Washington National Cathedral is a church for the whole country. It is open to people of all faith backgrounds. It is also a Christian church that holds Episcopal worship services. Important events in our country's life are remembered here, from celebrating the achievement of landing on the moon to mourning the death of a president.

The Cathedral also hosts special prayer services that include leaders from different faiths, like rabbis from the Jewish faith, imams from the Muslim faith, Buddhist monks, and American Indian tribal leaders. People come here to learn and to understand each other better. This is a place where everyone is welcome!

Enjoy the Cathedral with Children

This brochure introduces a few works of art and places in the Cathedral that may appeal to families; but there is much, much more to discover—more ideas are listed on the back panel.

- MORE WAYS TO EXPLORE THE CATHEDRAL

Washington National Cathedral • 3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20016-5098
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Find the stained glass window that shows a view of space. What do you see? How is this window different from others nearby?

Planets and stars make up this unusual design. This window celebrates human scientific discoveries. In the very center of the large red circle is a small, dark stone. It is a piece of the moon brought back by the Apollo 11 crew and presented to the Cathedral as a gift.

Find the stained glass windows featuring scenes from nature. What animals can you find?

These windows tell the story of Lewis and Clark’s expedition west in the early 1800s. Teepees represent American Indian tribes they met on their journey. Look for two symbols of exploration: a view of Earth from space and a compass.

Look for a small chapel that you enter through wrought iron gates. What makes this room different from others in the Cathedral?

Children’s Chapel was designed to the scale of a six-year-old child, with everything from the chairs to the organ to the needlepoint kneelers made in a smaller size. Can you find animals in the needlework and in the wrought iron?

Find the statue of Dr. King, the famous civil rights leader and preacher. What does it look like Dr. King is doing? What are your clues that he is preaching?

This statue shows Dr. King in the robes of a preacher and standing behind a pulpit, the special place used by preachers. Study this pulpit carefully—it represents the pulpit of Washington National Cathedral. Dr. King gave his last Sunday sermon here before he died. He spoke about equality and justice for all people, regardless of their skin color or other differences between them.

Find the tiny stone carvings below the windows as shown in the photos at the left. Do you see four small faces—a cat, a person, and two dogs? What do they feel like?

This type of art is called stone carving. Most of the stone carvings in Washington National Cathedral are made from limestone. The carvings are all different sizes and show many different subjects.

Standing in this place, what other kinds of stone carvings can you see?

What would the Cathedral look like with plain, undecorated walls?

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What is a gargoyle?

A gargoyle is a special type of stone carving on the outside of the Cathedral that serves as a waterspout. The job of a gargoyle is to protect the building from water damage. Gargoyles are connected to the rain gutters on the building.

Walk to the south lawn of the Cathedral to see if you can find gargoyles that look like these creatures:

- frog
- alligator
- cat skeleton
- wild boar
- dragon

Can you think of a word that sounds like gargoyle that describes something you do with water in your mouth?

Hint: it’s something you might do after you brush your teeth.

**Gargoyle** and **gargle** sound alike because both come from an old French word that means “throat.”