



The Episcopal Diocese of New York

Transcript of the November 4, 2020 Diocesan Convention Roll Out Meeting

- Good evening. I'm Mary Glasspool, bishop assistant in the Episcopal Diocese of New York. And in behalf of Andy Dietsche, our Bishop Diocesan, and Allen shin, our Bishop Suffragan, and all of the wonderful people in the Diocese of New York, I welcome you to this, our ninth and final rollout meeting for the 244th convention of the Diocese of New York. I want to offer special thanks to those of you who are engaged with us tonight, given all that is going on in our world today, and we're doing the very best we can to make your vote count in this our convention, and also honor and respect your agency in impacting the whole, and the life of the diocese. These meetings are recorded and posted online at the diocesan website, and so each of you who are delegates, clergy and lay are free to revisit the meetings at any time. I also want to thank, especially because this is our last rollout meeting, the convention executive team comprised of Matt Heyd, secretary of convention, Sara Saavedra, assistant secretary, Alice Yurke, chancellor of the Diocese of New York, Geoff Smith, director of technology, and Nick Richardson, director of communications. Also we've borrowed three staff people who've served the whole well from the Church of the Heavenly Rest. Lucas Thorpe, Jillian Jameson, and Lucy Breidenthal. You have are everlasting thanks for stepping in and helping us with Zoom. The technical crew that is actually here with me in the Madeleine L'Engle Library and Diocesan House is comprised of Tom Haggerty, Joey Wares, and Marty Cole, and our deep thanks to you all. We've also been served well by our captioning person, Randy Freeman, and then Dory Griffiths and Antonio, who's doing the signing tonight. I'm looking at him on the camera. Thank you for stepping in this week for us. Then the liturgy pieces have been put together by a subcommittee comprised of Allison Moore, Jeannine Otis, Larry Marshall and Cynthia Copeland. And if I've inadvertently left out naming someone, I apologize and we'll try to name them later. So we've got a busy meeting tonight. And again, I thank you for attending and we'll move right along to the opening song and the opening prayer. ♪ Come ye
♪ ♪ Ye who would have peace ♪ ♪ Hear me ♪ ♪ What I say now ♪ ♪ I say come ye ♪ ♪ Ye who would have
peace ♪ ♪ It's time ♪ ♪ To learn how to pray ♪ ♪ I say come ye ♪ ♪ Ye who have no fear ♪ ♪ On what ♪ ♪
Tomorrow brings child ♪ ♪ Start praying ♪ ♪ For a better world ♪ ♪ Of peace ♪ ♪ And all good things ♪ ♪ I say
come ye ♪ ♪ Ye who still have hope ♪ ♪ That we ♪ ♪ Can still survive now ♪ ♪ Let's work ♪ ♪ Together as we
should ♪ ♪ And fight ♪ ♪ To stay alive ♪ ♪ I say come ye ♪ ♪ Ye who would have love ♪ ♪ It's time ♪ ♪ To take
a stand ♪ ♪ Don't mind ♪ ♪ Abuse it must be paid ♪ ♪ For the love ♪ ♪ Of your fellow man ♪ ♪ I say come ye ♪
♪ Come ye ♪ ♪ Who would have hope ♪ ♪ Who would have peace ♪ ♪ Who would have love ♪ ♪ Who would
have peace ♪

- We cannot merely pray to you, Oh God, to end war.

- [Man] For we know that you have made the world in a way that people must find their own path to peace within themselves and with their neighbors.

- We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end starvation.

- [Woman] For you have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

- We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to root out prejudice.

- [Man] For you have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people. If we would only use them rightly.

- We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end despair.

- [Woman] For you have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our powers justly. ♪ - We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end disease. ♪

- [Man] For you have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively. Therefore we pray to you instead, O God, for strength, determination, and willpower to do, instead of just pray, to become, instead of merely to wish.

- So, we'll talk now, just a bit about voting and how we're going to do it, both today and in the days ahead. The bishop described our values for all of convention, transparency, trust, accessibility, and agency. And over these last weeks, he really helped us try to find ways to vote together online, that are both easy and equitable for everybody. So let's talk about the ways in which we're going to do this this year, because we started today. We're going to have two different ways of voting, both online. Voting for candidates and voting for resolutions. Voting for candidates started this morning. All delegates, lay and clergy, who are registered as delegates who can vote, should have received an email at nine o'clock this morning to the email address with which you registered for convention, with a secure link to an email ballot with all of the candidates. Folks have been voting all day today. Thank you to everyone who's voted. Thanks for everyone who's made this possible. Voting is going to end at 6:30 tonight. You have time to still vote. Please go in if you haven't voted yet and vote before 6:30. What we'll do tomorrow morning is send you the second ballot at nine o'clock the same way via email that you registered to convention with with a secure email link. And you can vote tomorrow for the second ballot. That will also end at 6:30. If we need a third ballot, we'll have it on Friday. Same way, none o'clock, ending at 6:30. Now, as we've tested this out the most... And again today, the most common issues have been one, that people were checking emails which aren't the ones they're registered with, or two, it's in spam. And we'll talk more about what to do if you're having trouble in just a moment. But thanks to... We've had a bunch of people vote, and that's been terrific today. The second way we're voting is for resolutions. We're going to vote live on Saturday for all our resolutions, including the budget resolutions. This kind of vote will be the equivalent of our green card, red card vote from past conventions. The focus is going to be the ease and speed of voting. For the resolutions, on Saturday morning, we're going to put a link in chat that voting delegates can use to vote. We anticipate voting twice on Saturday. At the very beginning of convention before anything else, Bishop Shin is going to present an enabling resolution passed by council, that allows us to have an online or virtual convention. We're going to do that before we do anything else. And then midday, after all the resolutions had been presented, including the budget resolution, we're going to give a second link, which allows folks to vote for all the resolutions in one link together. And you'll be able to vote for this over the lunch break, give people time to vote. We want to make sure with all this, you all have time to vote so we can access the balance. So, all day we've been responding to folks who have reached out to us with questions or problems. We've had about 12 people reach out and we've responded to all either via email or phone, or sometimes both. If you're having trouble tonight, trouble tomorrow, you can do one of two things, either--and I'll put it in chat -- mheyd@heavenlyrest.org. Heyd spelled H-E-Y-D, or election@dioceseny.org. I'll put those in chat, but welcome questions or thoughts, we want to make sure everyone can vote. It's important. Bishop Glasspool referred to our national elections, important that every voice is heard, important that every vote is counted.

Thank you for your help over these last weeks. We're now live with our voting. You've made that possible because of your support in testing this out. And thank you to those of you who voted today. Again, you have until 6:30 tonight to vote on the first ballot for candidates. Thank you to Sara Saavedra and Geoff Smith, who've worked so hard to make this happen. I'm really grateful for their hard work. Bishop, Thank you.

- I believe that I can... thank you, Matt Thank you very much for your hard work and leadership. The voting has been one of the most challenging pieces of this remote convention. I believe that in addition to commencing the second ballot, there will be a report of any candidates who have actually been elected on the first ballot, so that the second ballot will be the second ballot and not just a repetition of the first. So I hope that's clarifying and not confusing.

- Yeah, exactly right.

- To introduce the theme, and as I would say of a number of people with whom I work, the theme tonight needs no introduction. It is the resolutions that are coming before us. I will however, thank and introduce the chair of the resolutions committee, the Reverend Anne Sawyer, who in her spare time is Rector of St. Marks in the Bowery. Thanks Anne.

- Thank you Bishop. Good evening, everyone. On behalf of the resolutions committee of the Diocese of New York, I am pleased to present this year's resolutions for your consideration and your votes. Tonight, we'll ask each of the proposers of the resolutions to introduce the resolution and to say a few words. Each proposer will have two to three minutes after which we will invite you to ask questions via the chat feature of Zoom or to make amendment if necessary. On Saturday at convention, resolutions will be moved for consideration, but there will be no discussion at this time. So tonight, thank you so much for joining us. We invite your active participation in these resolutions will guide our life together. So, thank you. This evening will begin with the resolution on the modification of Diocesan Canon 12.1 proposed by the Reverend Stephen Girth of the Canons committee. This resolution can be found on page 75. Stephen, I invite you at this time to present your resolution. Stephen, are you there? I know you were here earlier.

- [Man] Stephen unmute your mic.

- It's finally letting me do that.

- Fabulous. Welcome.

- Hi. I got an email, I'm Rector of st. Mary, the Virgin in Midtown. I have served as chair of this Canons committee for a number of years now. I got an email from Alice Yurke at the beginning of September saying that there was a longstanding editing mistake in the Canon about electing delegates to Provincial Synod. And at the end of the second sentence, instead of saying, "To the Provincial Synod," it says, "To General Convention." And she thinks we should change that, and I think we should too. And it's... There's no... It's just to correct an editing mistake that somebody made a long time ago. I'm happy to answer any questions about it, but it's just a copy error. It's the wrong words there in that place. And so I would... I hope it will be moved and approved.

- Thank you, Stephen. I'll invite the delegates at this time. If you have any questions to please write them in the chat to Stephen at this time.

- And I'm Lucy Breidenthal, and I'll be helping direct the questions from the chat or the amendments. I'm seeing no questions or amendments related to this resolution in the chat. It says... Oh sorry. Yeah, right.

Here's a question. Presumably we are not electing a separate set of deputies. Is this related to the election? The previous conversation perhaps, Anne you can help them.

- Not to my knowledge. I mean, we do have the election and we are voting on deputies, but that's the election. That's the voting that's happening right now. That's underway. That Matt did talk about. Matt Heyd did talk about.

- Wonderful, so no questions or comments relating to this resolution. We can... I think we can move on.

- Thank you, Lucy. So next on the calendar of business are two resolutions from the budget committee of the diocese and proposed by the Reverend Matt Mead, chair of the budget committee. These resolutions can be found on page 36 and 70. Please note that the election of trustees of estate and property is only a courtesy resolution affirming their election. This resolution will be moved and seconded on Saturday and the Reverend Matt Heyd will move these resolutions for consideration at that time. At this time, though, I would like to invite the Reverend Matt Mead to say a few words about these resolutions, Matt.

- Sure. Can you hear me?

- Yes, thank you.

- As you just noted the resolutions are on page 36, they are... I will not read them unless you want me to, but they are the standard budget resolutions every year. And the first one is that the apportion share is adopted for 2021. And the second one is that the chief of finance and operations bills the congregations quarterly. And all of the detail around those two standard resolutions is in the budget spreadsheet, budget narrative, and budget video. And if you have not watched the video, or read the spreadsheets, or looked at the narrative, I have just put links into the chat for everybody to take a look at them. You won't have time to do that in the next five minutes, 'cause they're all a little long, but if you have any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

- Terrific. Thank you, Matt. Any questions, questions to Lucy at this time? Regarding the budgets or the election of the trustees.

- I'm not seeing any questions come into the chat.

- Terrific. Then we'll move forward. Next on the calendar are enabling resolutions on which you will vote, two are related to reparations. One on access the benefits of the Church Pension Group, and one on minimum clergy compensation. I would like to invite Miss Diane Pollard at this time, a member of the reparations committee at the Diocese of New York to present a resolution on remedying the inequities and injustices of racism found on page 71 of your calendar business. Diane.

- Thank you, Anne. The whereases appear on our screen, so I won't bother to read them. However, I will read the text of the resolution, and then I'll have a few words to say about it. Resolved that the congregations members and related organizations of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, actively engage in civic and secular activities in their communities and nationally that will eliminate discrimination against Blacks in intent or effect, and will support dramatic institutional changes in the structures and laws of this land. And further resolved that congregations, members, and related organizations of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, look within their communities and identify issues that might benefit from church involvement, and take action necessary to help eradicate the problems. And be it further resolved that congregations, members, and related organizations of the Episcopal Diocese of New York engage in activities in the coming days, that will ensure maximum participation in our upcoming national and local elections. And be it further

resolved that congregations, members, and related organizations of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, work toward the maximum participation in the 2020 census, and engage in any other activities that can work towards a more equitable and just form of representation for all citizens. Of course, the last resolution was prepared at a time when we had a much longer deadline on our census. However, I do think that it is important that we as a diocese speak out about that as well. A few words. The work of the reparations committee began in response to a resolution of the 2006 general convention. Deputies to the general convention that year returned home and requested that the bishop and diocese participate in studies and learnings that would identify our diocese & congregations' complicity in slavery and its aftermath. These studies have been undertaken by some of our congregations from all regions of our diocese. And in many cases, they have been in-depth studies. Many continue to study and consider ways in which they can make amends. The reparations committee believes that the time has come for our bishop and diocese to commit to more action-focused activities, that reflect the underlying reasons of why we are where we are as a church and as a society at this time. We believe that this must be done by publicly raising our voices at the local and national levels. This year's activities of violence and the continued murders of African Americans has confirmed the fact that it is time for all of us to call out the ingrained atrocities of mass incarceration, poor health care, and long-term exploitation, and to engage in conversations and actions that will encourage dramatic and positive institutional changes in the diocese and the church. To implement this resolution, the reparations committee plans to sponsor a series of panel discussions that will examine the different pillars of systematic racism. We want to walk with you on this journey. One of our many learnings over the past years is that this topic is a continued one. That we must all learn, share, relearn, and continue to engage. It is life's work. In an ideal world it would become a part of our baptismal covenant. This resolution calls out our diocese to honor the late Georgia Congressman, John Lewis, to be standard bearers of good trouble and move us closer to becoming God's beloved community. Thank you.

- Thank you, Diane. Delegates, we invite you to write your questions into the chat at this time for Diane. Any questions?

- Lucy are you going to field them or shall I just dive right in?

- I am well, I'm sure you've read the question. I'm just wondering if this is the right resolution question. Isn't the 2020 census completed? Would it render a part of the resolve statement moot and should that be edited or removed?

- The resolution as it appears in the book was submitted at a time when the census had a later deadline. And so therefore I cannot change it now. I think it is referred to the resolutions committee, and they will make any adjustments should they see fit. I do however feel that the census is another form of ... a way in which you inhibit people, and it's going to have a great effect on kinds of monies that come back to serve our underserved population. So, I would like it to appear somewhere in the resolution, even if it was moved from it being resolved to the explanation. But I would leave that to the wisdom of the resolutions committee. And I'd be glad to talk with them about that.

- We would actually... Diane, can I jump in, we would need a friendly amendment to change the resolution at this point, which somebody can propose in the chat and you can accept if you wish. That would be the easiest way of changing the resolution at this time. It doesn't have to happen right now, but that's somewhat of the format.

- Okay. Fine. Thank you. Well, yeah, not to delay things we can move on, but that's what has to happen, yeah.

- [Anne] Thank you.

- Thank you, I know there are other questions we do in the interest of time need to move on. We'll be sure that any questions go directly to Diane to answer after this meeting. Thank you so much.

- Lucy we still have maybe three minutes or so if we want to take another question or two. That's up to you.

- Yeah, we have... Sure, there's a question, "How will we measure our progress "in accomplishing this resolution "and who will be responsible for tracking our progress?"

- Okay. The reparations committee is the overall body that has been shepherding this conversation. And we are actually in the process of enlarging that committee. We were working on that when COVID struck and we could no longer do face-to-face meeting. Having said that, I personally believe that the measure of how we do on this will be what we as a diocese and a community see. I think that our actions must not be actions that take place in the dark, but we must be vocal about them. And we must for want of a better word, measure each other and call each other out. Because so many things that are accomplished are accomplished by talking to each other. And so many things that happen that are not good and righteous happen because people don't talk about it, and people don't call you out. And I think this is a time for calling out. I hope that answers the question.

- Thank you so much. We will have... Take additional time. We do need to move through the... all of the resolutions tonight. So I am working with a timer. So just know that if I have to cut anyone off. If in fact there's something else that needs to be discussed, please just put that in the chat and we'll make sure to follow up with you as well. Okay? Terrific. Thank you so much. Next I would like to call on the Reverend Deacon Kent J Curtis, a member of the bishop's committee for the diaconate to present a resolution on providing deacons access to the benefits of the Church Pension Group, found on page 72. Ken. Are you with us, sir? Lucy, can you help make that connection?

- I'm here, sorry.

- Oh, wonderful. Thank you.

- Today is the day of technology issues. So yes, as Anne said, I chair the bishop's committee for the diaconate. And this came to us as an idea from a couple of other dioceses that are doing this. And basically it's providing deacons access to the benefits of the Church Pension Group. And it means making a nominal contribution. We want to be clear -the bishop wants us to be clear that this is not an attempt to establish salaries for deacons. It's a \$25 a month contribution to the Church Pension Group, and then 18% for a monthly total of 29.50. And basically it will allow deacons to access Credo, It will allow all the other benefits, pensions and retirement, saving plans, health benefits, and educational services. And the Church Pension Fund has confirmed and said that if this nominal amount is paid on a monthly basis to the deacons, it is enough to allow us to access those benefits. So I'm just kind of giving you a... You can read the resolution, but that's the gist of the resolution. Again by the deacons, the bishop's committee for the diaconate, not just me.

- Thank you Kent. Thank you. Any questions? Delegates do you have any questions for Kent, please write them in your chat at this time. Any questions?

- I am not seeing any questions or amendments at this time in the chat.

- Okay. Thank you, sir.

- [Kent] Sure.

- We'll go on. The Reverend Carol Gadsden is a member of the human resources committee of the Trustees of the Diocese of New York. She will present a resolution on minimum clergy compensation found on page 73. Carol.

- Thank you, Anne. If you do have your calendar for business, please do look at the bottom of page 73 so you understand precisely what we're referring to. They're right there. So you don't need to do that. So our resolution is this: Resolved that the 244th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York not raise the minimum annual stipend for Clergy for 2021, thereby maintaining the following minimums that went into effect on January 1st, 2020. And as you can see with the cash stipends below what those numbers are. And the major issue around this clearly is in light of the financial uncertainties arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made this recommendation.

- Thank you, Carol. Are there any... Anything else? Okay. And are there any questions for Carol? Please type into the chat.

- I do see that we have a question on the deacons. We'll make sure that that question gets to Kent. I'm not currently seeing questions related to minimum compensation in the chat.

- Terrific. Okay. Thank you, Carol. Next I call on Evan Davis, a member of the Church of the Heavenly Rest to present a resolution on designating the fourth Sunday in advent as a day to offer God's thanks for the abolition of slavery, and to ask God's help in ensuring always that black lives matter. This resolution can be found on page 74 in the new calendar of business that is online, and that was sent to you by the diocese. Evan.

- Thank you very much. to acknowledge that its conduct at the end of the civil war contributed to the anti-black racism we experience today. Let me set the stage. The 13th Amendment abolished American chattel slavery. It is important to remember just how inhumane this form of slavery was. For example we hear the phrase, "Born into slavery" but may not remember that this was because the children of slaves were the property of the slave owner, to be kept or sold as he wished. Slave owners tortured and raped slaves with impunity. There was little education or healthcare, even religious assembly was often forbidden. White supremacy was the law of the land. Blacks were quote, so far of an inferior order that they had no rights the white man was required to respect, and could be justly reduced to slavery for the white man's benefit. In April, 1865, the Civil War ended. Six months later, the church held his 28th General Convention in Philadelphia. The Convention was to conclude with the service of Thanksgiving for peace, and a deputy proposed that as part of that service special thanks be given to God for the abolition of slavery. A motion was immediately made to table to stop all further consideration, and passed by a big margin without any debate. Proponents protested the lack of debate, a second motion to give God thanks for the end of slavery with different wording was made. And this time there was debate. The opposition offered two arguments, first, slavery was a political question on which the church should not take a position. Second, a vote to celebrate the end of slavery would cause disharmony. It was said to be unreasonable to expect that the war had changed the pro-slavery views of the Southern bishops. These arguments prevailed, and the motion was tabled again by a decisive vote. It is the premise of the current resolution that this appeasement of pro-slavery views following the end of the Civil War was abhorrent. It gave support to those who rejected conclusion that the war had been God's righteous judgment against slavery. And because slavery was rooted in white supremacy, it helped to support ongoing systemic resistance to racial equality that persists to this day. This resolution proposes to do what the church should have done in 1865. Give God thanks for the abolition of slavery. This is what happened every year, around the anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment on December 18, 1865. It also addresses the consequences, of what the church failed to

do by asking God's help in ensuring that black lives matter always, fully and equally. So I would just like to note that it's come to our attention that some parishes have practices that would make it easier for them to do this on the third Sunday in advent than the fourth. So I would accept a friendly amendment to allow either the third Sunday or the fourth Sunday as the date for the prayer of Thanksgiving for the abolition of slavery, and asking God's help in assuring that black lives matter always, fully and equally.

- Thank you, Evan. Thank you for both the explanation and the offer of that friendly amendment. I'm going to allow folks, panelists and delegates at this time to write your any comments in the chat. We have a few more minutes left to answer any questions.

- Okay. So we have an amendment offered by Reverend Liz Maxwell and the Reverend Jacob Smith. They would like to offer a friendly amendment completely in support of the goal of this resolution and sensitive to the desire to observe a Sunday giving thanks to the abolition of slavery, and affirming the black lives matter close to the anniversary of the passage of the 13th Amendment. However, advent four comes up one of the busiest times of the church year and often includes other beloved and important liturgical traditions. This amendment to the resolution seeks to give congregations flexibility within the advent season of hope, preparation and expectation to have a meaningful observation of the anniversary of the end of chattel slavery, and prepares for a renewed incarnational understanding that black lives matter.

- That's acceptable.

- Terrific. Thank you, Evan. Do we need... Bishop Glasspool, do we need a second on a friendly amendment at this time?

- No.

- Okay. Terrific. Any other questions for Evan at this time?

- I'm seeing no other questions in the chat.

- Okay. So Bishop Glasspool, this is the end of our report. We did have additional questions surface that if you'd like to take time to answer them collectively together, we can, depending upon your schedule or table it. Given that we have the prayer time to come and final song, and those kinds of things, I think we would deal better with our time by allowing those questions to go to the appropriate people for answers.

- Terrific. So they will be incorporated... We'll communicate back to the person who asked the question prior to Saturday, and then again on Saturday, the resolutions will be moved for consideration, but there will not be discussion at that time.

- [Glasspool] Correct.

- Thank you, Bishop Glasspool.

- Thank you, Anne. We're moving into a time of prayer, which seems to me to be particularly important this evening. And I brought with me an icon that I have on the inside of my door as I'm going... As I'm leaving my office to go into the world. It is an icon of Jesus asleep in the stern of the boat from Mark's gospel chapter four, verses 36 to 38, or thereabouts. And this icon reminds me that no matter how chaotic, or crazy, or stormy it is out in the world, Jesus is in the boat with me and with us. So, I just offer that as perhaps an image for tonight. And I invite your prayers at this time in the chat box, in the chat room, petitions, intercessions, prayers for peace, goodwill, and no violence, and whatever else might be on your hearts and

minds at this time. Then we'll have some music and we'll move into final prayers and closing blessing. ♪ The lord is my shepherd ♪ ♪ I have all I need ♪ ♪ She makes me lie down in green meadows ♪ ♪ Beside the still waters ♪ ♪ She will lead ♪ ♪ She restores my soul ♪ ♪ She rights my wrongs ♪ ♪ She leads me in a path of good things ♪ ♪ And fills my heart with songs ♪ ♪ Even though I walk ♪ ♪ Through a dark and dreary land ♪ ♪ There is nothing that can shake me ♪ ♪ She has said she won't forsake me ♪ ♪ I'm in her hand ♪ ♪ She sets a table before me ♪ ♪ In the presence of my foes ♪ ♪ She anoints my head with oil ♪ ♪ And my cup overflows ♪ ♪ Surely, surely ♪ ♪ Goodness and kindness will follow me ♪ ♪ All the days of my life ♪ ♪ And I will live in her house ♪ ♪ Forever, forever and ever ♪ ♪ Glory be to our mother ♪ ♪ And daughter ♪ ♪ And to the Holy of Holies ♪ ♪ As it was in the beginning ♪ ♪ Is now and ever shall be ♪ ♪ World, without end. ♪

- Eternal Spirit, Earth maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven.

- The hallowing of your name echo through the universe. The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world.

- Your heavenly will be done by all created beings. You're commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.

- With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

- In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

- My friends, there is a kind of postlude song that I hope you will stay online for. Again, I offer in behalf really of the whole diocese deep thanks to all of you for engaging with this process, we continue to vote and I look forward to seeing you in per... not in person, but electronically Saturday morning, beginning at nine o'clock. And now the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and the blessing of God, Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you this night and always. Amen. ♪ Come, thou fount of every blessing ♪ ♪ Tune my heart to sing Thy grace ♪ ♪ Streams of mercy, never ceasing ♪ ♪ Call for songs of loudest praise ♪ ♪ Teach me some melodious sonnet ♪ ♪ Sung by flaming tongues above ♪ ♪ Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it ♪ ♪ Mount of Thy redeeming love ♪ ♪ Here I raise my Ebenezer ♪ ♪ Here there by Thy great help I've come ♪ ♪ And I hope, by Thy good pleasure ♪ ♪ Safely to arrive at home ♪ ♪ Jesus sought me when a stranger ♪ ♪ Wandering from the fold of God ♪ ♪ He, to rescue me from danger ♪ ♪ Interposed His precious blood ♪ ♪ Oh, to grace how great a debtor ♪ ♪ Daily I'm constrained to be ♪ ♪ Let that goodness like a fetter ♪ ♪ Bind my wandering heart to Thee ♪ ♪ Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it ♪ ♪ Prone to leave the God I love ♪ ♪ Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it ♪ ♪ Seal it for Thy courts above ♪ ♪ Come, thou fount of every blessing ♪ ♪ Tune my heart to sing Thy grace ♪ ♪ Streams of mercy, never ceasing ♪ ♪ Call for songs of loudest praise ♪ ♪ Teach me some melodious sonnet ♪ ♪ Sung by flaming tongues above ♪ ♪ Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it ♪ ♪ Mount of Thy redeeming love ♪ ♪ Lord, here's my heart ♪ ♪ Oh, take and seal it ♪ ♪ Seal it For Thy ♪ ♪ Courts ♪ ♪ Above ♪