

The Rev. Cynthia Black
Guest Preacher, Pride Sunday
June 29, 2025

The Rev. Cynthia Black recently retired after 39 years of ordained ministry, during which she served churches in Minnesota, Michigan and New Jersey (where she and Mother Liz met, in 1985).

In addition to her parish ministry, she was a member of the Episcopal Church's governing body (Executive Council), served as President of the Episcopal Women's Caucus, and chaired the Executive Council's Committee on the Status of Women. She currently serves as Chair of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. She has been an advocate for LGBTQ+ inclusion in the church in several capacities, including as a founding member of Claiming the Blessing and as a part of the Integrity legislative team for many General Conventions.

In 2006, Cynthia was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, in Berkeley, CA., in recognition of her service to the Episcopal Church. She received the Polly Bond Award of Excellence for the documentary Voices of Witness Africa, a film she made about the experiences of LGBTQ+ Anglicans in Africa.

Before ordination Cynthia worked as a house painter, pastry chef, and freelance trumpet player. The daughter of an architect and a travel agent, her interests include travel, cooking, photography and filmmaking that promotes Gospel values of peace and justice. She is married to her college sweetheart, Dr. Rebecca Walker, a recently retired mathematics professor (fun fact: Mother Liz preached at their wedding in 1988).