

SAINT JAMES
in-the-City

3903 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Canon James Buonemani
Organist & Director of Music

Music Office
213/388.3015

Website
GreatMusicLA.org

Email
JBuonemani@STJLA.org

June 1, 2025

Dear Parish Family,

I write to you today with a heart filled with deep gratitude and thanksgiving for our years of ministry together. After many months of prayerful soul-searching, I have decided to retire at the end of this Liturgical Year and to give St. James-in-the-City the opportunity to call a new Director of Music as the one-hundredth anniversary of our renovated sanctuary approaches in 2026. I make this decision after offering music Sunday after Sunday in churches since I was 13 years old: a total of 56 years, and almost 31 of those years have been joyfully spent with you! My final Sunday will be November 23, 2025 – the Feast of Christ the King.

From the moment I arrived on January 1, 1995, under the rectorship of Bishop Kirk Smith and throughout the intervening years of rectors and ministers to our current beloved Rector, Mother Kate Cress and Associate Rector, Jon Feuss, I have been blessed by their support, friendship, and incredible spiritual leadership and charism. To the members of the Choir of Saint James and my colleagues Tom Mueller and Jae Park, I express my warmest thanks for the profound joy and inspiration they bring to our weekly music-making. To the Friends of Great Music, particularly the Ahmanson Foundation and its Managing Director Emeritus, Lee Walcott, I want to acknowledge my indebtedness for their unwavering patronage and encouragement. To each of you, my fellow parishioners: I will cherish forever your affirming presence and friendship. It has been my life's greatest privilege to be of service to you!

I believe St. James-in-the-City stands at a pivotal moment in its history. Your outreach to the homeless shows the depth of your compassion. Your courage to proclaim the Gospel in the midst of a divided world is emboldening. Your belief in the "beauty of holiness" serves as a beacon of hope in an often dark and wayward world. I am confident that a new musical leader will not only bring fresh insights and energy but also complement this exciting phase in our parish's life with a diverse range of talents, ideas, and collegiality.

I know there will never be another family like you. For the past three decades and more, you have nurtured me and shared Christ's love with me so generously that I consider you my best teachers and dearest friends. Please know how firmly you are held in my prayers, and I humbly ask for your prayers as well. May the words of the psalm forever ring true: "My heart is ready, O God; my heart is ready, I will sing and make music to the Lord!"

Affectionately yours in Christ,

