



HONORING

# *Matthew Shepard*

REMEMBER • REFLECT • RESOLVE

## *Evening Service*

NOVEMBER 30, 2023 - 6:00 PM

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

### ABOUT THE COVER IMAGE

Matthew Wayne Shepard (1976–1998) was interred at Washington National Cathedral in October 2018. In 2022, LGBTQ members of the Cathedral staff commissioned artist and iconographer Kelly Latimore (b. 1986) to paint a devotional portrait of Matthew for use in Cathedral services, gatherings, and pilgrimages associated with Matthew and the LGBTQIA+ community and as a means for personal reflection and education about Matthew's life and legacy. The background of the portrait was inspired by the rainbow pride flag and includes phrases and words from letters and cards sent to Matthew's parents, Dennis and Judy Shepard. Copyright 2022, Washington National Cathedral. All rights reserved.

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*The people's responses are in bold.*

GATHERING MUSIC

*Way Maker*

Sinach (b. 1972)

*God Is on Our Side*

Andraé Crouch (1942–2015)

MUSIC AT THE PROCESSION

Fantasia on “Ubi caritas”

Angela Kraft Cross (b. 1958)

*The people stand as able as the procession enters.*

WELCOME

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope

*The people are seated.*

OPENING ANTHEM

*The One You Love*

*Sung by the cantor.* Chris Brown (b. 1981), Steve Furtick (b. 1980),  
Jason Ingram (b. 1974), Phil Wickham (b. 1984)

I can be real with You.  
Say anything and not be afraid.  
You made me and You like what You made.  
You made me and You don't make mistakes.  
I can be real with You.

*Refrain* You take me just as I am.  
You'd choose me all over again.  
I am the one You love.  
I am the one You love.  
I don't have to prove anything.  
There's room at Your table for me.  
I am the one You love.  
I am the one You love.

I know You're proud of me,  
Even though I don't deserve it sometimes.  
No I'm not a perfect child,  
But I still make my Father smile.  
I know You're proud of me.

*Refrain*

Your love, Your love never fails.  
Your love never fails.

*Refrain*

Your love, Your love never fails.  
Your love never fails.

*The people stand as able.*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Love one another,  
for love is of God,  
and whoever loves is born of God and knows God.  
**Spirit of God, search our hearts.**

GATHERING PRAYER

God of love, hold us as we remember our beloved brother Matthew, twenty-five years after his death, as he now rests in the peace and safety of your eternal home. Surround us as we reflect on the meaning of his legacy and the enduring injustices that call out to us for action. Stand with us in our resolve to walk the path of righteousness as we seek to build a world that embraces and uplifts the human family in all its beautiful and life-giving diversity. **Amen.**

HYMN

*God Is Love*

*Sung by all.*

*Abbot's Leigh*

1. God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let  
2. God is Love; and love en - folds us, all the world in  
3. God is Love; and though with blind - ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him  
one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,  
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -  
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are  
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heavens a - bove, God who breathes through  
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that  
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.  
self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.  
Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

*The people are seated.*

## REMEMBER

### PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.  
The Lord will not let your foot be moved  
and the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.  
Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord, the Lord, watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your side,  
so that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil  
and shall keep you safe.  
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.

### A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR QUEER SOULS

We remember those who walked before us and those who walked beside us.  
**The silenced and the shamed.**  
The brave and the bold.  
**The exiled and the estranged.**  
The role models and the revolutionaries.  
**The beaten and the bruised.**  
The loved and the lost.  
**The pioneers and the proud.**  
We remember them, our beloved sisters, siblings, and brothers.  
**We mourn their struggles. We give thanks for their gifts. We honor their legacies.**

### ANTHEM

*My Help Cometh From the Lord*

*Sung by the ensemble.*

Jacquelyn Gouche-Farris (b. 1963)

I will lift up mine eyes to the hills,  
From whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the Lord,  
The Lord which made heaven and earth.  
He said He will not suffer thy foot,  
Thy foot to be moved.  
The Lord, which keepeth thee,  
He will not slumber nor sleep.

Oh, the Lord is thy keeper,  
The Lord is thy shade,  
Upon thy right hand,  
Upon thy right hand.  
No, the sun shall not smite thee by day,  
Nor the moon by night.  
He shall preserve thy soul,  
Even forever more.  
My help, my help, my help,  
All of my help cometh from the Lord.

## REFLECT

### READING

John 6:37-40

Jesus said to the people, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

### REFLECTION

The Reverend Anne E. Kitch

### A READING IN HONOR OF BLACK TRANS LIVES

"Blessings of our ancestors, our praying grandmothers"

Déjà Baptiste

You are not alone  
You are not the first, or the only  
There is a lineage you are inheriting  
It is your courage, your faith, your spirit that sets you apart  
We are not doomed, We are not Cursed  
We are the blessed ones, the blessing  
We are blessed to know our spirits are not only bound in our skin  
(flesh)  
that bodies, like names, are expressions  
Manifesting the soul we bear outside of time and beyond infinity  
There is a lineage here  
You were never the first time your family,  
your hometown,  
your faith,  
your lovers  
loved  
and were loved  
by us  
The blessed ones,  
we heard and nurtured our ancestors' dreams  
and came forward to create and dream,  
imagine and plant,  
live in the physical what is celebrated  
and cherished  
and renewed  
in the spiritual

PRAYER

“A Prayer for Wanderers”

Fr. Shannon TL Kearns

God of the seekers and dreamers, the disaffected and disillusioned, the worn out and burnt out, the rejected and leavers.

We ask for blessings as we travel, as we doubt, as we meander.

We ask for the grace to leave when necessary, to come home when we can, to create new homes when we need to.

We ask for protection of our souls from those who don't understand, who judge, who mock.

We ask for the fortitude to undertake the journey even when it's scary (or, maybe, especially when it's scary).

We know that as we wander we are not alone and as Tolkien says that “Not all who wander are lost”. We know that sometimes we have to leave the confines of what we knew to see the truth, to hear Your voice, to find out what to do next.

We pray you lead us where we need to go, by whatever route it takes. We pray for new ways to see You, to understand new ways of being in the world. We pray for healing and for redemption, and, where possible, reconciliation.

We pray for all of this so we can know wholeness, know our bodies, know each other, know You.

And be found.

*The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.*

HYMN

*I Love the Lord*

*Sung by all.*

Richard Smallwood (b. 1948)



1. I love the Lord, he heard my cry and pi-tied ev - 'ry groan.  
2. I love the Lord, he heard my cry and pi-tied ev - 'ry groan.



Long as I live and trou- bles rise, I'll has- ten to his throne.  
O let my heart no more des - pair while I have breath to pray.

*The people are seated.*

RESOLVE

READING

1 John 4:16-19

We have known and have believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. This is how love has been perfected in us, so that we can have confidence on the Judgment Day, because we are exactly the same as God is in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment. The person who is afraid has not been made perfect in love. We love because God first loved us.

REFLECTION

Dennis and Judy Shepard

## PRAYER

“A Prayer for My Queer and Trans Siblings”

Jess Reynolds

Here you are.

Here, in this holy space,  
on this ground that is holy  
because you are here.

Here you are, in flesh and bone,  
filling up this body that belongs to you alone.

Your pumping heart is a wonder  
because it keeps you alive.

Your loving heart is a blessing  
because it keeps all of us alive.

The Spirit of Love has a home in you.  
May we all see that love in you  
and let our hearts become mirrors  
for the compassion at your core.

The Spirit of Justice has a home in you.  
May we light our wicks  
from one another until we are all aflame,  
until we burn out every prejudice  
we carry in these bones.

Here you are.  
Holy as you are.

Blessed be.

## HONORING OUR INSPIRATION

We give thanks for those, like Matthew, who embody for us love, persistence, vulnerability, transcendence, and leadership in the creation of a just world. We offer their names here aloud or in our hearts.

*The people are invited to offer names of those in LGBTQIA+ community who inspire them.*

*After names are offered, the officiant offers a prayer and the people respond, Amen.*

*The people stand as able.*

## PRAYER

“A Prayer for the International Day  
Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia”

The Reverend Kittredge Cherry

**Loving God of the rainbow promise,**

Thank you for creating us in your holy image, with a wide range of genders and sexualities that reflect your own sacred diversities. May we hear your voice and embody your love today and always.

**Loving God of the rainbow promise,**

We pray for an end to hatred and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex people in every nation. Bring strength and comfort to the LGBTQ people who experience violence, poverty, job loss, homelessness, and other forms of discrimination because of who they love and who they are.



**Loving God of the rainbow promise,**

We acknowledge our own brokenness and invite you to heal the wounds, ease the pain, and calm the fears in every human heart. Be known to us even in the midst of every storm and illuminate a way in our wilderness.

**Loving God of the rainbow promise,**

We pledge to help build a world where love means love, a world where justice and peace kiss each other. As a rainbow community, we give thanks for friends, families, and allies who join us in the journey to protect and celebrate sexual and gender diversities worldwide. In your many names we pray, **Amen.**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Father of all, we pray to you for Matthew and those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

We know we shall pass this way but once. If there is any kindness we can show, or any good thing we can do, let us do it now. Let us not defer or neglect it, for we shall not pass this way again. And the blessing of God, remain with us now and for ever. **Amen.**

**SENDING FORTH**

Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, fight for justice, honor everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

*I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord*

*Sung by all.*

*Land of Rest*

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, for - giv - en, loved, and free,  
 3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion ends.  
 4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His pres - ence, al - ways near,  
 5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll go our dif - ferent ways,

in awe and won - der to re - call his life laid down for me.  
 That love that made us makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.  
 is in such friend - ship bet - ter known: we see and praise him here.  
 and as his peo - ple in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

**Pastoral Support**

Those in need of comfort or support immediately after the service may speak with a member of the clergy via private online chapels from 7:30–8:30 pm eastern time. Register at: <https://bit.ly/cathedralchapel>

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

### OFFICIANTS

The Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson  
*IX Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire (retired)*

The Reverend Canon Rosemarie Logan Duncan  
*Canon for Worship, Washington National Cathedral*

### ASSISTING CLERGY

The Reverend Canon Jan Naylor Cope  
*Provost, Washington National Cathedral*

The Reverend Canon Dana Colley Corsello  
*Canon Vicar, Washington National Cathedral*

The Reverend Patrick L. Keyser  
*Associate Priest for Worship, Washington National Cathedral*

### HOMILIST

The Reverend Anne E. Kitch  
*Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Phillipsburg, New Jersey*

### SPEAKERS

Dennis Shepard  
*Co-Founder, Board Member Emeritus, Matthew Shepard Foundation*

Judy Shepard  
*Co-Founder, Board Chair/President, Matthew Shepard Foundation*

## ABOUT THE MATTHEW SHEPARD FOUNDATION

The Matthew Shepard Foundation's mission is to amplify the story of Matthew Shepard to inspire individuals, organizations, and communities to embrace the dignity and equality of all people. Through local, regional, and national outreach, we empower individuals to find their voice to create change and challenge communities to identify and address hate that lives within our schools, neighborhoods, and homes.

Our work is an extension of Matt's passion to foster a more caring and just world. We share his story and embody his vigor for civil rights to change the hearts and minds of others to accept everyone as they are.

[www.matthewshepard.org](http://www.matthewshepard.org)

You may use the QR code to make a donation to the foundation.



## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

### READERS

Catherine Able-Thomas  
*Member, Washington National Cathedral Congregation*

Alex  
*St. Albans School, Class of 2025*

The Reverend Cathy Alexander  
*Associate Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church of Washington DC*

Reverend Mother Felix Culpa, SPI  
*Abbess, House of Magnificent Intentions, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*

Eaddy  
*National Cathedral School, Class of 2027*

Eli  
*St. Albans School, Class of 2027*

Georgia  
*National Cathedral School, Class of 2025*

Ambassador Robert S. Gilchrist  
*Principal Deputy Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor  
United States Department of State*

Jax  
*National Cathedral School, Class of 2026*

Rabbi Jake Singer-Beilin  
*Bet Mishpachah, the LGBTQ synagogue of Washington, DC*

Bob Witeck  
*Member, Board of Directors, Matthew Shepard Foundation*

### MUSICIANS

The Cathedral Contemporary Ensemble

Thomas M. Sheehan  
*Organist and Associate Director of Music, Washington National Cathedral*

Michele Fowlin  
*Associate Director for Contemporary Music, Washington National Cathedral*

Mark Prince, *drums*

Hamilton Hayes, *bass*

*Thank you for joining us in worship.*

The work of this Cathedral is made possible entirely through the support of individuals like you. The gifts of people from across the country and the world are behind every worship service, concert, public program, and the daily work of maintaining this historic landmark and house of prayer for all people.



All are invited to make a gift to support the Cathedral's ministry of sharing God's love as the plate is passed. Gifts may also be made online by scanning the QR code at the left, or by texting the dollar amount you wish to give to 202-856-9005.

Thank you for your generosity. Please know that your participation with us today has been a blessing.

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