



The Presbyterian Church Welcomes New Director of Music

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. — Sept. 21, 2026. The Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg, announced the appointment of Michael McCarthy as Director of Music. McCarthy comes to Fredericksburg from the Washington National Cathedral, where he led the music for the funerals of Presidents Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. He is not only a distinguished choral director, but is also an experienced singer, recording artist and educator.

As a singer, McCarthy has traveled the globe with groups including The Sixteen, the Monteverdi Choir, and the Gabrieli Consort. As Director of the London Oratory School Schola, London's premier concert boy choir, McCarthy has worked regularly with the Royal Opera House, the London Symphony Orchestra, and the Philharmonia. In May, King Charles II awarded him the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to church music and Anglo-American relations.

"We are delighted to welcome Mike to our church family," said Pastor Elizabeth Lovell Milford. "His extraordinary experience, high level of musical talent, and deep understanding of the role of music in supporting the liturgy of worship will enhance our music ministry."

McCarthy is enthusiastic about his new role. "This position is exactly what I have been seeking. I am eager to return to parish ministry within a community that enjoys rich musical tradition, where I already feel a warm welcome and sense of belonging," he said. He will lead the adult choir, the youth choir and the children's choir in addition to conducting the Jubilate Ringers, the church's bell choir.

McCarthy lives in Bethesda, Md., with his wife and thirteen-year-old twins. He has two older children who are college students.

Founded in 1808, The Presbyterian Church is one of the oldest churches in Fredericksburg and has worshipped in its current Greek Revival/Jeffersonian Roman Revival sanctuary since 1833. Worship services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend in person or watch the livestreamed service on YouTube. Additional information about the church and a schedule of activities is available at <https://fredericksburgpc.org>