



HONORING

*Matthew Shepard*

REMEMBER • REFLECT • RESOLVE

*Evening Service*

**DECEMBER 1, 2021 • 5:30 PM**

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

### WELCOME

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith  
*Dean, Washington National Cathedral*

### OFFICIANTS

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

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

### SPEAKERS

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

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

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

### READERS

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

Caleb Nelson Amaker  
*Director of Children and Family Ministries, St. Mark's Episcopal Church*

Charlotte Clymer

Meghan Foster  
*Member, Washington National Cathedral LGBTQIA Alliance*

Hazel Monae  
*Missioner for Equity and Justice, Episcopal Diocese of Washington*

Natalie  
*National Cathedral School, Class of 2022*

Larry Neff  
*Lay leader at Bet Mishpachah, the LGBTQ synagogue of Washington, DC*

Mildred J. Reyes  
*Missioner for Latino/Hispanic Ministries & Diocesan Initiatives, Episcopal Diocese of Washington*

The Reverend Dr. Yolanda Rolle  
*Episcopal Chaplain, Howard University*

Spencer  
*St. Albans School, Class of 2023*

Sister Cheeky Teeta  
*Mistress of Manifestation, The D.C. Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence*

### MUSICIANS

George F. Fergus  
*Associate Director of Music and Chorister Program Director, Washington National Cathedral*

Daryl L. A. Hunt  
*Associate Director of Music for Contemporary Worship, Washington National Cathedral*

Jasmine Jacobs, *singer*

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*The people's responses are in bold.*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith

OPENING ANTHEM

*Love*

*Sung by the cantor.*

Kirk Franklin (b. 1970)

Love,  
A word that comes and goes,  
But few people really know what it means to really love somebody.  
Love,  
Though the tears may fade away,  
I'm so glad your love will stay,  
'Cause I love you, and you show me, Jesus,  
What it really means to love.  
The nights that I cried, you loved me.  
When I should have died, you loved me.  
I'll never know why you love me.  
It's a mystery to me, now I'm glad to see Jesus.  
When all hope was gone, you loved me.  
You gave me a song that you loved me.  
Now I can go on 'cause you love me.  
It's a mystery to me, now I'm glad to see Jesus.  
What it really means to love.

*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

*Said by all.*

God of love, hold us as we remember our beloved brother Matthew who 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

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*Sung by all.*

*Nettleton*



1. Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, hith - er by thy help, I'm come;  
3. Oh, to grace how great a debt - or, dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, sure - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace, Lord, like a fet - ter, bind my won - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.  
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering from the fold of God;  
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
he, to save my soul from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

## REMEMBER

### 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.**

*The people are seated.*

### READING OF NAMES

We remember especially today our transgender and non-binary sisters, brothers, and siblings murdered in 2021 and whose names are known to us.

*Names are read aloud.*

*The people are then invited to offer names of departed LGBTQIA+ loved ones and siblings.*

May all of these beloved children of God now rest in peace, in that place where there is no pain or grief but life everlasting. **Amen.**

### PSALM 3:1-6

Lord, how many adversaries I have!

How many there are who rise up against me!

**How many there are who say to me,**

**“There is no help for you in your God.”**

But you, O Lord, are a shield about me;

you are my glory, the One who lifts up my head.

**I call aloud upon you, O Lord,**

**and you answer me from your holy hill.**

I lie down and go to sleep;

I wake again, because you, O Lord, sustain me.

**I do not fear the multitudes of people**

**who set themselves against me all around.**

ANTHEM

*My Help*

*Sung by the cantor.*

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,  
All of my help cometh from the Lord.

## REFLECT

### REFLECTION

The Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson

### 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

*Spirit of the Living God*

*Sung by all.*

Daniel Iverson (1890–1977)

Spi - rit of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me,  
Spi - rit of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spi - rit of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

*The people are seated.*



## RESOLVE

### READING

1 John 4:16b-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.

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

*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, 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.**

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

*Guide My Feet*

*Sung by all.*

Negro Spiritual



1. Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race.      Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race.  
2. Hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race.      Hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race.  
3. Stand by me, Lord, while I run this race.      Stand by me, Lord, while I run this race.



- Guide my feet, Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I don't want to run this race in vain. \_\_\_\_\_  
Hold my hand, Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I don't want to run this race in vain. \_\_\_\_\_  
Stand by me, Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I don't want to run this race in vain. \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 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)

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

