The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Convention Eucharist

November 15, 2025

Welcome: The Rev. Julie Carson

A Prayer of Indigenous Territorial Acknowledgement Mr. Will Harron

Holy God, we acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded land of the Pocumtuck, Norwottuck, and Mahican people upon which we are worshiping, praying, and visiting today. We also acknowledge the Abenaki people to the north, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag people to the east, the Pequot and Mohegan people to the south, and the Mohican and Haudenosaunee Confederacy to the west: peoples whom the people of this place took refuge with. We give thanks for those who have come before us and those who live among us. We honor all of North America's Native peoples who have been living and working on these lands from time immemorial. We recognize that settler colonialism and the oppression of Native peoples is a current and ongoing process, and we commit to building our awareness of our present participation in these injustices. In our words and actions may we demonstrate our gratitude for the care and sharing of this land. **Amen.**

(Source: St. John's, Northampton*)









Words: George William Kitchin (1827-1912); alt. Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956) Music: Crucifer, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947); desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

10 10 with Refrain

Opening Acclamation

Bishop Fisher: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

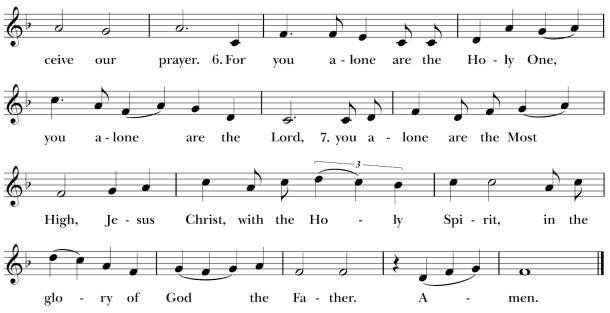
All: The Holy One's love is new every morning.

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.

The Hymnal 1982 - S280

Glory to God
Canticle 20





Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Collect

Bishop Fisher: The Creator be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us who work for the renewal and mission of your Church, especially here in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. 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.**

The people may be seated.

First Reading Isaiah 2: 2-4

A Reading from the book of Isaiah.

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96: 1-7

- O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among all the peoples.

- For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
- 6 Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Second Lesson Ephesians 2:13-22

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Nettleton



Gospel Luke 10:1-9

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon, The Rev. Nathaniel Anderson

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows and The Prayers of the People

The people stand, if able, and the Bishop begins

People of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, in Holy Baptism we received full adoption through God's grace and full empowerment for ministry through the Holy Spirit. Will you work together as partners in the mission of the Church, to reconcile all people to God through Christ?

People We will, with God's help.

The water of baptism signifies our eternal covenant with God. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to Christ, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Bishop may bless the water.

We pray you, O God, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit, that all who in baptism are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Bishop Let us renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism.

Water is poured into the font and the Bishop leads the renewal of baptismal vows.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to

Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, and called us to ministry in Jesus Christ, keep us in eternal life by his grace; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The intercessor continues

Let us thank God whom we worship here in the beauty of holiness.

Eternal God, the heaven of heavens cannot contain you, much less the walls of temples made with hands. Graciously receive our thanks for this gathering, and accept the work of our hands, offered to your honor and glory.

For the Church universal, of which we are all a part,

We thank you, Lord.

For your presence whenever two or three have gathered together in your Name, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the places where we may be still and know that you are God, **We thank you, Lord.**

For making us your children by adoption and grace, and refreshing us day by day with the bread of life. We are especially grateful for the episcopal ministry of our bishop, Doug. Give us grace in the days ahead as we celebrate his leadership among us, and guide us with your Spirit as we elect our next bishop today.

We thank you, Lord.

For the knowledge of your will and the grace to perform it, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the pardon of our sins, which restores us to the company of your faithful people, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the blessing of our baptismal vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the faith of those who have gone before us and for our encouragement by their perseverance,

We thank you, Lord.

We pray especially for those who have died. For:

The Rev. Frances Hills

The Rev. Fletcher Davis

The Rev. Randall Wilburn

The Rev. Charles Sutton

The Rev. Donna Larson

The Rev. Kenneth Campbell

Hamilton "Chip" Doherty

Anne Wescott

Allan Taylor

Joaquim Samuel Da Silva Ribeiro

Eleanor "Andy" Parke

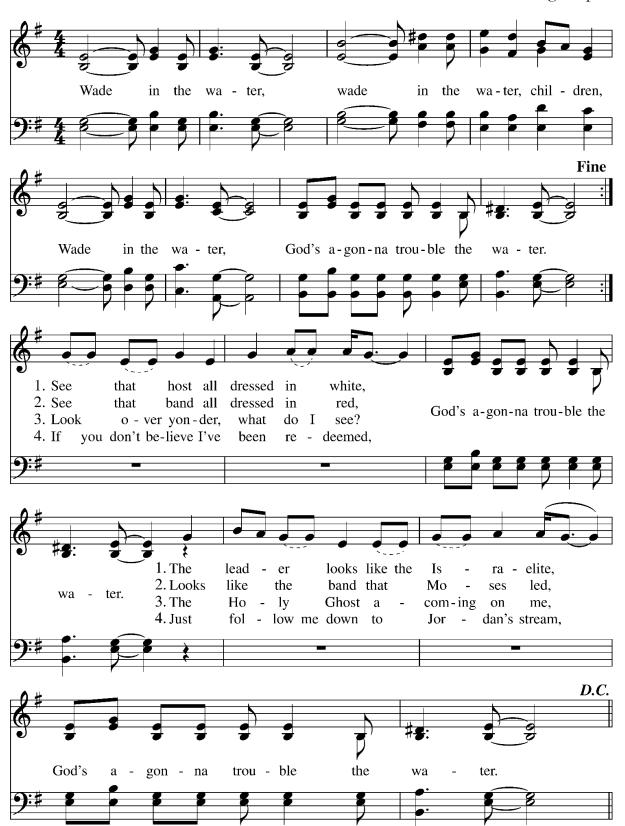
Patricia Pearson Dunn

For the fellowship of all your Saints, We thank you, Lord.

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

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 Bishop blesses the people during the singing of "Wade in the Water"



Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual, arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals.

The Peace

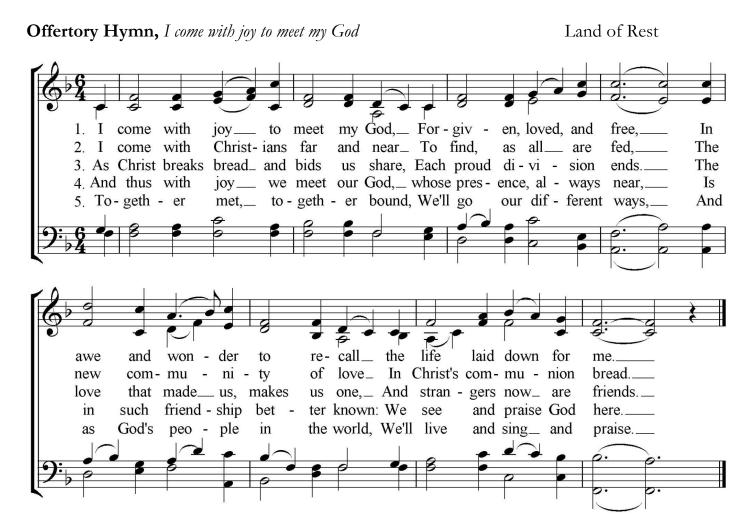
Bishop Fisher: The peace of Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Offertory Sentence & Instruction

Bishop Fisher: Our offering today is taken for **Human To Human**. You may use the link on the screen to make a gift during the offertory. Or, at the end of the liturgy, you may leave your gift in the designated box which will be located with the UTO box.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.



The Great Thanksgiving: Enriching Our Worship, Prayer 2

El Señor sea con ustedes.

Y con tu espíritu.

Elevemos los corazones.

Los elevamos al Señor.

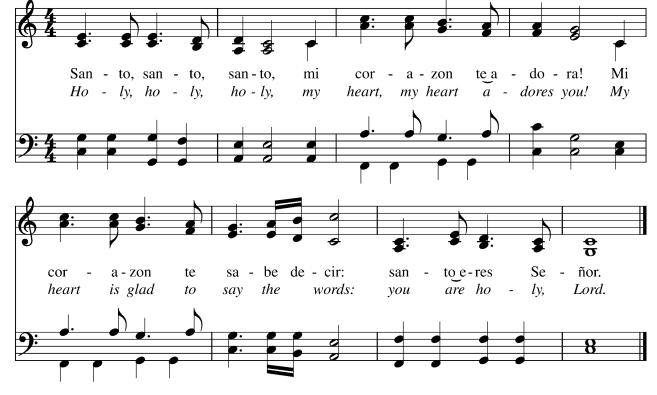
Demos gracias a Dios nuestro Señor.

Es justo darle gracias y alabanza.

We praise you and we bless you,
holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:
sun, moon, and stars;
earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing.
You made us in your image,
and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us
to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus Wonder, Love, & Praise - #785 Santo, santo, santo



Words: Variation on a traditional liturgical text. Music: Composer of melody unknown; arr. based on a two-part version as taught by Pablo D. Sosa (b. 1933).

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say in the language of our hearts,

The Lord's Prayer

The Fraction

This is Living Bread, given for all Creation.

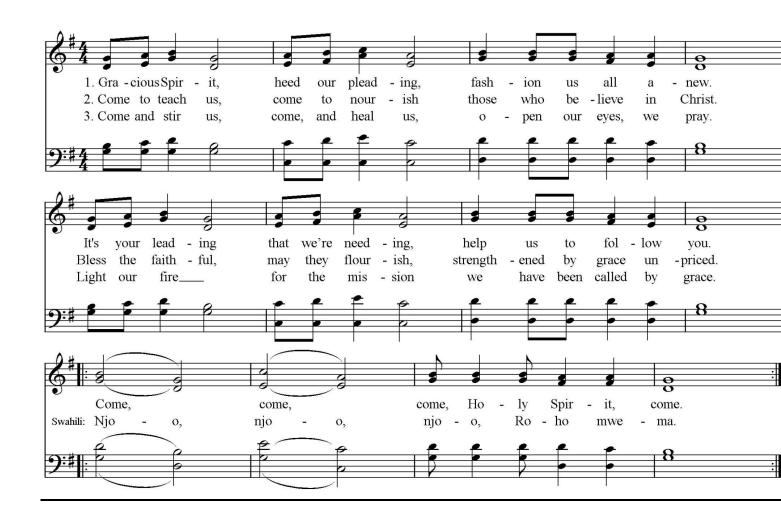
All who eat this bread share in Christ's Body.

Music during communion & during the election

Evangelical Lutheran Worship - #723 Canticle of the Turning











Yo vengo a Ofrecer mi Corazón

Quién dijo que todo está perdido Yo vengo a ofrecer mi corazón Tanta sangre que se llevó el río Yo vengo a ofrecer mi corazón

No será tan fácil / ya sé que pasa No será tan simple como pensaba Como abrir el pecho y sacar el alma / una cuchillada de Amor.

Luna de los pobres siempre abierta / yo vengo a ofrecer mi corazón Como un documento inalterable / yo vengo a ofrecer mi corazón.

Y uniré las puntas del mismo lazo Y me iré tranquilo, me iré despacio Y te daré todo y me darás algo / algo que me alivie un poco más...

Cuando no haya nadie cerca o lejos / yo vengo a ofrecer mi corazón Cuando los satélites no alcancen / yo vengo a ofrecer mi corazón.

Y hablo de países y de esperanza Hablo por la Vida y hablo por la nada Hablo de cambiar ésta nuestra casa De cambiarla por cambiar nomás

Quién dijo que todo está perdido Yo vengo a ofrecer mi corazón Quién dijo que todo está perdido... Yo vengo a ofrecer... mi corazón

#557 Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain

Lead me, guide me along the way For if You lead me I cannot stray Lord, let me walk each day with Thee Lead me, O Lord, won't You lead me I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r
To help me over my weakest hour
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see
Lead me, O Lord, lead me
Refrain
Help me tread in the paths of righteousness
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress
I am putting all my trust in Thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me
Refrain

I am lost if You take your hand from me I am blind without Thy Light to see Lord, just always let me Thy servant be Lead me, O Lord, lead me *Refrain*

How Great Thou Art / Cuán Grande Es Él

Señor, mi Dios / al contemplar los Cielos Y al pensar en toda tu Creación Al escuchar tu Voz en cada trueno Y al meditar en tu inmenso Poder

> Mi corazón entona la canción Cuán grande es Él / cuán grande es Él Te cantaré cuán grande eres Señor Te adoraré mi Salvador

And when I think / that God, His Son not sparing Sent Him to die / I scarce can take it in That on that Cross / my burdens gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sins

> Then sings my soul, my savior God to Thee How great Thou Art / How great Thou Art Then sings my soul, my savior God to Thee How great Thou Art / how great Thou Art

Cuando el Señor / me llame a su Presencia Al dulce hogar, al Cielo de esplendor Le adoraré / cantando la Grandeza De su Poder / y su infinito Amor

Mi corazón entona la canción Cuán grande es Él / cuán grande es Él Te cantaré cuán grande eres Señor Te adoraré mi Salvador

Great and Mighty / Awesome Wonderful / You conquer all God our Father / God Omnipotent / You reign on High (X2)

Then sings my soul, my savior God to Thee How great Thou Art / How great Thou Art Te cantaré cuán grande eres Señor Te alabaré / eterno Rey

#184 Blessed Assurance En Jesucristo, Puerto De Paz

Blessed assurance / Jesus is mine O what a foretaste / of glory divine Heir of salvation / purchased of God Born of His Spirit / washed in His Blood

This is my story / this is my song / praising my Savior / all the day long This is my story / this is my song / praising my Savior / all the day long

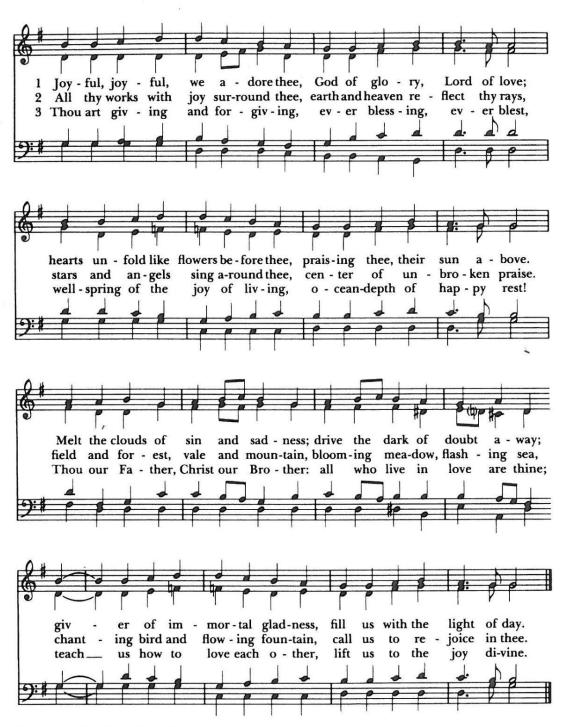
En Jesucristo / Puerto de Paz / en rudas horas de tempestad Hallan las almas / dulce solaz / grato consuelo, felicidad

Gloria cantemos / al Redentor / Que por nosotros / vino a morir Y que la Gracia / del Salvador / Siempre dirija / nuestro vivir

Perfect submission / all is at rest I in my Savior / am happy and blest Watching and waiting / looking above Filled with His Goodness / lost in His Love

This is my story / this is my song / Praising my Savior / all the day long This is my story / this is my song / Praising my Savior / all the day long

> Gloria cantemos / al Redentor / que por nosotros / vino a morir Y que la Gracia / del Salvador / siempre dirija / nuestro vivir Praising my Savior / all the day long



Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)

Music: Hymn to Joy, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

Post Communion Prayer

Bishop Fisher: Let us give thanks for this meal.

Create in us a new heart and a new vision, O God, that the gifts of your Spirit may work in us and renew the face of the earth. May we be one with you so that our work is yours and your work is ours. Lead us to transform our lives to reflect your glory in Creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior who is alive with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

Instruction for UTO Ingathering:

For those parishes that have brought their UTO gifts, <u>during the final hymn</u>, please place them in the UTO box near the exit door. For your convenience, the Human To Human box will be at the same location, as mentioned earlier.

The Bishop's Blessing

Closing Hymn: 527 Yo Tengo Un Gozo/How Great The Joy In My Heart

How great the joy in my heart / Joy in my heart
Joy in my heart and in my soul / Alleluia, praise the Lord
It's like a stream of living water
Stream of living water
Stream of living water in my heart and my soul

Come join in singing / give Glory to the Lord Come join in singing / give Glory to the Lord O praise the Lord / praise the Lord / praise our God Come join in singing / give Glory to the Lord

> Yo tengo gozo en mi alma / gozo en mi alma Gozo en mi alma y en mi ser Aleluya, Gloria a Dios /es como un río de Agua Viva Río de Agua Viva / río de Agua Viva en mi alma y en mi ser

Vamos cantando con todo su Poder Vamos cantando con todo su Poder Da Gloria a Dios / Gloria a Dios / da Gloria a Él Vamos cantando con todo su Poder

How great the joy in my heart / Joy in my heart Joy in my heart and in my soul / Alleluia, praise the Lord It's like a stream of living water Stream of living water Stream of living water in my heart and my soul

Love one another / give Glory to the Lord Love one another / give Glory to the Lord O praise the Lord / praise the Lord / praise our God Love one another / give Glory to the Lord

> Yo tengo gozo en mi alma / gozo en mi alma Gozo en mi alma y en mi ser Aleluya, Gloria a Dios /es como un río de Agua Viva Río de Agua Viva / río de Agua Viva en mi alma y en mi ser

Alza tus brazos y alaba a tu Señor Alza tus brazos y alaba a tu Señor Da Gloria a Dios / Gloria a Dios / da Gloria a Él Alza tus brazos y alaba a tu Señor

> Yo tengo gozo en mi alma / gozo en mi alma Gozo en mi alma y en mi ser Aleluya, Gloria a Dios /es como un río de Agua Viva Río de Agua Viva / río de Agua Viva en mi alma y en mi ser

How great the joy in my heart / Joy in my heart
Joy in my heart and in my soul / Alleluia, praise the Lord
It's like a stream of living water
Stream of living water
Stream of living water in my heart and my soul

The Dismissal Deacon

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Ministers of the Liturgy

Celebrant: The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher Preacher: The Rev. Nathaniel Anderson

Deacons: The Rev. Deacon Jaclyn Mayo and The Rev. Deacon Rebecca Grant

Lectors: Ms. Talia Pott and Ms. Em Gamber

Intercessor: Mx Alex Blenman

Eucharistic Ministers: The Rev. Nathaniel Anderson; The Rev. Heather Blais; The Rev. Julie

Carson; Mx. Alex Blenman; Mr. Will Harron; Ms. Talia Pott; Ms. Katherine Leary

Musicians: Sergio D'Orsini, guitar; Kell Juliard, piano; Colin Britt, piano

Chaplains to Convention & Search Process: The Rev. Julie Carson and Mr. Will Harron

Many thanks to Mary Moore of St. David's, Agawam for providing wine and St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton for providing bread for today's Eucharist

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- ❖ The Holy Bible, NRSV
- ❖ Book of Common Prayer, 1979

About Land Acknowledgments

At the 80th General Convention (2022), the Episcopal Church committed to ensure that all public gatherings and worship of the Episcopal Church, its boards commissions, and committees will begin to implement land acknowledgement liturgies and prayers to begin public meetings or worship. To that end, our worship begins with *A Prayer of Indigenous Territorial Acknowledgement*, created and used by St. John's in Northampton, Massachusetts. To learn more about this resolution and the use of land acknowledgements, please visit: https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/06/IndMin-Land-Acknowledgment-Resource-EN-1.pdf

About Spirituals

Songs like *Wade in the Water* were described by Abolitionist W.E.B. DuBois as "Sorrow Songs" and considered them one of African Americans greatest gifts. The song was created and first sung by enslaved people in religious services. It is thought Harriet Tubman used the song on the Underground Railroad, "...to warn slaves to get off the trail and into the water to prevent being sniffed out by dogs that were used to hunt

them." The lyrics were first published in 1901 in New Jubilee Songs as Sung by the Fisk Jubilee Singers. The book was published by Frederick J. Work and his brother John Wesley Work Jr. Learn more: https://americansongwriter.com/behind-the-meaning-of-the-classic-gospel-song-wade-in-the-water/

Spirituals are an important part of the contribution that African Americans have made to our faith tradition. While churches pay royalties to arrangers and contemporary composers through the Episcopal Church's licensing agreement, there has been no way to compensate the original, unknown, enslaved composers of the Spirituals. As we engage in the ongoing work of racial reconciliation and becoming a beloved community, we felt it was important to find a small way to acknowledge this truth.

To that end, we have followed the model of Grace Church in Great Barrington. For the past few years they have made note of the spirituals that their parish sings during the year and to honor the anonymous creators of these important and beautiful songs they have made a payment to a local organization that is rebuilding the Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church, where W.E.B. DuBois worshiped, as an African American Cultural center - The DuBois Freedom Center. https://www.duboisfreedomcenter.org/