

The Christian Block of the Interfaith Creation Festival

The Interfaith Creation Festival concludes at Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral Sunday, June 3rd. Beginning day will be an opportunity to hear Bishop Steven Charleston, President and Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. He will speak during a 9:30 a.m. Forum in Bloedel Hall and preach at the 11:00 a.m. worship service which will also feature the superb Cathedral choir singing the joyful *Missa Luba* composed by Father Guido Haazan.

Both Bishop Charleston and the *Missa Luba* Mass embody the cross-cultural intent of this Festival. Charleston, as a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is an indigenous person with Irish ancestry who strives to build bridges of reconciliation between historic communities and contemporary issues. He is widely recognized as a leading proponent for justice issues – including environmental issues. He has been called “one of the best preachers in the Episcopal Church.” Formerly Bishop of Alaska, Charleston was responsible for bringing a Resolution on Global Warming to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. He has been an articulate, passionate advocate for the mission of environmental justice. He has written “Unless we can uphold the integrity of creation, we will have no chance of maintaining the dignity of human life.”

The *Missa Luba* is an exuberant, vibrant Mass reflecting cross-cultural traditions incorporating traditional African rhythms, drumming, and an incredible blend of African polyrhythmic singing with the traditional Latin text. Each section of the Mass—Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Benedictus, and Agnus Dei, will be sung at the appropriate point within the morning worship service. Simpler than many traditional Masses, the *Missa Luba* conveys inspiring passion and emotion.

At 12:30 p.m. lunch will be served in Bloedel Hall. The Festival's concluding session at 2:00 p.m. will envision the vital role our communities of faith play in the mission of environmental and social justice. Our challenge will be to develop strategies and plan events as advocates for action and change through a Year of Dialogue and Action!.