



October 29, 2025

Dear Members of St. A's,

If you had to pick a favorite song, what would it be?

Music is a powerful presence in our lives. It helps us celebrate, mourn, reflect, and feel the wonder and struggle of being alive. Music builds hope, culture, and community. For my part, one of the best parts of being a priest is that I get to sing while I work. What makes it even better is that I get to sing with all of you! St. Augustine of Hippo famously said that when we sing, we pray twice. Have you noticed that when we sing together, the whole church, the Body of Christ, breathes together? There is something about music, and especially about singing, that connects our bodies, minds, and souls to each other and to God.

Communities of faith are one of the few places where neighbors sing together. From hymns to choir anthems, St. A's is no exception. I will take this a step farther and say that whenever we gather for worship, study, or acts of compassion and service, we *become* a kind of music, a beautiful melody that sustains and inspires.

Over the summer I enjoyed hearing magnificent sacred music in English cathedrals during my Sabbatical. At services of Choral Evensong I would close my eyes so that I could hear, and often feel, the music from those giant pipe organs and Cathedral choirs lift their voices in offerings of praise, gratitude, lament, grief, and joy to God. As special as that was, I became more homesick with each service. I longed for something familiar. I could not wait to get back here to sing with you once again. My favorite music is the kind we make together every week. Together we are a faithful chorus of generosity, supporting each other, our community, and God's wider world.

In the weeks ahead, you will hear more about how you can join our "Chorus of Generosity" from members of our parish who will share more about how you can invest in this extraordinary community of song and service. Additionally, during this stewardship season, you are invited to practice generosity in all kinds of ways – and not just with your bank account. The enclosed "30 Day Generosity Challenge" offers simple, daily prompts to grow in gratitude, kindness and joy. I encourage you and your families to give it a try!

Thank you for lifting up your voice and joining the chorus, and most of all, for making the melodies of faith part of your life and mine – for the love of God and neighbor.

Faithfully,

*Jenny +*

The Rev. Jennifer Owen, Rector

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! + Psalm 100:1