



EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CONNECTICUT

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S MISSION

A Liturgy Celebrating LGBTQIA+ Lives

We come together in this inaugural ECCT-sponsored service to honor and affirm the diversity of God's beloved creation as embodied by LGBTQIA+ lives.

Sunday, September 10, 2023

5:00 PM

**Christ Church Cathedral
45 Church St., Hartford, CT 06103**



We acknowledge the Tunxis, Sicaog, Wangunks and Poquonook people, the traditional custodians on the land on which Christ Church Cathedral is located. We pay respect to their elders, past and present. We respect their people and traditions as a continued call to live out the ministry of reconciliation to which we are called.

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut and Christ Church Cathedral welcome you to this inaugural service in celebration of LGBTQIA+ lives. We honor the divine image in all of our bodies and lives.

Whoever you are, whatever your relationship with the Church is, wherever you are on your life's journey, you are welcome in this place.

Should you wish to speak with someone, chaplains—both clergy and lay—will be available for conversation both during and after the service. The ushers, greeters, or any member of the Cathedral team can guide you to them.

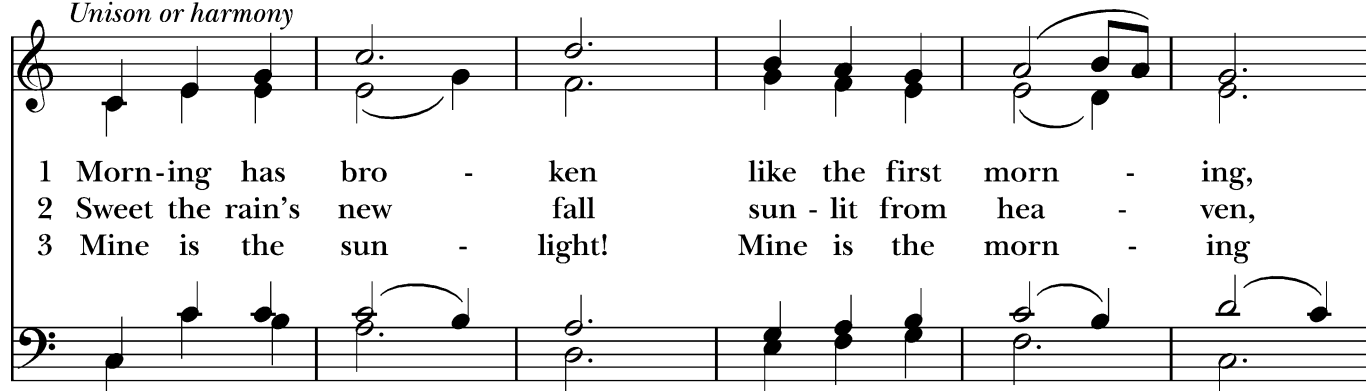
The Liturgy of the Word

Organ Prelude

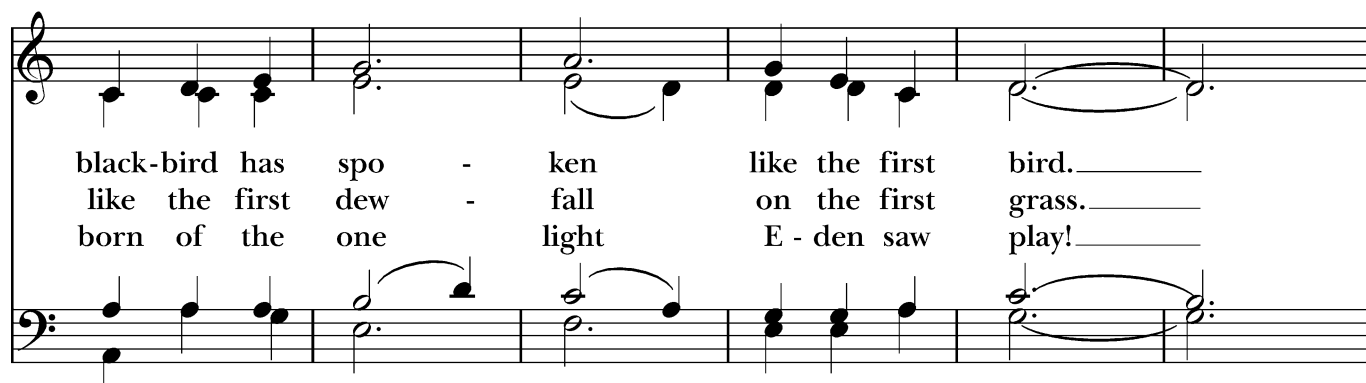
Processional Hymn ~ 1982 Hymnal # 8 Morning has broken

Bunessan

Unison or harmony



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird._____
like the first dew - fall on the first grass._____
born of the one light E - den saw play!_____



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!_____
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass._____
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!_____

Celebrant Holy One, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works.
People **You created us with differences that illuminate the breadth of your beauty, wisdom, and love.**

Celebrant We celebrate the fullness of who you have created us to be.
People **As we gather with joy to celebrate all the ways that your love is expressed through us.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.
People **And blessed be your reign, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Creator God, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of the one through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the reading of Holy Scripture.

A Reading From ~ Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Lector The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139:1-15 *Domine, probasti*

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
 you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
 but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
 and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
 it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
 where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
 if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning *
 and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me *
 and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
 and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; *
 darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
 your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, *
 while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
 all of them were written in your book; *
 they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.

Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn ~ Love astounding

Holy Manna

1. Love a - stound-ing, Love con - found-ing lim - its fear - ful minds im - pose.
2. Love re - ceiv - ing Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,

Love re - new - ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - ery heart un - til it knows
faith re - gain - ing, hope pro - claim - ing; Love has taught us, we be - long

Love's trans-form - ing, heal - ing good-ness, Love's a - bid - ing gen - tle grace,
safe with - in Love's ten - der keep - ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent cal.

Love's en - dur-ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol - ing strong em-brace.
Love de - fend-ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en - fold - ing all.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system includes two verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system continues the lyrics. The fourth system concludes the hymn with a double bar line.

The Gospel ~ John 11:17, 30-44

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon ~ The Rev. D. Littlepage, Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford

Prayers

Voice 1: God of creation, you breathed life into the world and called your whole creation good. You created humankind in your divine image, breathed life into them, and called them good. You create each one of us, marvelously and wonderfully in your image, breathe life into each of us, and call each of us good.

(pause)

Voice 2: Others, including our Episcopal Church, have denied the goodness of our lives, our bodies, and our love. Our bodies, our lives, and our love has been made the battleground in others' ideological wars. Their words have harmed us, alienating us from ourselves, and from you. We have learned to deny the goodness of your creation. We have been taught to fear ourselves, and this has silenced us.

(pause)

Voice 3: Our fear of ourselves has made us afraid to draw near to you, or to trust your love. We have trusted your judgment rather than your love, and we have given ourselves away to the expectations of others, allowing them to define the boundaries of our goodness. We have not been fully ourselves. We have not spoken our truth. We have been silent. And we have learned that silence is death.

(pause)

Voice 4: We thank you that even through this death, you were never apart from us. We thank you for loving us, and naming us, and calling your creation good, even when others did not, and even when we could not feel beloved. We thank you for the great cloud of witnesses who have fought and suffered before us and alongside us, paving the way, and showing us how wide and embracing your love truly is. We pray for those who still struggle to be their true, God-created selves, especially children and teenagers who have been abused and bullied.

(pause)

Voice 5: Let us know that our flesh is where you abide, and that our bodies are your sacred ground. Let us embrace you, the God enfleshed in Christ, and through Christ, in the full diversity of all humanity. Let us know that we enrich the world, and that we are called to live with dignity and worth, free to give our gifts to the world without fear, because in our beauty and worth, we show God's love to the world. We are called to be ourselves in the world, because the fullness of who we are is the fullness of God's image.

(pause)

People & Voices say together:

Creator God, author of all love and wholeness; we thank you for the unending diversity of your creation. We bless you for the great variety of human life. Help us, each wonderfully and perfectly created in your image, to honor the uniqueness that is our self. Grant us courage to be bold in the telling of our truth. Give those to whom we speak openness and curiosity. Be ever-present, filling the spaces between us so that our words, thoughts, and actions, are filtered through your love. Teach us in turn to seek and recognize you in those different from ourselves, and to embrace one another in love as you embrace each of us; so that together we may ever more fully share your compassion with a world yearning for healing and completeness. We pray this in the light of Jesus Christ, your beloved, our redeemer. Amen.

Celebrant

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements ~ The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, Cathedral Dean

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem ~ Fearfully, Wonderfully Made

Nathan Crabtree and Erik Whitehill

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving ~ Enriching Our Worship 1

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest**

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, and when he had given thanks, he 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All who feel called, of any religion or none, are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are welcome to come forward to receive Holy Communion. When coming forward, please follow the direction given by the ushers. If you are unable to come to the front, please let an usher know and the Sacrament or a blessing will be brought to you.

Communion Anthem ~ The Welcome Table

Joel Raney

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

God of man - y fa - ces, we of - fer our praise,
God of man - y gen - ders, our world re - flects you,
God of man - y names, we in - vite you to show
God of man - y bod - ies, a - bide with - in ours,

sing - ing your glo - ry through all of our days.
sun - rise and sun - set u - ni - ting our hues,
us the new names that re - flect our true souls.
shift - ing more each day through time and through scars.

Hear ev - er grow - ing voi - ces, once fra - gile, now strong,
wo - ven in - to a ci - ty with jewels of all shades,
Breathe with your ho - ly spir - it to give us the Word
Come sanc - ti - fy our bod - ies, all fash - ioned by you,

car - ry - ing mel - o - dies in ex - pan - sive new songs.
hou - ses of ru - by and walls rowed with jade.
that will in - dwell dry bones, grant - ing new life once heard.
ho - li - er ev - ery - day, still be - com - ing more true.

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

Organ Postlude

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If you are visiting us for the first time, WELCOME!

Please feel free to introduce yourself to any of the clergy and lay representatives of the Cathedral and the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

Chaplains—both clergy and lay—will also be available for conversation both during and after the service. The ushers, greeters, or any member of the Cathedral team can guide you to them.



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
CONNECTICUT'S CATHEDRAL

An Episcopal Church within the Anglican Communion

All faithful lay people and clergy of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, Cathedral Dean

The Rev. Deacon Roxana Videla, Pastoral Assistant

The Rev. Bonnie Matthews, Cathedral Deacon

The Rev. Jay Cooke, Priest Associate

The Rev. Canon Timothy Hodapp, Priest Associate

The Rev. Canon Ranjit K. Mathews, Priest Associate

Jilda Aliotta, Chair of Congregation Committee

Richard Baraglia, Vice-Chair of Congregation Committee

Service Participants

Celebrant

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey W. Mello, Bishop Diocesan

Assisting

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

Preacher

The Rev. D. Littlepage, Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford

Minister of Ceremony

The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, Cathedral Dean

Bishop's Chaplain

The Rev. Ranjit Mathews, Canon for Mission Advocacy, Racial Justice & Reconciliation

First Reading

The Rev. Thomas C. Jackson

Psalm

The Rev. Mary Barnett, The Church of the Holy Trinity, Middletown

Gospel

The Rev. Jessie Akerson, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, South Windsor

Ministers of Communion

The Rev. Mary Anne Osborn, Christ Church, Guilford

The Rev. Thomas C. Jackson

Prayer Leaders

The Rev. Rowena Kemp, Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford

Ash De Las Casas, Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford

The Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard, Christ Church, Middle Haddam

Director of Music

Marianne Vogel

Cathedral Choir

Seth Allen, S. Blair, Kelley Kelly, Viola Mullin, Katherine Platte, Liam Shannon, and Tom Smith

Hartford Gay Men's Chorus

Bryan Adams, Christopher Clark, David Devost, Rich Faucher, Will Maddy, Michael Massing, Tom Omlor, and Robert Reader

Clergy Chaplains

The Rev. Rowena Kemp, Grace Church, Hartford

The Rev. D. Littlepage, Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford

Lay Chaplain

Ash De Las Casas, Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford

Greeters

The Rev. Ranjit Mathews, Canon for Mission Advocacy, Racial Justice & Reconciliation

Deborah Tickell, NW & SW Region Missionary, ECCT

Usher

George Chien, Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford

Liturgy Planning Team

The Rev. Keri Aubert, The Rev. Emily Finn, The Rev. Rowena Kemp,

The Rev. D. Littlepage, The Rev. Mary Anne Osborne, Deb Tickell, and Marianne Vogel

CATHEDRAL STAFF

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