are preached, the Bible expounded. Here, the eucharistic imagery links Word and Sacrament.

👣 **MY JOURNEY** What does the Bible mean to me? And the Eucharist? Have you heard of the good news of God's love for you?

## 6 CHANCEL & CHOIR

🔍 **OBSERVE** Look up to the ceiling, and you may make out the faces of angels. Toronto artist Gustav Hahn painted the ceiling with angels peering down through acanthus leaves at the knot garden patterned tiles below. The tiles were made by Maw & Co of Staffordshire, England. Note the border of grape vines at the top of the steps as you move toward the High Altar. To the right of the High Altar is the *cathedra*, the Bishop's seat, while the *sedilia* seating on either side of the Altar is used by clergy and assistants during services. The carved oak choir stalls date from 1889, while the brass plaque on the floor is in memory of those whose remains lie in the crypt below, including the first Bishop of Toronto, John Strachan, and the first Dean, Henry Grasett. A panel on the floor commemorates the Worldwide Anglican Congress held in Toronto in 1963.

? **SYMBOLISM** Angels and vines carry spiritual meanings: angels are divine messengers; vines represent fruitfulness, abundance, and connection to God (as branches draw life from the vine). Jesus describes himself as the 'true vine'.

👣 **MY JOURNEY** When have I felt connected to God? Do I feel connected to God today?

## 7 ORGAN

🔍 **OBSERVE** The organ by SR Warren of Montréal has undergone many changes since its installation soon after the Cathedral opened. The firm of Casavant Frères undertook a major overhaul in 1936, and a further tonal revision in 1967. The organ now has over 5,000 pipes controlled by a moveable console installed by JW Walker & Sons in 1979. A new console, built by Orgues Létourneau Organ Builders of Québec, and given in honour of Shafeek Farah, a Palestinian priest, was installed in 2023. His signature may be seen at the back of the console. The elaborately carved organ casings are the work of Toronto firm Jacques & Hay.

? **SYMBOLISM** The organ leads the singing of the Cathedral. It offers worship to God and builds community, as well as stirring the emotions.



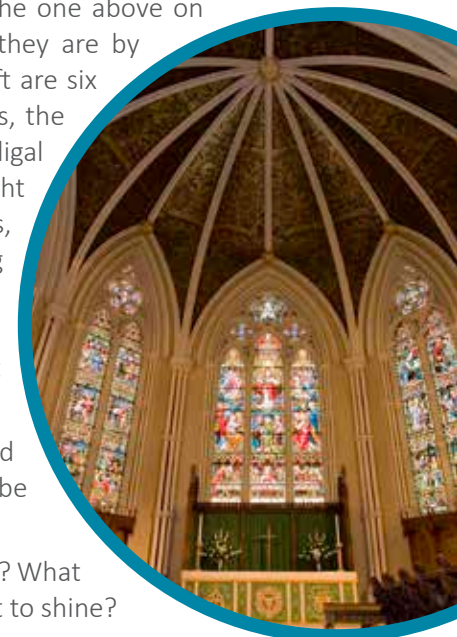
👣 **MY JOURNEY** When have I felt closest to God and a worshipping community, if ever?

## 8 WINDOWS OVER & AROUND THE HIGH ALTAR

🔍 **OBSERVE** Some of the windows above the High Altar were inspired by famous paintings. The lower is based on the *Last Supper* by da Vinci, and the one above on the *Ascension* by Raphael. Dating from the late 1880s, they are by the Franz Mayer Company of Munich, Germany. To the left are six windows based on parables of Jesus, including the Talents, the Pharisee and the Publican, the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the Sower, and the Wise and Foolish Virgins. On the right are 'Works of Mercy': tending the sick, visiting prisoners, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, and providing food and drink to the hungry. These are by Clayton Bell of London, England. The windows on the left feature four prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. On the right are the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

? **SYMBOLISM** Stained glass windows are objects of beauty and tell stories. They also allow light into what would otherwise be a dark space.

👣 **MY JOURNEY** What are the places where light gets into my life? What are the dark places and situations where I desire God's light to shine?



## 9 EAGLE LECTERN

🔍 **OBSERVE** The eagle lectern is next to the Dean's stall and was presented to the Cathedral by Catherine Lyon Cameron in 1889. It became a common practice to use an eagle lectern for the reading of the Bible and prayers of intercession in the medieval church. Note the four lions protecting this sacred spot.

? **SYMBOLISM** The lectern is where the Bible is read in services, and prayers offered. An eagle symbolizes intellect, inspiration and soaring to great heights. In the context of the Christian Church, it is associated with John due to the soaring, theological nature of his gospel. The outstretched wings of the eagle symbolize the spreading of the word of God to the world. Lions symbolize strength, courage and protection.

👣 **MY JOURNEY** Where do I draw inspiration and strength?





## 10 ICON

**Q OBSERVE** The Vladimir Mother of God Icon, presented to the Cathedral in 2001, is one of a series entitled *Lovingkindness* (the name Vladimir is based on the Russian city of Vladimir, once home to a famous icon). This type of icon became popular in Russia for expressing human feelings and warmth. The Mother grieves at the coming Passion of the Son; Christ's arm reaches round her neck, and his cheek is pressed against hers, emphasizing his human nature and understanding, as well as great tenderness and love.

**? SYMBOLISM** An icon is an image from the Eastern Christian tradition. Icons are seen as more than just paintings: they are seen as sacred images, aids to worship, a window into heaven.

**👣 MY JOURNEY** What 'windows into heaven' do I have in my life?



## 11 BAPTISTRY

**Q OBSERVE** The original mid-east porch was converted into the present day Baptistry in 1891 by the Nordheimer family, in memory of their two sons who died of diphtheria in childhood. The font, of cast bell metal, is large enough for complete immersion. On the wall to the left of the Baptistry is a replica Saxon cross from Canterbury, England. These crosses were distributed to Anglican cathedrals across the British Empire by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in 1932. On the wall to the left of the font is a hanging icon of the Trinity designed and stitched by Toronto artist Doris McCarthy, showing God the Father and Son, and the Holy Ghost represented by a dove. The window above, by Franz Mayer of Munich, shows Christ blessing children.

**? SYMBOLISM** Baptism marks the entry point into Christian faith. For some this happens in childhood, while others are baptised as adults. Either way, the language of baptism carries powerful symbolism of water washing away impurities and giving life.

**👣 MY JOURNEY** When have I experienced forgiveness and a fresh start? Are there any new beginnings around the corner for me?

## 12 NAVE WINDOWS (EAST AISLE)

**Q OBSERVE** The first window in the series (near the organ pipes) shows the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It was designed by Edward Sperry of New York from Tiffany glass, and installed circa 1905 as a memorial to Diane Jarvis. Diane died of shock on hearing of her friend Augusta Strachan's death. They had a double funeral in the Cathedral, and the

memorial window to Augusta Strachan (daughter-in-law to the Bishop) is next to the Jarvis window and shows the conversion of St Paul on the road to Damascus.

We acknowledge the sad reality that William Jarvis and his wife Hannah were slave owners who objected to Simcoe's plans to abolish slavery in Upper Canada. Continuing past the Baptistry, you see Pope Gregory sending St Augustine, who would become the first Archbishop of Canterbury, to England as a missionary in 596. Next is St Hilda (614-680) in a window designed by NT Lyon Co of Toronto. She was a great educator in the days before universities, and ruled over monasteries at Whitby in Yorkshire. The final window on the aisle shows Caedmon, the first English poet to tell the Gospel stories in the English language, and the Venerable Bede, shown writing his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* in his monk's cell at Jarrow.

**? SYMBOLISM** The Holy Spirit (seen in the first window) represents God's empowering presence. The New Testament tells of Jesus receiving the Spirit in the form of a dove, and the disciples receiving the Spirit as tongues of fire.

**👣 MY JOURNEY** What empowers me on the journey of life? How do I understand the Holy Spirit?

## 13

## ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL

**Q OBSERVE** This area commemorates the Silver Jubilee of George V, great-grandfather of the present King. The main set of three windows shows the dome of St Paul's Cathedral, where the Jubilee service was held. Over it is a dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit. Next to the King are Queen Mary, and his eldest son, who abdicated from the throne and became the Duke of Windsor in 1937. Below is Primate of Canada Derwyn Owen, and Archbishop of Canterbury Cosmo Lang. Below them is St George, patron saint of England, and figures representing countries of the Empire. Canada is symbolized by a lumberjack, with local philanthropist William Cawthra as patron in the centre. This window was designed by Peter Haworth, Head of Art at Central Technical School, Toronto, from a sketch by Tony Adamson. Peter Haworth, with the assistance of Gladys Allen, was also responsible for the window over the altar. Unveiled in 1939, it depicts the risen, glorified Christ with outstretched arms. The Holy Spirit in the form of a dove showers divine light from heaven. The Chapel is home to the colours (flags) of the Royal Regiment of Canada (*see also section 2*).



? **SYMBOLISM** The Chapel is full of history: royalty, Canada, Empire, armed forces, biblical images.

👣 **MY JOURNEY** What community's history am I a part of? What is valuable in that history? What needs to be rethought in changing times?

## 14 WEST PORCH (SIDE ENTRANCE)

🔍 **OBSERVE** The modern window was commissioned by the Governor General's Horse Guards as a memorial to members of the Regiment, and unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II on June 29, 1997, during the Cathedral's bicentennial celebrations. Designed by Stuart Reid of Toronto, it depicts the calling of St James. The colours are full of symbolism. Red is a symbol of blood, martyrdom, and courage (St James was first apostle to be martyred). Blue (around St John, here following his brother to Christ) is associated with the Spirit and faith. Note the busts of John Strachan, first Bishop of Toronto, Dean Grasett, the first Dean, and Chief Justice Draper. The large banner depicting the church buildings that have stood on the site over the past 200 years was designed by Merv Patey and Danny Fobert of Screen Art in Toronto.

? **SYMBOLISM** The West Porch uses symbolism of colours, pointing deeper to spiritual themes.

👣 **MY JOURNEY** Am I someone who finds wonder and deeper meanings in the everyday things of life?

## 15 GARDEN & GROUNDS

🔍 **OBSERVE** The cross on the west lawn along the Church Street side of the Cathedral was erected in 1924 after the First World War. Look north towards the Cathedral Centre and you will see the extension added to the Cathedral in 1953 to house a vestry and sacristy. St James' Park on the east side of the Cathedral is on land originally owned by the Cathedral. It was sold for a nominal fee to the City in 1959, on the condition that it be made into a park. The Garden in the park was installed in 1981 by the Garden Club of Toronto.

? **SYMBOLISM** The Cathedral is set in nature, and its grounds are tended as a garden.

👣 **MY JOURNEY** How do I respect and value the beauty of God's creation?



## WAYS TO GIVE



The Cathedral Church of St James exists today through the gifts of time, talent and treasure of both past and present members of the Cathedral community. Through you, we can continue to be witnesses to the salvation of God given to us in Jesus Christ – right here at the corner of King and Church Streets and to those whom we are called to serve beyond our doors. May the story of St James be one that inspires you to give generously to help the Cathedral continue in its mission to be a “symbol of God’s love, a community inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and ones who serve with compassion and mercy.

Your financial support of the Cathedral is so important to our continuing ministries. We thank you and deeply appreciate your generosity.

See below for details on different ways to make your donation:

- Scan the QR code above.
- Online at [stjamescathedral.ca/donate/give-online](https://stjamescathedral.ca/donate/give-online)
- E-transfer at [gifts@stjamescathedral.ca](mailto:gifts@stjamescathedral.ca)
- In person/by mail to 65 Church Street, Toronto, ON M5C 2E9.
- Ask for our Giving Card at the back of the church.

## SERVICE TIMES

### MONDAY TO SATURDAY

**8:30AM** Online Morning Prayer (WATCH IT ON THE CATHEDRAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL)  
**12:15PM** Holy Eucharist

### SUNDAYS

**8:00AM** Said Eucharist  
**9:00AM** Sung Eucharist  
**11:00AM** Choral Eucharist (ALSO LIVE-STREAMED ON THE DIOCESAN YOUTUBE CHANNEL)  
**4:30PM** Choral Evensong (ALSO LIVE-STREAMED ON THE CATHEDRAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL)

**SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:** At the 9:00am and the 11:00am services.

**SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR:** After the 9:00am and the 11:00am services.



# THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST JAMES

THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO - ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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