

A BETTER WAY

Faith, Freedom & the Common Good

with Dallin Oaks

September 16, 2026



WASHINGTON
NATIONAL
CATHEDRAL

Program

OPENING SONG

Be Still, My Soul | Jean Sibelius (1865-1957); arr. Mack Wilberg
The Washington National Cathedral Choir
Dr. Jared Johnson, Director of Music and Canon-Elect
Ed Hewes, Associate Director of Music and Cathedral Organist

WELCOME

The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith
Dean of Washington National Cathedral

KEYNOTE

Dallin H. Oaks
President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Amazing Grace | Traditional
Jenny Oaks Baker, Violin
Hannah Baker Erickson, Piano

PANEL CONVERSATION

Melody Barnes
Executive Director of Karsh Institute of
Democracy at the University of Virginia

The Right. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Rabbi David Saperstein
Former United States Ambassador-at-Large
for Religious Freedom

Jeffrey A. Rosen | *Moderator*
CEO Emeritus at the National Constitution Center

CLOSING SONG

America the Beautiful | arr. Kurt Bestor

The Washington National Cathedral Choir

Dr. Jared Johnson, Director of Music and Canon-Elect

Jenny Oaks Baker, Violin

Hannah Baker Erickson, Piano

The audience is invited to join the choir for the fourth verse:

Oh, beautiful for patriot dream

That sees beyond the years

Thine alabaster cities gleam

Undimmed by human tears.

America! America! God shed His grace on thee

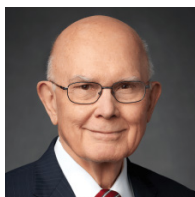
And crown thy good with brotherhood

From sea to shining sea.

This evening forum is presented by the Cathedral College of Faith & Culture as part of the Cathedral's **A Better Way** programming, a series of events designed to help Americans live together, learn from each other and find a way forward as a nation in polarized times.

The **College of Faith & Culture** convenes people from all walks of life to find connection and common ground. We are committed to building bridges through education, conversation and compassion.





Dallin H. Oaks

President Dallin H. Oaks was set apart as the President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on October 14, 2025. At the time of his call, he was serving as First Counselor in the First Presidency to President Russell M. Nelson and President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. President Oaks was sustained as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles on April 7, 1984.

President Oaks was born in Provo, Utah, in 1932. He and his late wife, June Dixon Oaks (d. July 21, 1998), are the parents of six children. He married Kristen M. McMain in the Salt Lake Temple on August 25, 2000.

President Oaks is a graduate of Brigham Young University and The University of Chicago Law School. During his early professional career, he was a law clerk in the United States Supreme Court and practiced law in Chicago. From 1961 to 1971, he was a professor at The University of Chicago Law School. From 1971 to 1980, he was president of Brigham Young University. At the time of his call to the apostleship in 1984, President Oaks was serving as a justice of the Utah Supreme Court.

In addition to his other assignments, President Oaks has been an officer or member of the board of many business, educational, and charitable organizations. He is the author or co-author of numerous books and articles on religious and legal subjects. In May 2013, the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty awarded him the Canterbury Medal for courage in the defense of religious liberty.

PANEL CONVERSATION



Melody Barnes

Melody Barnes is the founding executive director of the University of Virginia's Karsh Institute of Democracy. With more than 25 years of experience in public policy, she served as assistant to the president and director of the White House Domestic Policy Council under President Barack Obama. Previously, she was executive vice president for policy at the Center for American Progress and chief counsel to Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee. At UVA, Barnes also serves as W.L. Lyons Brown Family Director for Policy and Public Engagement, professor of practice at the Miller Center, and distinguished fellow at the School of Law. She co-founded MB2 Solutions and serves on nonprofit, corporate, and philanthropic boards.



The Right. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde leads 88 Episcopal congregations and 10 schools in D.C. and Maryland. Elected as the first woman bishop of Washington in 2011, she also chairs the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation. Passionate about justice, peace, and human dignity, she focuses on spiritual growth and new forms of Christian community. Prior to her election, she served 18 years as rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis. She holds degrees from the University of Rochester and Virginia Theological Seminary. Bishop Budde is an author and enjoys cycling, cooking, and family time with her husband and two sons.



Jeffrey A. Rosen

Jeffrey Rosen is a professor of law at the George Washington University Law School, a senior fellow at FIRE, CEO Emeritus of the National Constitution Center, and a contributing editor of *The Atlantic*. He was previously legal affairs editor of *The New Republic* and a staff writer for *The New Yorker*. Rosen is the author of the New York Times bestsellers *The Pursuit of Happiness* and *Conversations with RBG*. His new book is *The Pursuit of Liberty: How Hamilton vs. Jefferson Ignited the Lasting Battle Over Power in America*. Rosen graduated from Harvard College, Oxford University, where he was a Marshall Scholar, and Yale Law School. He is an elected member of the American Philosophical Society and American Law Institute and was named a Chevalier in France's Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.



Rabbi David Saperstein

Rabbi David Saperstein served for 40 years as Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), representing the Reform Jewish Movement to Congress and the Administration. He continues as the RAC's Senior Advisor for Strategy and Policy. During the second term of the Obama administration, Rabbi Saperstein served as the United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom. He subsequently served as President of Reform Judaism's international denomination. An attorney, Rabbi Saperstein taught church-state law and comparative Jewish and American law at Georgetown University Law Center for 35 years. Throughout his career, he has served on the boards of major pro-democracy and civil rights organizations and chaired federal advisory committees on human trafficking and international religious freedom. He currently chairs or co-chairs three international interreligious coalitions.



The Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith

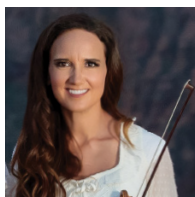
The Very Rev. Randolph “Randy” Marshall Hollerith has served as Dean of Washington National Cathedral since 2016, prioritizing hospitality and welcome for all visitors and worshippers. He developed a five-year Strategic Plan focused on Welcoming, Deepening, Convening, and Serving, and launched a \$150 million campaign for mission engagement. He previously served as rector of St. James’s Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA.

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

Grounded in the reconciling love of Jesus Christ, **Washington National Cathedral** is a house of prayer for all people, conceived by our founders to serve as a great church for national purposes. We strive to serve God and our neighbors as agents of reconciliation, a trusted voice of moral leadership and a sacred space where the country gathers during moments of national significance.

The **Wheatley Institute** engages students, scholars, thought leaders, and the public in research-supported work that fortifies the core institutions of the family, religion, and constitutional government.

MUSICIANS

**Jenny Oaks Baker, violin**

America's Violinist™, Jenny Oaks Baker, is a Grammy-nominated, Billboard No. 1 recording artist. She earned degrees from The Juilliard School and The Curtis Institute of Music and has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Library of Congress, with The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, and with the Jerusalem, Pittsburgh, Utah, Baltimore and National Symphonies. Her more than twenty albums have sold over a million copies and consistently chart on Billboard. Music from her Grammy-nominated album *Wish Upon a Star* is featured nightly at Disney World and Disneyland. Jenny now produces and tours inspirational productions worldwide and founded the SoulFill Music Foundation to expand faith-based performances, education, and musical diplomacy. jennyoaksbaker.com

**Hannah Baker Erickson, piano**

Collaborative Pianist Hannah Baker Erickson received her Bachelor of Music from the Royal Academy of Music in London and her Master's Degree in Repetiteurship from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She has soloed with many orchestras and performed throughout the US and Europe, often with her mother, violinist Jenny Oaks Baker. Hannah is the recipient of the Memorial Lieder Prize, Hester Dickson Pianist Prize and the American Song Prize at Songfest. Hannah has also been the Young Artist Opera Pianist at Festival Napa Valley, pianist and coach for Chicago Summer Opera program and is currently on the adjunct piano faculty at Snow College and Utah Valley University.

MUSICIANS



Jared Johnson

Jared Johnson is the newly-appointed Director of Music and Canon-Elect at Washington National Cathedral. A native of Ohio, he is a graduate of Oberlin College and Yale University. Prior to his appointment in Washington, he was Canon Director of Music at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, where he directed the Choir of Men and Boys, and founded the Cathedral Choir of Girls. He previously served as Director of Music at Trinity Cathedral in Columbia, SC, where he founded both a boys' choir and a girls' choir, and he taught on the music faculty of the University of South Carolina. A frequent guest conductor, he recently served as music director for the Saint Thomas Girl Chorister Course, and the Royal School of Church Music Course at Duke University. As an organ recitalist he has appeared in major venues throughout North America, Great Britain, and Australia, and his recordings appear on the Pro Organo and JAV labels. Dr. Johnson is a member of the boards of the Association of Anglican Musicians, and of the Royal School of Church Music in America.



The Cathedral Choir

The Cathedral Choir, the resident liturgical choir at the Cathedral, draws its members from the most distinguished musicians in the DC-area region. Employing nine regular singers, the ensemble performs alongside the student choristers for weekly worship services, events of national or ecumenical significance, and an annual concert series that champions a breadth of historical and contemporary repertoire.

*Your generosity sustains
the music that lifts hearts
and enriches worship at
the Cathedral.*

Like all the Cathedral's ministries and activities, our music program receives no funding from the federal government or any national church body. The generosity of loyal supporters like you makes every service, concert, and program possible.



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A B E T T E R W A Y

An Evening with
**Senator
Chris Murphy**

Nov. 18 | 7pm



**Lost
Worlds**

CREATED BY LUXMURALIS

JANUARY 14 – 23



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