

## Sacramento Pride!



It was a wonderful, ecumenical Pride season in Sacramento. Trinity Cathedral opened the season with a June 5th Pride service in Easter Park. As founding members and members of the leadership team of the Sacramento Area Rainbow Faith Alliance (SARFA), Trinity Cathedral helped to organize and preside over a pre-march Eucharist on Sunday, June 15th. It was a wonderful, ecumenical eucharistic service.

After a beautiful sendoff blessing to the community after the service, all denominations and communities embarked on the morning march in order of their faith communities. It was an amazing display of solidarity and a unified voice of affirmation of the LGBTQ+ community from local faith communities.

The Cathedral also shared a booth with St. John's Lutheran Church at the Pride Festival. Pride flags, bracelets, and fans were handed out. "Gitter to Go" blessings (modeled after "Ashes to Go") were offered to people who stopped at the booth. St. John's Lutheran's booth also offered glitter blessings and hosted their "holy pong" game (bouncing the ping

pong ball into cups and winning prizes) which attracted a lot of passers by. St. John's offered a chance for people to write prayers, hurts, and other reflections on rocks which they collected for a rock washing ceremony to be held on June 22nd.

The vast majority of those passing by the booth, one of many faith-based denominations represented at the Pride festival within the Sacramento Area Rainbow Faith Alliance, showed gratitude for the affirming message that was offered. Particularly moving was one couple who was offered the glitter blessing. The words, "You are not just accepted. You are cherished," were spoken as a mark was made with gel glitter on the partner's forehead. The other partner's eyes were welling up with tears. This is the message that far too many in the LGBTQ+ community never hear from within their faith communities. There was a large sign at the booth with mirrors attached to it, along with the words, "And God Called It Good," letting those passing see themselves reflected alongside those words. So many people stopped to take selfies at that spot which was balm for the souls of far too many who are starving to hear that message; and it was very, very good to be able to offer that to them over this joyous weekend!

Much love and blessings.