



## **PARISH CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE CRESCENTWOOD, WINNIPEG PARISH OVERVIEW SUPPORTING THE RECRUITMENT OF ORGANIST / DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

### **POSITION SUMMARY**

The Parish Church of St. George Crescentwood, Winnipeg is seeking an Organist / Director of Music to work collaboratively with clergy, staff, lay choir members, children, and youth to continue to cultivate a music program of great depth within the Anglican cathedral tradition. The position reflects and combines a legacy of excellence in classical sacred music and a wider musical worship experience. This position is one of liturgical ministry and one of pastoral connection with the choir, congregation, St. George's neighbourhood, and the broader Winnipeg community.

The music program is supported by a well-maintained three manual Casavant Frères instrument, and a Steinway 7' grand piano. <https://www.stgeorges.mb.ca/worship/music/organ/>

### **OVERVIEW OF THE PARISH**

St. George's is a joyful and active parish in the relatively affluent residential area of Crescentwood in Winnipeg, the capital city of the province of Manitoba and geographic centre of Canada. Our identity is firmly rooted in the liturgy and traditions of the Anglican Church.

We are an intellectually progressive, socially conscious, LGBTTQIA+ supportive parish. We value preaching that animates the scriptures and connects them to our daily lives and experiences while challenging our thinking and actions.

We are a generous parish, striving to serve those in need through our support of various inner-city outreach and school programs and our overseas partner parish of All Martyrs, Ndoddo, in Uganda. We actively support refugee resettlement.

Our building is a beautiful and significant example of Modernist architecture, designed to be harmonious with the homes of our neighbourhood. Constructed in 1957, and built on Métis Land, the architecture employed was the product of the parish's optimism and renewal and continues to reflect our sense of worship – demanding truth, simplicity, and sincerity.

We have an average Sunday attendance of 80 to 100 people. Livestreaming of services began at the outset of the COVID pandemic and continues today.

Music is integral to our worship, and we have a proud heritage of sung choral services enhanced by an organ crafted for the accompaniment of the Anglican liturgy. Our worship is thoughtfully planned by our Incumbent and Worship Committee and engages a large portion of the parish as lectors, intercessors, and lay administrators.

The Sunday morning service at 10:30 am is a sung Eucharist using the liturgy of the Book of Alternate Services. Morning Prayer is sung once monthly between September and June. In addition, Choral Evensong is sung four to six times annually on Sundays at 4:00 pm. These daily offices use the language of the Book of Common Prayer. The congregation are active participants in the singing of hymns, the psalms, and all parts of the service, unless a special choral setting is sung by the choir. We follow the Revised Common Lectionary. Hymns are from the 1998 Common Praise of the Anglican Church of Canada occasionally supplemented from other sources.

Special services are held throughout the year, the most notable being the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on the evening of the Third or Fourth Sunday of Advent. This service sees our largest attendance of the year – over 300 people.

Other special services include sung worship on Ash Wednesday; the Paschal Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil; and Ascension Day evening Eucharist. A special liturgy is used for our Remembrance Day liturgy the Sunday before November 11.

## **CURRENT MUSIC PROGRAM & CAPACITY FOR GROWTH**

We have a strong choral music tradition of over 70 years and many of our parishioners attend St. George's specifically for the music and its enhancement of the Anglican liturgy.

Worship is supported by a mixed choir of 28 singers ranging in age from seven to over 80. Children who join the choir learn the same music as the adults. The choir is directed by a paid Organist / Director of Music, drawing largely on music of the English cathedral tradition. The choir and organ are positioned in a gallery at the rear of the nave. This was a deliberate decision when the present church was built so there would be no separation between the congregation and communion table. The Organist / Director of Music selects hymns, anthems, and motets that reflect and complement the lections for the respective Sundays, Feast and Holy Days of the Christian year. Our music is augmented on special occasions by supporting instruments, such as a brass quartet on Easter Day.

In February, our Organist and Director of Music announced his planned retirement effective May, 2024. We hope to have a seamless transition in our music leadership and look to hire an Organist / Director of Music in early 2024.

The successful candidate will be keenly aware of how the Parish's history plays into its present worship practices and be open to working with clergy and leadership to discern new and creative ways to expand the music and worship of St. George's Crescentwood.