“O Lord, my God, Thou art become exceeding glorious, ... Thou deckest thyself with light as it were a garment, ... Thou waterest its hills from above, ... In the trees of the Lord the birds make their nests.”

With this benediction, the Cathedral Cloister Courtyard (the Garth) and its fountain were dedicated on April 30, 1969.

This intimate garden, nestled in the Cathedral’s northeast corner, was designed by landscape architect Mead Palmer. Elegantly placing greenery and trees, Palmer compliments the Cathedral’s stone and mortar with nature’s texture and colors. Its centerpiece bronze fountain, sculpted by George Tsutakawa, offers an abstract form of curved planes intending to complement the transept’s buttresses towering above.

With the sound of falling water, and in the midst of lush greenery, pilgrims, visitors and staff found refuge from a busy world. They found a place to be still and experience the Holy.

The magnitude 5.8 earthquake of 2011 caused limestone pinnacles to twist and fall, shattering on the Garth’s floor and requiring its closure.

Today the fountain remains dry and the beautiful gardens are still largely hidden from sight. Yet, with your help we can reclaim this space—with your financial commitment, we can reopen the Garth.

Please join other generous supporters to our Cathedral. Make your gift today allowing us to welcome visitors—and you—back to the Garth.
Thanks to faithful stewards like you, we continue restoring Washington National Cathedral to its pre-earthquake glory. And, we are making great progress!

We’ve started repairing the West Front Towers. The damaged pinnacles are being reassembled and the angels missing since the earthquake will soon be returned to their soaring home on the towers.

With your continued financial support, we will then move onto the next phase of our work—reopening the Garth.

in appreciation for your support!

When you give $500 or more today to help continue vital restoration work, we will send you a thank you copy of our award-winning book *The Day the Earth Shook*, telling the story of the Cathedral’s restoration through stunning photography!