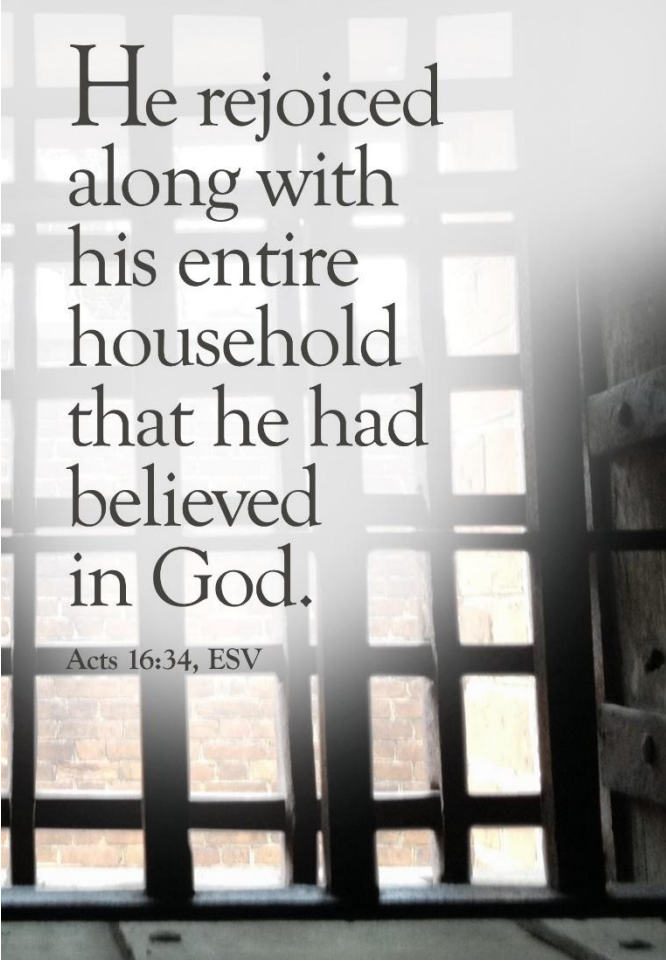


## **Easter VII**



He rejoiced  
along with  
his entire  
household  
that he had  
believed  
in God.

Acts 16:34, ESV

**June 1, 2025**

**10 am**

**Church of the Holy Nativity**

**4238 Pimlico Road**

**Baltimore, Maryland 21215**

**[www.holynativitybaltimore.org](http://www.holynativitybaltimore.org)**

**A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH**

**Celebrant: The Reverend Karen Mercer**

**Musician: Dr. Lior Leigh**

## PRELUDE

### OPENING HYMN

1 Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

2 Alleluia! not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! he is near us,  
faith believes, nor questions how:  
though the cloud from sight received him,  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! bread of Heaven,  
Thou on earth our food, our stay!  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day:

### H460 – *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,  
thee the Lord of lords we own:  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
thou within the veil hast entered,  
robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
in the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of holy Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

*Alleluia! sing to Jesus*, #460 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887).

### OPENING SENTENCES

Alleluia Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

### COLLECT FOR PURITY

**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.**

### GLORIA

L 243

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,  
Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,**

**Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.**

**You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

**Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,**

**Glory, Glory hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name. Amen.**

#### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

#### **FIRST READING**

**Acts 16:16-34**

With Paul and Silas, we came to Philippi in Macedonia, a Roman colony, and, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,

and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 97

1 The Lord is King;  
let the earth rejoice; \*

**let the multitude of the isles be glad.**

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, \*  
**righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.**

3 A fire goes before him \*  
**and burns up his enemies on every side.**

4 His lightnings light up the world; \*  
**the earth sees it and is afraid.**

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, \*  
**at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.**

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, \*  
**and all the peoples see his glory.**

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images  
and delight in false gods! \*  
**Bow down before him, all you gods.**

8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*  
**because of your judgments, O Lord.**

9 For you are the Lord,  
most high over all the earth; \*  
**you are exalted far above all gods.**

10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; \*  
**he preserves the lives of his saints  
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, \*  
**and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.**

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, \*  
**and give thanks to his holy Name.**

#### THE EPISTLE

Revelation 22:12-14,16-17, 20-21

At the end of the visions I, John, heard these words: "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### SEQUENCE HYMN

H496 – *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* (v. 1 & 2)

1 How bright appears the Morning Star,  
with mercy beaming from afar;  
the host of heaven rejoices;  
O righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod!  
Thou Son of Man and Son of God!  
We, too, will lift our voices:  
Jesus, Jesus!  
Holy, holy, yet most lowly,  
draw thou near us;  
great Emmanuel, come and hear us.

2 Though circled by the hosts on high,  
he deigned to cast a pitying eye

upon his helpless creature;  
the whole creation's Head and Lord,  
by highest seraphim adored,  
assumed our very nature;  
Jesus, grant us,  
through thy merit, to inherit  
thy salvation;  
hear, O hear our supplication.

#### THE GOSPEL

John 17:20-26

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

#### **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus prayed for his disciples, and then he said. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

#### **Thanks be to God.**

#### SEQUENCE HYMN

H496 – *How Bright Appears the Morning Star* (v. 3)

3 Rejoice, ye heavens; thou earth, reply;  
with praise, ye sinners, fill the sky,  
for this his Incarnation.  
Incarnate God, put forth thy power,  
ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,  
till all know thy salvation.  
Amen, amen!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise be given  
evermore, by earth and heaven.

SERMON

The Rev. Karen Mercer

NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: As Jesus Christ offered his great high priestly prayer for us who have come to belief through the ministry of his apostolic church, let us pray with Christ and in his name for the church, the world, and all people everywhere, saying: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Carrie, our Bishop, for Karen, our Vicar, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor: For Donald, our President, Wes, our Governor, and Brandon, our Mayor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor: For the peace of the world, that all humanity may live in freedom with justice and dignity, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor: For the unity of the church in Christ Jesus, that we may be one in Christ as Christ is one with God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor: For all who need the love and power of Christ. We especially pray for those on our prayer list: Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Rashad, Tammy, Faye, Fr. Bill, James, Silma, Aldwyn, Gilma, and Irene. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor: For the apostolic mission of the church, that we may bring all humanity to the knowledge and love of God in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor: For the diaconal ministry of the church, that we may serve one another in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor: For all the saints in glory and all those whom we have known and loved who though dead are alive in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor: You may add your own intercessions at this time.

Celebrant: O God our Lord, Jesus Christ, our great high priest, lives to make intercession for us. Hear the prayers of your church assembled in his name and presence. Show your glory in all the world that it may believe in you and be saved, through Christ our Lord.

#### A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

God of Eternity, we gather today to give thanks for the past. We think back to those who first had a vision of a church in this place, to those who gave of their labor, their treasure, their time to make it happen.

God of Eternity, we also give thanks for our present and our future. As we gather here today we look for hope. The present is unsettling, the future is uncertain. We hope that in the goodness of your love that your guidance will be ever-present.

Fill us with a vision for what we could be. Give us hope for our congregation and our community that lead us into your abundance and not our scarcity.

God of Eternity, in a time of uncertainty we so often fall into fear and worry, show us the opportunities in our chaotic world, remind us of our priorities in relationship to you, push us to see how our choices matter, and then fill us with hope in a new heaven and a new earth.

God of our future, may we walk boldly into what may come, as a people of faith and hope. May we be found faithful in the world in which we live.

**Amen.**

#### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

**Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your  
Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

#### THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Warden

### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

What follows is the Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist, yet no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more? Please see Rev. Mercer following the service.

OFFERTORY HYMN

LEVAS 196 – *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*, #196 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Elisha A. Hoffman (1829-1929). Music: Anthony J. Showalter (1858-1924); arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Songs of Praise*. Arr. Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

DOXOLOGY

H 380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B - BCP p. 367

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

*The Celebrant adds a Proper Preface, then continues,*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

H362 – *Holy, Holy, Holy* (v. 1)

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**

**Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,**

**God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into 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 disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember Christ's death,**

**We proclaim Christ's resurrection,**

**We await Christ's coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Joseph and Mary and all your saints, we may enter the

everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to [sing],

LORD'S PRAYER

LEVAS 264

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

S164

**Jesus, Lamb of God:**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins:**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world:**

**Give us your peace, give us your peace.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

LEVAS 95 – *O How I Love Jesus*

1 There is a name I love to hear,  
I love to sing its worth;  
It sounds like music in mine ear,  
The sweetest name on earth.

3 It tells me what my Father hath  
In store for ev'ry day,  
And though I tread a darksome path,  
Yields sunshine all the way.

*O how I love Jesus,  
Because He first loved me!*

*Refrain*

2 It tells me of a Savior's love,  
Who died to set me free;  
It tells me of His precious blood,  
The sinner's perfect plea.

4 It tells of one whose loving heart  
Can feel my deepest woe,  
Who in each sorrow bears a part,  
That none can bear below.

*Refrain*

*Refrain*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

LEVAS 98 – *Praise Him*

1 Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Jesus blessed savior  
he's worthy to be praised  
from the rising of the sun  
until the going down of the same  
he's worthy Jesus is worthy  
he's worthy to be praised.

for God is our rock  
hope of salvation  
a strong deliverer  
in him I will always trust.

2 Glory! Glory!  
in all things give him glory  
Jesus blessed savior  
he's worthy to be praised

3 Ooh! Ooh!  
Ooh! Ooh!  
Jesus blessed savior  
he's worthy to be praised  
from the rising of the sun  
until the going down of the same  
he's worthy Jesus is worthy  
he's worthy to be praised.

THE DISMISSAL

The Rev. Karen Mercer

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation

**We are committed to sharing God's love with all through our worship and ministries.**

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia**

POSTLUDE

## **Our Prayer List**

Your prayers are requested for members and friends of The Church of the Holy Nativity: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Rashad, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Daniel, Nicole, Michael, Tyrus, Shirley, Silma, Aldwyn, William, Deja, Joy, Gilma, Irene, and Michael.

We continue to ask for prayers for all those impacted by the coronavirus, those impacted by war and gun violence, those in our midst who are struggling with anxiety depression and addiction, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and the unhoused.

## **Announcements**

|               |                                                                                                       |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 1, 2025  | First Sunday Meal<br>Early Education Center Feasibility Presentation                                  |
| June 8, 2025  | Day of Pentecost                                                                                      |
| June 14, 2025 | Spirit of Unity Concert<br>4-7 pm @ 2500 Edmondson Ave.                                               |
| June 25, 2025 | Meeting with David Madison, Director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools @ 6 pm via Zoom |

# Notes

Today is: \_\_\_\_\_ Sermon Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Key Verses:

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Worship Songs:

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Prayers:

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