

July 5, 2026
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 a.m.: Service of Morning Prayer



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
Seeking God • Building Community • Growing Faith • Reaching Out
5450 Massachusetts Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20816
301.229.2960 StDunstansBethesda.org

Welcome to St. Dunstan's!

Our Vision:

Guided by Jesus' love, we are a community where all are welcomed, cherished, nourished, and inspired to act on that love and be stewards of all that God has entrusted to our care.



Thank you for choosing to worship with St. Dunstan's this morning! We are a community of seekers doing our best to live authentically and faithfully in this challenging and complicated world, and we are delighted that you are sharing the journey with us today.

Children are *always* welcome here; please make yourself and your family at home. There are coloring sheets on the round table between the glass doors, as well as books and soft toys at the back of the church. Rest assured: We are delighted by the “joyful noise” that children inevitably make, *and* don't worry if you feel you need to take your child out of the service for a few minutes. *To learn more about offerings for children and families, please share your contact information on the clipboard on the Welcome Table.*

Restrooms are located in the hallway by the glass doors.

If you find the chairs uncomfortable, feel free to borrow a **cushion** from the basket near the door for use during worship.

Please wear a **name tag**! Permanent name tags are on the board in the entry hall. If you don't yet have a permanent tag, please use a stick-on badge until we can make you an official one. **Please return your name tag to the basket on the Welcome Table at the end of the service; we will hang it back up for you!**

This morning we welcome **Dr. David Palmer** as our **Guest Pianist** and **Lance Fisher** as our **Guest Cantor**.

Nursery Care and Children's Chapel will not be offered throughout the month of July; children are welcome to remain in the Nave for the entirety of today's worship. Children should not leave the service without supervision.

Morning Prayer

Prelude

America, the Beautiful

C. Hampton (1938-1984)

David Palmer, *piano*

Please stand, as you are able, and join in singing.

Opening Hymn

“Before the Lord’s eternal throne”

Hymnal, 391

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment and a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with five parts and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Be - fore the Lord's e - ter - nal throne, ye
2 His sov - ereign Power with - out our aid formed
3 We are his peo - ple, we his care, our
4 We'll crowd thy gates with thank - ful songs, high
5 Wide as the world is thy com - mand, vast

1 na - tions, bow with sa - cred joy; know that the Lord is
2 us of clay and gave us breath; and when like wan - dering
3 souls, and all our mor - tal frame: what last - ing hon - ors
4 as the heavens our voic - es raise; and earth, with her ten
5 as e - ter - ni - ty thy love; firm as a rock thy

1 God a - lone; he can cre - ate, and he des - troy.
2 sheep we strayed, he saved us from the power of death.
3 shall we rear, al - might - y Ma - ker, to thy Name?
4 thou - sand tongues, shall fill thy courts with sound - ing praise.
5 truth must stand, when roll - ing years shall cease to move.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 100. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

Please remain standing, as you are able, through the psalm.

Opening Sentence

Officiant Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

Confession of Sin

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Officiant and People 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.**

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

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
Officiant **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**
and People **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever, Amen.
Alleluia!**

Officiant Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
Come let us adore him.

Jubilate *Psalm 100*

Officiant May all lands be joyful before you, O God, *
and People **serve with gladness**
 and come before your presence with a song.
 For we know that you are God; *
 you yourself have made us, and we are yours;
 we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.

 We shall enter your gates with thanksgiving,
 go into your courts with praise, *
 give thanks to you and call upon your Name.

 For you are good;
 your mercy is everlasting; *
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Please join in reciting the psalm responsively.

Psalm 145:8-15

 You are gracious and full of compassion, *
 slow to anger and of great kindness.

 You are loving to everyone, *
 and your compassion is over all your works.

 All your works praise you, O God, *
 and your faithful servants bless you.

 They make known the glory of your realm *
 and speak of your power,

 That the peoples may know of your power *
 and the glorious splendor of your dominion.

 Yours, O God, is an everlasting reign; *
 your dominion endures throughout all ages.

 You are faithful in all your words *
 and merciful in all your deeds.

 You uphold all those who fall; *
 you lift up those who are bowed down.

Officiant Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
and People **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever, Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lessons

The First Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-12

Lector A Reading from the Prophet Zechariah:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as you are able, and join in singing.

Canticle:

"Blessed be the God of Israel"

Hymnal, 444



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
2 He from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
3 On pri - son - ers of dark-ness the sun be - gins to rise,



he vis - its and re - deems us, he grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sa - vior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The pro - phets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes his her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
He guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill his prom - ise and bring his peo - ple peace.____
the pro - phet of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of Day.____
O bless our God and Sa - vior, with songs that nev - er cease.____

Words: Michael A. Perry (b. 1942), alt.; para. of *The Song of Zechariah*. Copyright © 1973 by Jubilate Hymns (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188). All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Thornbury*, Basil Harwood (1859-1949). Published by permission of the Executors of the late Dr. Basil Harwood. Originally composed for the hymn, “Thy hand, O God, has guided.”

Please be seated.

The Second Lesson: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Lector A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew:

Jesus said to the crowd, “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

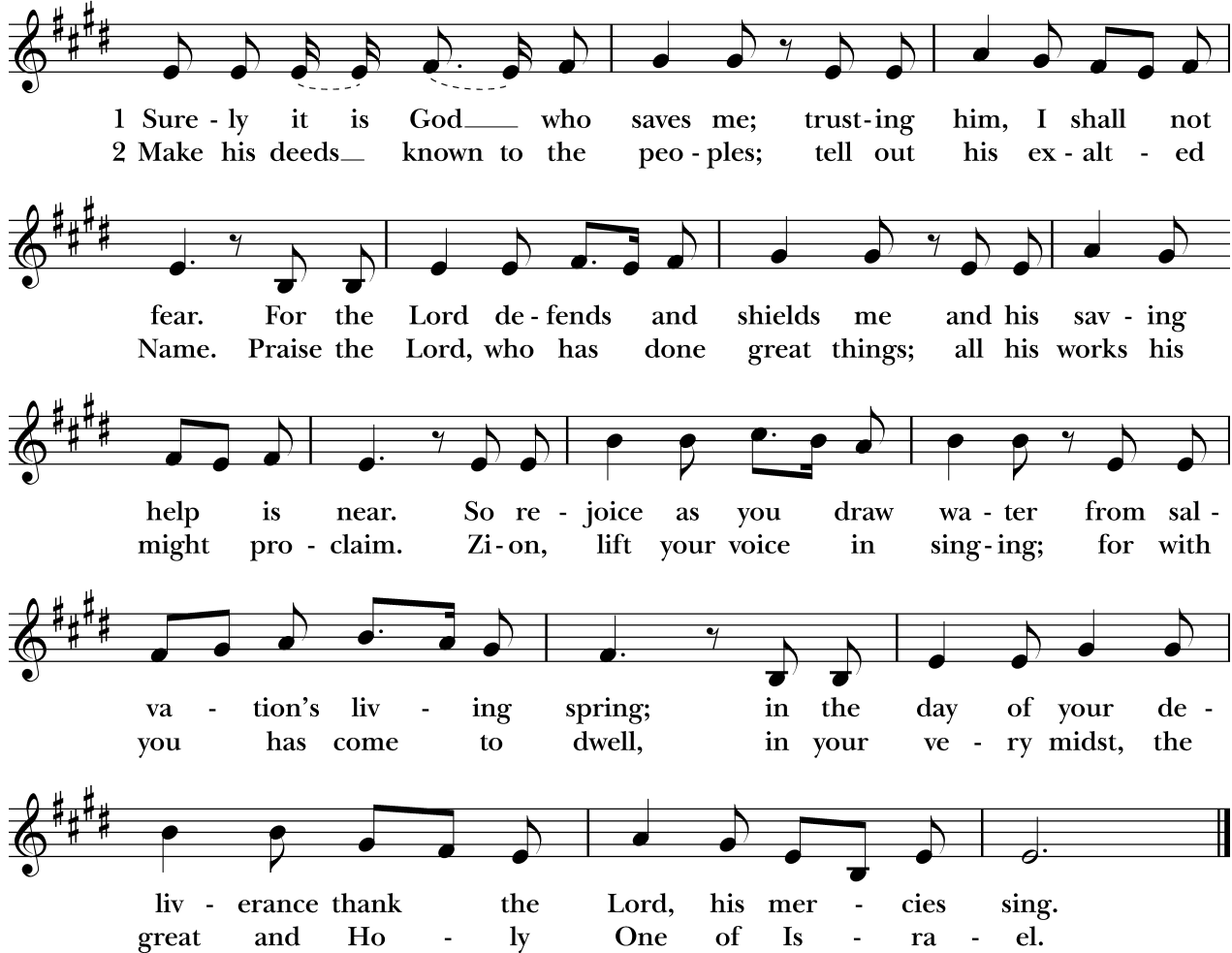
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand and join in singing.

Canticle:

“Surely it is God who saves me”

Hymnal, 679



1 Sure - ly it is God — who saves me; trust - ing him, I shall not
2 Make his deeds — known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed
fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing
Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his
help is near. So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal -
might pro - claim. Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with
va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -
you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the
liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944); para. of *The First Song of Isaiah*. Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Thomas Merton*, Ray. W. Urwin (b. 1950). Copyright © 1984 Ray W. Urwin.

Please be seated at the preacher's invitation.

The Sermon

The Rev. Jessica Ault

After a moment of silence, please stand, as you are able.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant **I believe in God, the Father almighty,**
and People **creator of heaven and earth;**
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting, Amen.

The Prayers

<i>Officiant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Officiant</i>	Let us pray.
<i>Officiant</i>	Our Father,
<i>and People</i>	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 Suffrages

<i>Officiant</i>	Show us your mercy, O Lord;
<i>People</i>	And grant us your salvation.

<i>Officiant</i>	Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
<i>People</i>	Let your people sing with joy.
<i>Officiant</i>	Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
<i>People</i>	For only in you can we live in safety.
<i>Officiant</i>	Lord, keep this nation under your care;
<i>People</i>	And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
<i>Officiant</i>	Let your way be known upon earth;
<i>People</i>	Your saving health among all nations.
<i>Officiant</i>	Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
<i>People</i>	Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
<i>Officiant</i>	Create in us clean hearts, O God;
<i>People</i>	And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the Day

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, **Amen.**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

A Collect for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name, **Amen.**

A Collect for Independence Day

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Offertory Anthem

A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

L. J. White (1831-1913)

Lance Fisher, *tenor*

*O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly.*

*Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church.
If you would like to make an offering this morning, you may place it in the Offertory bag.
Please also feel free to donate online at <https://stdunstansbethesda.org/support/donate.html>
or mail a check to the Parish Office.*

Please stand, as you are able.

Prayers of Petition, Intercession, and Thanksgiving

Officiant

Let us now pray for our own needs and the needs of others.

For those who have been commended to our Parish Prayer List (*see p. 14*) and those individuals and situations we name now, silently or aloud:

Pause for prayers of petition or intercession

For all who have died, remembering especially those whom we name now, silently or aloud.

Pause for prayers for the departed

For all the blessings of this life, including those that we name now, silently or aloud.

Pause for prayers of thanksgiving

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant

and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but

above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages, Amen.

A Prayer for Our Nation

Officiant **Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for
and People** **your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the
people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of
forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your
gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God!**

The Officiant concludes

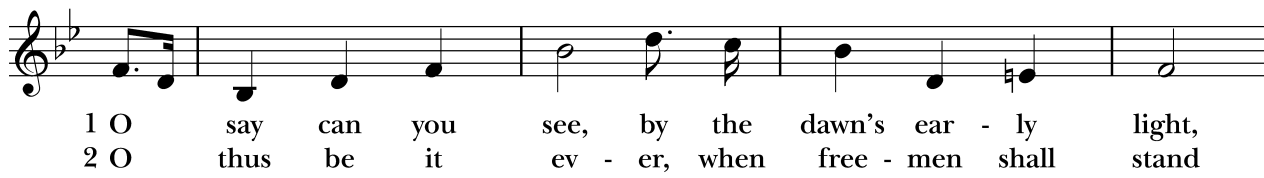
Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever, **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Please remain standing and join in singing.

Closing Hymn

The Star-Spangled Banner

Hymnal, 720



1 O say can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly light,
2 O thus be it ev - er, when free - men shall stand



what so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last gleam - ing,
be - tween their loved homes and the war's des - o - la - tion!

whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the per - il - ous fight,
 Blest with vic - tory and peace, may the heaven-re-scu-ed land
 o'er the ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly stream - ing?
 praise the Power that hath made and pre - served us a na - tion!
 And the rock - ets' red glare, the bombs burst - ing in air,
 Then— con - quer we must, when our cause it is just,
 gave and proof through the night that our flag was still there.
 and this be our mot - to, "In God is our trust."
 O — say does that star-span-gled ban - ner yet wave
 And the star-span-gled ban - ner in tri - umph shall wave
 o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
 o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Words: Francis Scott Key (1779-1843). Music: *National Anthem*, source unknown, ca. 18th cent.

Please be seated.

Announcements (*Please see printed notices, following*)

Postlude

Love Theory

K. Franklin (b. 1970)

David Palmer, *piano*

For Your Prayers

For healing, strength, and protection:

Chuck Ault; Joyce Bleby; Phil and Patti Carroll; Terry Conroy;
Steve Cooper; Henry Cox; Traci Dean; Kenny Farnsworth;
Katie Beck Fey; Amanda and Torrey Finck; Nick Gilbert; Keith Greco;
Terry Haight; Ben Hull; Patricia Mackenzie; Rick Nickles; Linda Rogers; Curtis
Shively; Nancy Thoreson; Jack Tovornik; Sandra Walters; David Wheeler; Martha
Lou Youngblood; Anne; Ben; Bill; Christopher; Craig and Robin; Griffin; JW;
Karen; Katherine; Lindsay and William; Marty; Melanie; Michelle; MT; Paola;
Phyllis; Sherry; *and* Shiloh

For peace in Bolivia, Haiti, the Holy Land, Iran, Lebanon, Sudan and South
Sudan, Ukraine, the United States, and throughout God's world

For refugees and immigrants

For the women and men of our Foreign Service and Armed Forces

For emergency personnel and first responders

For the victims of climate and natural disasters, especially in Venezuela

For missionaries serving throughout the world

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Announcements

Today at St. Dunstan's:

- **Welcome, Visitors!** We are delighted that you are here, and we hope you will stay for a few minutes after worship so that we can greet you properly. To learn more about St. Dunstan's, please fill out a **visitor form**, found on the **Welcome Table**, and help yourself to a **welcome bag** as a token of our gratitude that you have joined us today.
- **Fellowship Time:** We hope you will join us immediately following worship for a cup of coffee or tea and a snack and some good conversation!
- **The Rector** returns from vacation this evening and will be back in the office tomorrow (July 6). Please do not hesitate to call/text her at **(914) 882-4221** in the event of a pastoral emergency.

The Week Ahead:

- **Tuesday, July 7:**
 - + **11 a.m.: What Now?!** (*Parish Hall*)

- **Wednesday, July 8:**
 - + **10:30 a.m.: Midweek Bible Study (Zoom).** All are welcome to participate in this lively discussion of the **Gospel of Luke**.
- **Thursday, July 9:**
 - + **12 Noon: Prayers for Peace and Healing (Zoom)**
 - + **2 p.m.: Book Discussion Group (Zoom).** This month's selection is *The Island of Missing Trees*, by Elif Shafak. Please see this week's online newsletter for the Zoom link.
- **Saturday, July 11:**
 - + **9 a.m.: Men's Group Meeting (Kitchen/Parlor)**
 - + **10 a.m.: Soul Sisters (Zoom)**
- **Next Sunday, July 12:**
 - + **10:30 a.m.: Celebration of Holy Eucharist, with Healing Prayers (Parish Hall).** Please plan to join us next Sunday as our **Priest Associate, The Rev. Emily Elder**, presides over the Eucharist for the first time here at St. Dunstan's!
 - + **12 Noon: Festive Reception Honoring The Rev. Emily Elder (Founders' Hall).**

Coming Up:

- **Monday-Friday, July 13-17:**
 - + **9 a.m.-12 Noon: Vacation Bible School ~ Compassion Camp (St. Dunstan's).** All children entering Kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited to participate in VBS as campers; older children are encouraged to serve as Junior Counselors. Fee: \$50 per camper (max. \$100 per family). Come join the fun! To register your child, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/VBS2026-STD>. To lend a hand with VBS, please contact **Julie Anderson**: julie_anderson75@hotmail.com.



Serving this Morning

Officiants:	The Rev. Jessica Ault and The Rev. Emily Elder
Preacher:	The Rev. Jessica Ault
Musicians:	Lance Fisher and David Palmer
Altar Guild:	Marsha Barnes, Ann Johnson, and Michelle Mesen
Flower Guild:	Julie Anderson
Greeter:	Donna Alvarez
Psalm Leader:	Sue Carroll
Lector:	Michelle Mesen
Usher:	Julie Anderson
Hospitality:	Cindy Mathis and Jia Lynn Yang
Vestry Member of the Day:	Vince Leonard

Attributions

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A-7122

On the Cover*:

My Yoke Is Easy, and My Burden is Light
(Mixed media liturgical art by Sue Carroll)

The Jubilate and Psalm:

The Saint Helena Psalter: A New Version of the Psalms in Expansive Language,
© 2004, The Order of Saint Helena

The Lessons

New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, Division of Christian Education of
the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

***Artist's Reflection**

Jesus does not promise that the road ahead of us will be easy. Yes, he will give us rest – but then we need to move on. In this image, the rabbit is my stand-in. She faces a steep climb. But the "burden" on her back is a heart, standing in for God's love. It is not heavy at all. I imagine it filled with helium, helping to lift me along.

Made with acrylic paint, pumice gel, embossing powder, thread, and a scrap of cotton.

~ Sue Carroll, *Liturgical Artist-in-Residence*

St. Dunstan's Staff

The Reverend Patricia Phaneuf Alexander, *Rector*

rector@stdunstansbethesda.org

The Reverend Jessica Ault, *Deacon* deacon@stdunstansbethesda.org

The Reverend Emily Elder, *Priest Associate* eelder@w-e-s.org

Ms. Diane Atherton, *Minister of Music* music@stdunstansbethesda.org

Ms. Jenna Monroe, *Children's Minister* familyministry@stdunstansbethesda.org

Ms. Cami Caudill, *Seminarian* ccaudill@vts.edu

Ms. Elisabeth Saidi, *Parish Administrator* admin@stdunstansbethesda.org

Mr. Rick Loucks, *Facilities Maintenance Coordinator*

facilities@stdunstansbethesda.org

Lila Saidi and Sany Saidi, *Sunday Morning Childcare Providers*

Parish Leadership

Vestry

The Reverend Patricia Phaneuf Alexander, *Rector*

Vince Leonard, *Senior Warden*

Fred Atwood, *Junior Warden*

Nils Overdahl, *Treasurer*

Michelle Mesen, *Registrar*

Nancy Douglas

Doug McManus

Marie Park

Carmen Petruzzi

Graham Rehrig

Liturgical Artist-in-Residence

Sue Carroll

St. Dunstan's Rectors Emeriti

The Rev. John S. McDuffie

The Rev. Jeffrey B. MacKnight

Treasurer Emeritus

Cliff White



St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

Come share the journey with us



Please do not throw this bulletin in the trash. Instead, either take it home for reference during the coming week (preferable) or place it in the blue recycling bin as you depart. Thank you!

