St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
The Holy Eucharist—Rite II
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Pride Month Commemoration
June 28, 2026
8:00 AM

The Very Reverend Dr. Mary Ellen Cassini, *Celebrant*
The Reverend Andrew J. Sherman, *Preacher*

Welcome to Saint Gregory's! We invite you to join us in active participation in the worship of God.
This leaflet contains the congregational portions of the liturgy taken from the Book of Common Prayer.
The service of worship begins with the music of the organ.
Through its power and brilliance, may you feel God's majesty and glory—in its quietness, God's peace.

Please silence all cell phones.
Please refrain from bringing food or drink into the sanctuary.

The Organ Prelude

The Bells peal. All stand, as able, as the Procession enters and remain standing for

The Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

The Celebrant continues

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.***

The Gloria *Said by all.*

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, 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. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Word Of God

The People are seated for

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah *[28:5-9]*

Roberta Kjelgaard, Lector.

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

LECTOR The Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE ***Thanks be to God.***

The Psalm *Recited by all in unison by whole verse.* *[89:1-4; 15-18]*

1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
4 'I will establish your line for ever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

15 Happy are the people who know the festal shout!
they walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.
16 They rejoice daily in your Name;
they are jubilant in your righteousness.

17 For you are the glory of their strength,
and by your favor our might is exalted.
18 Truly, the Lord is our ruler;
the Holy One of Israel is our King.

A Reading from the First Letter of John *[4:7-16]*

Jackie Rogers, Lector.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

LECTOR The Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE ***Thanks be to God.***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew *[10:40-42]*

PEOPLE ***Glory to You, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

GOSPELLER The Gospel of the Lord.
PEOPLE ***Praise to You, Lord Christ.***

The People are seated for

THE SERMON *THE REVEREND ANDREW J. SHERMAN*

Silence is kept.

The People stand for

THE NICENE CREED

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 worshiped 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 *Joanne Stanley, Leader.*

The Leader says

Crying Abba, Father, let the children of God offer prayers for the needs, concerns, and hopes of all the world.

The Leader and People pray responsively.

In this time of celebration and empowerment, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude. We thank you for creating us as beloved children of God in your image. Grant us the courage to stand tall and proud, knowing that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. May we find new strength, lifting each other up in times of need.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We ask for your guidance and strength of your Holy Spirit. Help us to walk with confidence, knowing that we are loved and accepted by you. Grant us the grace to celebrate our identity and find joy in the journey. Thank you for your unwavering support and presence in our lives.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We come together in unity and strength. We thank you for the diversity of your creation and the beauty of our differences. Grant us the courage to speak out against injustice and to advocate for equality and freedom for all. May we find healing in our shared experiences and build bridges of understanding and compassion. Thank you for the gift of unity and solidarity.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Thank you for creating us exactly as we are, with unique gifts and talents to share with the world. Help us to embrace our true selves. Help us to hear and respond to your calling to spread the love and acceptance of Christ wherever we go. Thank you for the opportunity to celebrate and rejoice in who you created and called us to be.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We lift our voices in prayer for equality and freedom. Help us to advocate for justice and rights for all members of the LGBTQ+ community. Grant us the courage to speak out against discrimination and to work towards a future of acceptance and inclusion for all God's children. May we strive to create your beloved community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Thank you for the opportunity to be a voice for the voiceless and a champion for the marginalized.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We ask for your healing touch. Heal the wounds within us and help us to heal the wounds of the past and to build bridges of understanding and compassion. Grant us the grace to forgive those who have hurt us and to move forward with love in our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for a future of acceptance and love. May we find hope in the promise of a better tomorrow, where all are welcomed and embraced. Thank you for the opportunity to be a beacon of your hope and love in the world.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We recognize the importance of visibility and representation. Help us to share our stories with the world. May we strive to create a world where everyone is seen and heard, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of something greater than ourselves and to build the beloved community centered in the love of Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the end of racism, bigotry, homophobia, and hatred in all its manifestations. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to work for justice and peace and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds the concluding collect.

Dear God, let us continue to embrace love, stand tall with courage, and advocate for justice and rights. May we always strive for unity, inclusivity, and peace, spreading acceptance and joy in all our communities.

The Celebrant stands and says,

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***AMEN.***

THE PEACE

CELEBRANT The peace of the Lord be always with you.
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.
All are welcomed formally as announcements, birthday, and anniversary blessings are made.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

An offering will be collected at this time. To make an electronic offering via your phone, simply scan this QR Code with your camera application, and follow the prompts, or text SGEgive to: 833-672-4095. Your gifts make a meaningful difference. Thank you for walking in love and responding in faith.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The People stand as the gifts are brought forward. The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***
CELEBRANT Lift up your hearts.
PEOPLE ***We lift them to the Lord.***
CELEBRANT Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
PEOPLE ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

The Celebrant proceeds

Holy One, we gather this day as one people, members of the same body, grateful for your many gifts, and carrying the hope within us for a world filled with love. This hope was given by you, from the very beginning of your creation. You made the earth, and all that lives on it. You inspired prophets and widows and slaves, to seek liberation from all that oppresses, so that we might be released to love fully. You became incarnate in Jesus Christ, so that through him we might experience the depth and width of your unquenchable love.

And so, joining our voices with the ancestors who have gone before us, we praise this hymn,

The Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit

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

The People stand, sit, or kneel as able. The Celebrant continues

While Jesus lived among us he stood up for women and children, he touched the untouchable, healed the sick, and welcomed those who had given up hope of being included. Through him we see a path not only to our own freedom, but a path to the liberation of the whole world.

He taught us that it will not be in the brutality of violence that our world will be saved. Rather, it will be in showing kindness to our neighbor, in standing up against injustice, in returning hate with love, in transforming one heart at a time. It will be in the simple but holy task of dining together, sharing bread and wine, truly seeing one another as beloved by you.

We know this because on the night before he was crucified, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his friends saying "Take, eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this to remember me." After dinner he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them and said: "Drink this all of you. This is my blood of the new promise, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me."

Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, into these gifts of bread and wine. Please send your Holy Spirit into us, that we may recognize each other as members of the same body, Christ's hands and feet and heart, sent for the healing of the world.
All this we ask in your name. Amen.

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

CELEBRANT Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
PEOPLE ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

The Invitation to Communion

Facing the People, the Celebrant says

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.

In the Episcopal Church all baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion. In Jesus' name, all are welcome! At the time of Holy Communion, please follow the direction of the ushers. Both the Host (the blessed wafer) and the Chalice (wine) will be offered. If you prefer to receive only the Host, it is full communion. We also provide gluten-free Hosts. Please indicate your preference for a gluten-free Host to the Eucharistic Minister at the altar. Should you not wish to receive Holy Communion, you are still invited to come to the altar for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference for a blessing.

The Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, the People stand as the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Once again you have given us what we need: sacrament, one another, hope for a better day. With renewed energy we offer ourselves to be sent out in your name; hopeful, grateful, useful, proclaimers of your love. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer and the post-communion prayer were written by The Rev. LeeAnne Watkins for use at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in St. Paul.

The Blessing

A Blessing for Solitude by John O'Donohue

May you recognize in your life the presence, power and light of your soul. ***Amen.***

May you realize that you are never alone,
that your soul, in its brightness and belonging,
connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe.
Amen.

May you have respect for your own
individuality and difference. ***Amen.***

May you realize that the shape of your soul
is unique, that you have a special destiny here,
that, behind the façade of your life,
there is something beautiful, good and eternal. ***Amen.***

May you learn to see your self with the same delight,
pride and expectation with which God sees you in
every moment. ***Amen.***

The Dismissal

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

The Trumpets shall sound.

The Organ Postlude

We welcome you to this service of worship! is our fervent prayer that you will find God's love and peace in this holy place. We invite you to explore life at St. Gregory's by speaking with one of the clergy. Please scan the QR code and fill out the form provided to be sent information about all the opportunities and ministries offered at St. Gregory's!

Beloved Community LGBTQ+ Ministry Mission Statement

Our mission at St. Gregory's is to cultivate a safe, respectful, and engaged spiritual community where LGBTQ+ individuals and their Allies can grow in faith, deepen their relationship with God in Christ, and live authentically. Grounded in the Baptismal Covenant of the Episcopal Church, and guided by the Holy Spirit, we offer Fellowship, Formation, Pastoral Care, and opportunities for service that affirm the full participation of LGBTQ+ persons in the life of the church. Through prayer, education, and outreach, we strive to embody and share the reconciling love of Christ in ALL people.

Pride Month Commemoration
A History of 50 Years of Pride in the Episcopal Church

Faithful Episcopalians have been working toward a greater understanding and radical inclusion of all of God's children for nearly a half-century. In 1974, Louie Crew founded IntegrityUSA, a nonprofit organization with the goal of full-inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in The Episcopal Church. The next General Convention , in 1976, adopted resolutions stating that "homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church, and that they "are entitled to equal protection of the laws with all other citizens".

Over the years, General Convention and Executive Council reaffirmed these resolutions, as well as calling the church to greater understanding, awareness, and inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the life of the church. In response to the AIDS crisis, the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition was created in 1988 to provide education and support for HIV and AIDS ministries across The Episcopal Church.

In 1994, General Convention amended the church's canons to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, providing equal access to the rites and worship of The Episcopal Church, including ordination. Nine years later the Diocese of New Hampshire elected the first openly gay bishop in The Episcopal Church, the Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson. This was, arguably, a turning point for the church.
Despite continued pressure from sister churches of the Anglican Communion, as well as some within The Episcopal Church, General Convention stood with its LGBTQ+ siblings. In 2009 it acknowledged and affirmed same-sex couples in the life of the church; in 2012 it called for the repeal of discriminatory federal laws, increased legal protections for domestic partners, and recommended a liturgy for blessing the relationships of same-sex couples.

Also in 2009, TransEpiscopal, a group dedicated to fostering the full embrace of trans and nonbinary people in life and worship of The Episcopal Church, sent its first delegation to General Convention. That year, convention expressed support for laws that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. In 2012, the canons of The Episcopal Church were amended to prohibit discrimination in the ordination process based on gender identity and gender expression.

Finally, in the summer of 2015, just five days after the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that same-sex couples had the legal right to marry, General Convention voted to amend the canons of The Episcopal Church that regulate marraige, permitting any couple the rite of Holy Matrimony. They also called for a name-change rite to honor an important moment in the lives of anyone claiming their true identity.

The Episcopal Church warmly welcomes our LGBTQ+ siblings, but it would be disingenuous to say that the entire church is in the same place on this journey. As with all spiritual journeys, everyone walks at their own pace. Some Episcopal congregations are actively involved in LGBTQ+ ministry and their arms are open wide; others are more reserved, but their doors are still open to all; some are still wrestling with their beliefs and feelings. But we're on this journey together, and The Episcopal Church is dedicated to full inclusion and equality in the church as well as in society as a whole.

The Episcopal Church website.

Pride is the opposite of Shame. The gay pride movement grew out of the need for a community repressed for centuries to finally say to the world that enough is enough--enough shame, enough hurt, enough persecution. The 1960's were turbulent times on many fronts from the Vietnam War to race wars. The attacks against the LGBTQ+ community were no exception. In 1969, police raids on gay establishments were commonplace and in Los Angeles at Cooper Do-nuts and in San Francisco at Compton's Cafeteria, people began fighting back. These were among the first riots that led to the modern-day Gay Pride Movement. The most famous riot took place in New York City at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village, on a hot, steamy night in June. Legend has it that bar goers had gathered to mourn the death of Judy Garland and when the NYPD raided the Stonewall with their "Public Moral Squad" checking the sex of bar customers by physical examination, they'd simply had enough. A riot ensued and for many nights afterward they continued to fight with and confront the police in the streets.

The following year, momentum had built and a "Gay Pride" march from Christopher Street, where the Stonewall Inn was located, to Central Park was organized. The movement soon expanded to other cities and eventually across the world with parades and marches held in every major city across the globe, even in rural areas. Although Pride month is traditionally June, other cities where weather and location play a factor have adopted months such as September or January for example, in which to celebrate.

As Pride month may seem and feel like a celebration to many, it's rooted in protest against the shaming, degradation, and persecution of an entire group of people simply for their differences of sexual identity. Much progress has been made to promote understanding and extend equality to all, but much work remains to be done. Prejudice and violence against the LGBTQ+ community is still very prevalent today and, in fact, is now on the rise once again. We must do all we can to teach love and acceptance for everyone, regardless of who they are born to be.

Timothy J. Brumfield

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