

A Convocation of Bishops & Deputies

Saturday, July 17, 2021 2:00 PM E.D.T.

CONVOCATION OF BISHOPS & DEPUTIES

Although we cannot be together in person this summer, we are looking forward to gathering online to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church as we prepare for the 80th General Convention. The reason for our gathering is solely for the purposes of praying together and to rededicate ourselves to the work of Jesus and his way of love as our way of participating in God's mission and work in the world.

PRESIDING BISHOP Michael Bruce Curry

William White is the architect of our polity and our system of shared governance, and, as the collect for his feast day says, he governed in a time of turmoil and confusion. It seems fitting that this year on that day, deputies and bishops will gather to pray together and listen for God's call to General Convention. May we all be blessed, as he was, with wisdom, patience and a reconciling temper.

HOUSE OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT Gay Clark Jennings

Land Acknowledgement

HYMN | The Direction Song

Isaiah Shaneequa Brokenleg

In this song you will notice various words used to describe God: Grandfather, the Great Spirit or Sacred Powerful Mystery, and Grandmother.

Look towards the West (literally the direction where the sun goes down). Your Grandfather is sitting there looking at you. Pray to him. He is sitting there watching.

Look towards the North (*literally the direction of the pines*). Your Grandfather is sitting there looking at you. Pray to him. Pray to him. He is sitting there watching.

Look towards the East (literally the direction where the sun arrives to spread daylight). Your Grandfather is sitting there looking at you. Pray to him. Pray to him. He is sitting there watching.

Look towards the South (*literally the direction facing downstream*). Your Grandfather is sitting there looking at you. Pray to him. He is sitting there watching.

Look upward (literally the direction high upward). The Great Spirit is lying (or sitting) there. Pray to him/her. Pray to him/her. S/He is sitting there watching.

Look downward (*literally the direction toward the earth*). Grandmother Earth is lying there. Pray to her. Pray to her. She is lying there listening.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

DEPUTY Lydia Kelsey Bucklin
DEPUTY Jeff Diehl

The deputies introduce themselves and make their own land acknowledgement.

We remember and honor the Indigenous people of the world. We acknowledge that The Episcopal Church was founded on and is currently situated on Indigenous Land. We honor all of the Indigenous nations, whose land we now occupy. This land was once their home and was taken from them, or in other instances, they were removed from it. Even this digital space is Native space. The server, the ground holding the cable tower, the air that holds the Wi-Fi signal. We are all on Indigenous Land.

We acknowledge that stolen land, stolen labor, and genocide of brown and Black lives are the bedrocks of this nation's current wealth and prosperity, and in turn have built the foundation of the wealth and prosperity of The Episcopal Church. Naming this history, telling this story, is an important step in reconciliation and building a new path forward.

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Today we celebrate the Feast Day of Bishop William White, who served as the first Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church. Bishop White was born, raised, and served in ministry on the Indigenous territory known as Lenapehoking, which is the traditional homelands of the Lenape, also called the Lenni-Lenape or the Delaware Indians. In the 1680s, the Lenape negotiated with William Penn to facilitate the founding of the colony of Pennsylvania.

We offer recognition and respect to the first nations people who have cared for this land for thousands of years and who continue to reside on and care for all of creation. We give thanks for them and express our gratitude for their witness on how to live a life that is honorable and humble.

May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all relatives in life. Help us to learn from our past mistakes and be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world.

Acknowledgment by itself is a small gesture. It becomes meaningful when coupled with authentic relationship and informed action. We urge you to take a step toward equitable relationship and reconciliation. To begin to build relationships and learn the history of the land you inhabit and on which you worship.

We invite you, in this very moment, to acknowledge the land on which you reside. One helpful website you might visit is <u>native-land.ca</u>. Please use the chat box at this time to enter in, name and acknowledge the territory on which you reside. We would love to hear where you all are from.

HYMN | Take it (Doctrine of Discovery Song)

Bude van Dyke

My ancestors ran with the buffalo right from forest streams. The European asked for land and gold, brought five hundred years of misery.

The Pope said, "Take it, take that heathen land, and do with them just what you please – am the great I AM."

Jefferson wrote about liberty and happiness while stealing land at arm's length. Gold found in Georgia, Jackson sold his plan. Trail of Tears for the Cherokee.

The Pope said, "Take it, take that heathen land, and do with them just what you please – am the great I AM."

Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and Geronimo all tried in vain to keep us free. Ten thousand years of human beings on this land, all but forgotten in history.

The Pope said, "Take it, take that heathen land, and do with them just what you please – am the great I AM."



RESPONSE DEPUTY Cornelia Eaton

My name is Cornelia Eaton and I serve as Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Church in Navajoland and on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. I am Salt clan. Salt people is my maternal clan. Mud people is my paternal clan. Mexican people is my paternal grandfather's clan and Red streak people is my maternal grandfather's clan. I am of these four clans. I am a creation of my ancestors.

I am grateful to the Episcopal Church for honoring and remembering all First Nations Peoples of this land known as Turtle Island. We are a sacred people of this sacred island. We are all related to our Earth Mother, we are rooted in her soil. When we acknowledge our Earth Mother, fragments of her being heals, fragments of us, God's creation, heals together. We are a womb of her soul and by small gestures such as this, we become a new life in the divine love of God.

Thank you for remembering the memories of sacred lands; the memory of Great Creator's spirit, the memory of First Nations ancestors, the memory of our songs and prayers and ceremonies, the memory of praises and wonders of our healing medicines which grow upon Earth Mother that hold immemorial stories of hope, healing, and new birth. These gifts are alive in us then, today, and for the future. This is hope. By this gesture of remembering and acknowledging, our ancestors are alive in praise and thanksgiving. And we must keep on repeating in remembering and in acknowledging, so that we keep on healing ourselves, a small piece, at a time, in the holy rhythm of the beauty way.

DIGITAL SPACE IS NATIVE SPACE

The server, the ground holding the cable tower, the air that holds the WiFi signal. You are on Indigenous Land.

Gathering Music

Be Thou My Vision

Theodicy Jazz Collective arr. William Z. Cleary

Alabare / Yo tengo un gozo

Grupo Adonai DIOCESE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

My Heart, Ever Faithful

String Quartet | Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford DIOCESE OF CONNECTICUT

People of God

Theodicy Jazz Collective arr. William Z. Cleary

HYMN | Christ is Alive!

Choir of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, NEW YORK CITY



Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), rev. Copyright ©1975 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica*, *Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

HOUSE OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT Gay Clark Jennings

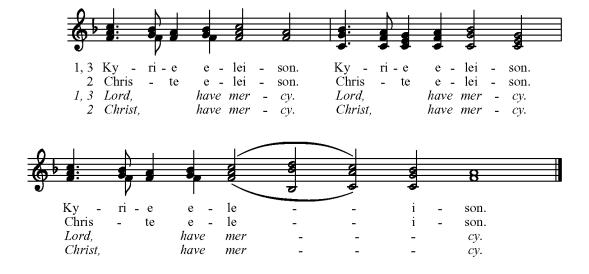
ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be the one, holy and living God.
People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN | Kyrie Eleison

Choir of the House of Bishops



Setting: Russian Orthodox.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

THE FEAST OF WILLIAM WHITE

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Presider

O Lord, who in a time of turmoil and confusion raised up your servant William White to lead your church into ways of stability and peace; Hear our prayer, and give us wise and faithful leaders, that, through their ministry, your people may be blessed and your will be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON | Jeremiah 1:4-10

BISHOP Mary Gray-Reeves, DEPUTY M.E. Eccles
DEPUTY Joshua Floberg • DEPUTY Shayna Watson
DEPUTY Michael Sells • DEPUTY Austin Rios

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

he word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, LORD God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a child. But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you." Then the LORD put out a hand and touched my mouth; and said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

THE PSALM | Psalm 84:7-12

DEPUTY Nancy Frausto • DEPUTY Ranjit K. Matthews DEPUTY Jazzy Bostock • DEPUTY Daniel Vélez Rivera

⁷ LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer.

hearken, O God of Jacob.

⁸ Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

⁹ For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, * and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹⁰ For the LORD God is both sun and shield; * he will give grace and glory;

¹¹ No good thing will the LORD withhold * from those who walk with integrity.

¹² O LORD of hosts, *

happy are they who put their trust in you!

HYMN | Esa Montãna

Sandra Montes

Si tuvieras fe como grano de mostaza eso lo dice el Senor, tu le dirias a la montana, muevete, muevete, esa montana se movera. Se movera, se movera

If you had faith like a mustard seed says the Lord,
You could tell the mountain,
move, move,
and that mountain will move.
It will move, it will move.

THE SECOND LESSON | Mark 4:30-34

Nora Cruz-Diaz (SPANISH)
Guimond Pierre Louis (CREOLE)
Bonnie Matthews (ENGLISH)

A reading from Mark.

ambién dijo: «¿Con qué vamos a comparar el reino de Dios? ¿Qué parábola podemos usar para describirlo? Es como un grano de mostaza: cuando se siembra en la tierra, es la semilla más pequeña que hay, pero una vez sembrada crece hasta convertirse en la más grande de las hortalizas, y echa ramas tan grandes que las aves pueden anidar bajo su sombra». Y con muchas parábolas semejantes les enseñaba Jesús la palabra hasta donde podían entender. No les decía nada sin emplear parábolas. Pero, cuando estaba a solas con sus discípulos, les explicaba todo.

i di yo ankò: - Kisa m' ta di Peyi kote Bondye Wa a sanble ankò? Ki parabòl mwen ta ban nou pou fè nou konprann sa li ye? Enben, li menm jan ak yon ti grenn moutad. Lè ou simen l', se yon ti grenn tou piti. Se li ki pi piti nan tout grenn ki sou latè. Men, lè ou fin simen l', li pran grandi: li depase tout plant menm kalite avè l', li pouse gwo branch. Konsa, zwazo nan syèl la ka fè nich nan lonbraj yo. Se avèk anpil parabòl konsa li t'ap ba yo mesaj li a. Li te fè l' yon jan pou yo tout te ka konprann li. Li

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pa t' louvri bouch li pou l' pa t' rakonte yo yon parabòl. Men, lè l' te pou kont li avèk disip li yo, li te esplike yo tout bagay.

gain he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Here ends the reading.

THE HOMILY

PRESIDING BISHOP Michael Bruce Curry

ANTHEM | Lift Every Voice and Sing

Jeannine Otis
ST. MARK'S IN THE BOWERY, NEW YORK CITY

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died.

Yet with a steady beat have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered.

Out from the gloomy past till now we stand at last, where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way. Thou who has by Thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.

Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.

Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

FROM WILLIAM WHITE TO GAY CLARK JENNINGS AND MICHAEL CURRY | A Photographic Journey

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader

Knowing and acknowledging that we all stand in the need of prayer: with confidence, let us approach the Throne of Grace knowing in confidence we can bring our prayers to the Lord.

FOR OUR CHURCH

We pray that God's abundant blessings will come upon all of us who serve and who are served through our various ministries. May the courage and Christo-centric mandate to inspire service among all people be a way of life for us as we prepare to come together as the Church in our General Convention next year. We pray to the Lord:

People

Lord, hear our prayer!

FOR THOSE ENTRUSTED WITH LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

We pray for those who have been elected or appointed to positions of leadership within the communities where we live and where we worship. May the power of the Holy Spirit provoke their consciences to radically work on behalf of the poor, to care for the needs of those who find life to be a burden, to advocate for the neglected and abused – and to renew their resolve to be in solidarity with the movements of justice, equality and peace. For their courage to lead like Jesus – we pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer!

FOR THE GIFT OF CREATION ENTRUSTED TO US

We pray in thanksgiving for the spirit of awareness that calls all of us to be better stewards of the world given to us. May we embrace the spiritual solidarity of caring and protecting our world and all who live in it through the active witness of communal advocacy and transformation that empowers us to see God in every means of creation. We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer!

FOR OUR FAMILIES, LOVED-ONES AND FRIENDS

We pray for "Kingdom-courage" so that we can embrace and accept the Scriptural mandate to love one another with a radical love that is expressive of the boundless love that God has for us. May we look over the walls and go beyond all the borders and boundaries that we create so that we can continue to build up that "Beloved Community" where we won't have to "study war no more." We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer!

FOR THE COURAGE TO EMBRACE THE CALL OF INCLUSION

We pray that in a world and even in a Church where people are sometimes afraid of the call to embrace initiatives of Diversity, Equality and Inclusion – that the power of the Holy Spirit will erase and eliminate all fear and misunderstandings. May we know that in the Name of Jesus love will always win and may we recommit ourselves to being in the true solidarity with one another that defines the mosaic of The Jesus Movement. We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer!

FOR THIS TIME OF GRIEVOUS SICKNESS

We pray for all those who have died in the past sixteen months, especially for the hundreds of thousands in the United States and the millions in your world who have succumbed to the virus. We pray for all who died in their service to others. We pray for all their families, friends and loved ones who mourn and that they may know the consolation of your love. Give us the strength and courage not to forget ever this time of grievous sickness. Give us the will and skills to prepare now for the possible pandemics in the years to come. We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer!

FOR THE SICK AND THE DYING

We pray for God's continued grace to supply and strengthen all who are sick and all who are preparing for their transition from this life into the life that is eternal promised to us by Jesus! May the hand and the heart of our Divine Physician be with all of our medical personnel as well as with all of those who are under their care. May ministry of healing empower and inspire every doctor, nurse, physician, and patient. We pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer!

FOR THE GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

PRESIDING BISHOP Michael Bruce Curry

DISMISSAL

Felix Rivera & HOUSE OF BISHOPS CHAPLAIN Miguelina Howell

Our worship has ended. Let our service begin. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Leader Nuestro culto ha terminado. Ahora inicia nuestro servicio, ¡Vayan en paz para amar y servir el Señor!

Thanks be to God! People Demos gracias a Dios!

POSTLUDE | Siyahamba

HOUSE OF DEPUTIES CHAPLAIN Lester Mackenzie

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos', Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos', Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwen-, Khanyen' kwenkhos', Siyahamba, hamba, Siyahamba, hamba, Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwen-, Khanyen' kwenkhos'. Siyahamba, hamba, Siyahamba, hamba, We are marching in the light of God, We are marching in the light of God, We are marching in the light of God, We are marching in the light of, The light of God, We are marching, marching, We are marching, marching, We are marching in the light of, The light of God, We are marching, marching, We are marching, marching, We are marching, marching, We are marching in the light of God.

Participants

Presider

HOUSE OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT Gay Clark Jennings

Preacher

PRESIDING BISHOP Michael Bruce Curry

Lectors

The First Lesson – Jeremiah 1:4-10

Narrator:

God:

BISHOP Mary Gray-Reeves

DEPUTY M.E. Eccles

Jeremiah:

DEPUTY Joshua Floberg • DEPUTY Shayna Watson
DEPUTY Michael Sells • DEPUTY Austin Rios

The Psalm

DEPUTY Nancy Frausto • DEPUTY Daniel Vélez Rivera
DEPUTY Jazzy Bostock • DEPUTY Ranjit K. Matthews

The Second Lesson – Mark 4:30-34

Nora Cruz • Guimond Pierre Louis • Bonnie Matthews

Prayer Leaders

HOUSE OF DEPUTIES VICE PRESIDENT Byron Rushing
HOUSE OF BISHOPS CHAPLAIN Dent Davidson • HOUSE OF BISHOPS CHAPLAIN Miguelina Howell
HOUSE OF DEPUTIES CHAPLAIN Lester Mackenzie • HOUSE OF BISHOPS CHAPLAIN Ricardo Bailey
DEPUTY Greg Millikin • Kathleen Moore
HOUSE OF DEPUTIES SECRETARY Michael Barlowe

Land Acknowledgement

DEPUTY Lydia Kelsey Bucklin • DEPUTY Jeff Diehl • DEPUTY Cornelia Eaton

Design Team

Miguelina Howell, Co-Convener • Lester Mackenzie, Co-Convener

Dent Davidson • Ricardo Bailey • Greg Millikin • Kathleen Moore

Betsey Bell, Staff Liaison

Musicians

Isaiah Shaneequa Brokenleg

Staff Officer for Racial Reconciliation
The Episcopal Church

Bude van Dyke

Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd Decatur, AL

Theodicy Jazz Collective

Andy Barnett, William Z. Cleary, Charlie Dye Daniel Loomis, Jonathan Parker, Ann Phelps, Sarah Politz, Mike Wade

Ministerio Adonai

The Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic Steve R. Ferraras A., Salatiel Cruz Concepión, Leonardo Garcia, Moisés Quezada, Diana Rosario, Leidy Garcia, Elaine Mendez

Musicians from Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT Marianne Vogel, Director of Music

The Combined Choirs of St. Bartholomew's

Church, New York City Dr. Paolo Bordignon, Organist & Choirmaster

The House of Bishops Choir

Dent Davidson, Director Marianne Vogel, Video Editor

Dr. Sandra Montes

Dean of Chapel
Union Theological Seminary, New York City

Jeannine Otis

Music Director
St. Mark's in the Bowery, New York City

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Tate Uyetopa O'lawa (The Direction Song). Lakota Sioux folk song, by Earl Bullhead (b. 1948).

Be Thou My Vision. Music: Slane, Irish ballad melody; adapt. The Church Hymnary, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948), arr. William Z Cleary.

Alabaré, alabaré a mi Senor. © 1979, Manuel José Alonso, José Pagan, and Ediciones Musical PAX. Published by OCP Publications Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán

Yo tengo un gozo. Words: Traditional; Music: Ronald F. Krisman (b.1946).

My heart ever faithful (Mein glaubiges Herze). Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Public Domain.

Christ is Alive. Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), rev. Music: Truro, melody from Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

Kyrie Eleison. Russian Orthodox setting. From Enriching Our Music, Vol. I. #111.

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Lift Every Voice and Sing. Words: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938). Music: J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954). © 1921 by Edward B. Marks Music Company. All Rights Reserved.

Aire Tipico, by Alejandro Mena. Courtesy of Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT.

Espacios Virtuales, Caminos de libertad, Marchando en sol major, Santo y seña, Mirando Estrellas. by Pedro Coral. Courtesy of Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT.

Alleluja. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791). Public Domain. Courtesy of Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT.

Siyahamba (We are Marching in the Light of God). Words: South African; Spanish words, Bernardo Murray (b. 1965). Music: Siyahamba, South African © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corporation.

