



The Episcopal Diocese of New York

Transcript of the September 30, 2020 Diocesan Convention Roll Out Meeting

- Good evening, I'm Mary Glasspool, bishop assistant in the Episcopal Diocese of New York. And on behalf of Andy Dietsche, bishop diocesan, and Allen Shin bishop suffragan, and all the good people of the Diocese of New York. I welcome you to this our fourth rollout meeting as part of the 244th Annual Diocesan Convention. These meetings are recorded and are posted online usually the Friday after the meeting. So this Friday we'll try and make that deadline. And so you can see or see again, each of the meetings if you visit our diocesan website. I'd like to invite all of you who are participating and engaged, to use the chat room, we're not using the Q&A box at the bottom of your Zoom thing, we're using the chat room, but just as you are able and willing, state your name and where you're from, and we'll collect all that information. This evening we're focusing on the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and the Social Concerns Commission and we will see videos from them a little bit later in our program, right now we'll have an opening song and an opening prayer. ♪ Paul and Silas bound in jail ♪ ♪ Had no money for to go their bail ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Hold on hold on hold on hold on ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Hold on hold on hold on hold on ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Paul and Silas began to shout ♪ ♪ Doors popped open and they walked out ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Hold on hold on hold on hold on ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Well the only chains that we can stand ♪ ♪ Are the chains of hand in hand ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Yeah I got my hand on the freedom plow ♪ ♪ Wouldn't take nothing for my journey now ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Hold on hold on hold on hold on ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Hold on hold on hold on hold on ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪

- Oh, Lord our heavenly father whose blessed son came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Bless we beseech thee, all who following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others. That with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless and the needy for the love of him who laid down his life for us the same thy son, our Savior Jesus Christ who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever, amen.

- Thank you, Larry Marshall, for that opening prayer I've been honored and privileged to work with a small executive team of Matt Heyd, secretary of Convention, Sarah Saavedra, assistant secretary, Alice Yurke, the chancellor of the Diocese of New York Geoff Smith director of technology, Nick Richardson,

director of communications. All those are the executive team for this Diocesan Convention, but we also have help from members of the staff of Church of the Heavenly Rest, Lucas Thorpe, Julian Jameson, who is staffing the chat room tonight, Lucy Breidenthal, who will keep the question and answer periods, and then we have technical assistance from Tom Haggerty, Joey Wales, Marty Cole. We have American sign language interpreter, Dory Griffiths, and captioning by Randy Freeman. And we also are honored to have Jeannine Otis and Larry Marshall and Allison Moore, part of our liturgy subcommittee, providing opening and closing songs and prayers. Thanks to all of you, it really takes a team. Tonight we have some longer videos, and we're going to start with the Cathedral of St. John the Divine I believe the video speaks for itself. So we'll move right into that, and if you have questions that you would like to direct to the staff of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, I do invite you to write them in the chat room, and we will see that those questions get delivered to the appropriate people, enjoy.

- Well, greetings from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, to the clergy and delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of New York. I'm Clifton Daniel, the Dean of the Cathedral, And I've invited the chapter of the cathedral, that is the clergy who served this great cathedral, to give a brief report of their own, regarding their specific areas of work. During the last year strange as it has been, your cathedral has stepped up to serve, to heal, to restore and to become ever more fully, and every way we can to be a house of prayer and welcome and safety for all people. The cathedral has served this year in the midst of this pandemic, by stepping up in partnership with Columbia University thanks to two very generous donors to serve a thousand meals a day, during the month of September. The feeding program on Sundays has more than doubled in numbers, serving anywhere between two and 400 people on Sunday. The clothing closet is open, and there are lines down the street, of people coming to seek clothing, especially in the cooler weather. The Advancing Community Together program, ACT, has been busy designing programs to serve preschool children and younger children whose parents are working. We are sharing space on the close with the cathedral school. We've sponsored blood drives, we have been a COVID test center. The cathedral is now open daily from 9:30 until 3:30, for individual visits. We pray that we will be able to open no earlier or just after January 15th for public worship. Part of the cathedral's ministry is to heal, we established a relief and recovery fund, to assist in serving those who are in need and continuing the ministry of the cathedral. The giving has been generous, people have supported the relief and recovery fund and generous and ways that are life giving and healing to this community. We've been broadcasting as you know, our Sunday services every week with an average of about 600 people a week watching these services. St. Francis Day will happen this year, however, it will be in a virtual way, you're all invited to come and join in that great celebration. And finally to restore, the cathedral has worked on racial reconciliation, the congregation of Saint Saviour sponsored a Black Lives Matter march that filled Amsterdam Avenue with more than 1500 people. To march and witness for the core value of this cathedral, that all people are loved equally by God. And especially those who suffer poverty, oppression, segregation, racial hatred. In a week or so I'll be welcoming the president general, the president of the United Nations General Assembly to address us on UN Sunday, expanding our witness to a worldwide scene. We are hard at work, re-covering the dome of the cathedral, which will be done in about a year to prevent leaks and structural imperfections but it will be covered with a bright copper roof so that we become a beacon to the whole city in physical ways, as well as spiritual ways. We're working toward restoration of the great organ, which has been silent for over a year now, due to the fire on Palm Sunday a year ago. And we'll be awaiting that glorious day

when once again, the organ adds its voice to the great voice of this cathedral, and work and witness and fellowship, and in service, I look forward to that day as I know we all do. Let me ask Canon Patrick Malloy, if he can tell us a bit about his job and what he does here at the cathedral.

- Thank you, Dean Daniel, I'd like to speak today, more cathedral. Like most of you, we last gathered for public worship in the cathedral beginning the first week of March, and since then, all of our services both during the weekend on the weekends have been virtual. It was a gradual process for us to decide the best way to do that, and we decided at the end of the day that we would broadcast all of the services in exactly this format, each of the participants from her or his own apartment. So we haven't really used the cathedral at all since the beginning of March. And we've done this as an attempt to stand in solidarity with one another, that none of us actually are going into the cathedral at this point. The result in a way has been remarkable, we've discovered a great deal, about how to use social media to make the presence of the cathedral known, not just locally, but nationally and even internationally. The number of people attending our services has increased tremendously, and while we do not for a minute think that virtual services are the equivalent, in person services, for so many reasons. We have learned something about the possibility of outreach and of welcoming people into our common worship. At our daily office for example at the cathedral, we celebrate the daily office every day. The average attendance most days was one or two people at each of the offices, morning and evening prayer. Now, we're getting 20, 30, 40 people at each of the offices from around the country who are forming a bond a community bond, not only of prayer, but of mutual support. So this pandemic is teaching us something about new ways that we can do liturgy not instead of common worship but in addition to it, that is to say not in place of in-person common worship, but in addition to it. The first major liturgy that we've had at the cathedral since early March happened just this past Saturday, when we ordained five people, three to the priesthood and two to the diaconate in the cathedral, it was a remarkable experience I think, for all of us, to again be in that great space. And it was a show of what can happen when so many people come together in such a concerted sort of way, to make something happen that's never been done before. Never before have we done that sort of live streaming ourselves, never before have we had to space people so far apart in the cathedral or to be so conscious of hygienic issues, and yet I think it turned out to be a lovely day for everyone, and having heard from the ordinands now how much they appreciated the day. And so I think now we're actually on the brink of new liturgical possibilities at the cathedral, and rather than just the end of old, and it could be sort of an exciting and expansive new time in our common life.

- Thank you Pat, let me call now on Canon Steven Lee, who is vicar of the congregation of Saint Saviour

- Thank you Dean, I would say the theme for the cathedral congregation's life, before the pandemic, you could say was breath: new programs, new people, new energy. And since the pandemic, we've had to pivot fairly dramatically toward a new direction, and that has been depth. And I would say that depth has been characterized by more Bible study, we have a Bible study now every week that attracts 30 to 40 people. We started with a close look at Job, and now we're doing a close reading of Genesis. We're still in the Garden of Eden, we've had about 10 classes and people are still coming. And so some Sundays

you'll have people who show up at 10 for the Bible study, they stay for the service, they have coffee hour, Canon Malloy has been teaching a class on the Eucharist. And so what had been maybe an hour in person on a Sunday, now for people is three or four hours of worship and formation and Bible study. And so in that way I think we're really learning how to be deeper disciples of Jesus. And so going forward, the challenge for the congregation will be how do we continue to deepen? But now in this online world, sort of reopen that and we focus on breadth, how do we incorporate new people into this world? That's something that we'll be looking at in this coming year.

- Thank you Steven, and now for the newest member of the chapter of the cathedral, the clergy of the cathedral, I introduced to you Deacon Paul Daniels, a new deacon ordained this past summer, and soon to be God-willing, ordained to the priesthood. Paul is joining us on a part time basis, a halftime basis, because he is also in the doctoral program in systematic theology at Fordham University. He's been a welcome and a valued addition to the chapter and to the life of the cathedral. Paul?

- Thank you, Dean Daniel, it's a pleasure to be at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, to be a part of a wonderful community of praying, learning curious people, and to be on a team with such experience and yeah, and desire to bring the gospel to life, in various ways, I have really really enjoyed being able to meet folks via Zoom. And I'm grateful for the work that the cathedral has done to make that community, that virtual community, one that's very meaningful, and that's strong. And people have asked me time and again you know, how has it been, starting a job on the internet? And it's really been wonderful, they haven't missed a beat. And so I'm really looking forward to joining everyone in person. And for time being it's been wonderful to get to know folks where they are, in their intimate settings. And I think that is going to make the moment when we come together that much more meaningful and beautiful. So I'm grateful to be here, grateful to be in the Diocese of New York, and we're looking forward to making some, some really powerful things happen with this wonderful community, so thank you for having me.

- Thank you Paul, thank you for sharing these moments with us, I pray that God bless our ministries of the various and variety of ministries in the Diocese of New York, strengthen us for greater witness and to our Lord Jesus Christ and empower us, for greater service and greater witness to our nation, our community and our world, God bless you all.

- Thank you, Dean Daniel and cathedral chapter of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine The executive team working on Diocesan Convention reminds ourselves of our four core values in producing this Convention. We decided on these rather conversationally at the beginning and they we repeat them kinda every week, transparency, trust, accessibility and agency. Transparency is we're to do everything, so that people can not only see what we're doing but understand and even participate in it, because we believe that that kind of transparency produces trust, which is clearly a building block of community, and therefore of the body of Christ. Accessibility we use not simply to refer to the closed captioning and American sign language, and translation into Spanish, but also for technological purposes. We want everybody to be able to engage with Diocesan Convention as we conduct it for the first time in history

remotely. So we really hold up, this is my favorite agency, which in this day and age when people feel so out of control of a lot of things, we want to say, you know what? You really do matter, and what you do matters, and your vote counts, and we want to hear from you and we want to engage with you. So we've been testing out how we're going to vote at Diocesan Convention, and Matt Heyd has fearlessly led us in exploring a number of different options, and I want to turn the program over to Matt Heyd right now, as he shares with you one of the options we're going to test tonight

- Thank you bishop, we have been exploring how to vote and our key is, and we'll put this up on the screen, is how we find a way to vote that's both easy and equitable. I mean, we're seeing out in the world, the troubles of voting and we together can model a different way of being together, so that everyone's voice is heard. The bishop just gave the values that we've been holding up, that she's led us through, transparency, trust, accessibility, and agency, we want no one left out. And so we're using these rollout meetings, as a way to test both voting and voting support. Now we've been listening over these past weeks, thank you for your emails, we've answered every email and we've been hearing two things. First, there's been trouble downloading the app we've been testing out, Crowd Compass. The second is that you need more time voting. So we want to make sure we respond to what we hear. For testing additional ways to simplify voting, we're going to try another site today. We're also looking at a plan to extend voting for candidates over several days, so that everyone, absolutely everyone has enough time to vote, and we have enough time to answer all your questions. So any trouble that comes up, we can make sure we respond to. We want to hear all the way through this process if you're having trouble, our goal in testing is to hear all the trouble, work out all the wrinkles, that's exactly what we're testing. So if you're sending a note and we'll give you the email address again at the end of tonight, if you're having trouble, let us know. Now, so here's what we're going to try tonight. We're going to try a new site called Election Buddy. I'm really grateful for the work and support of Sarah Saavedra and Geoff Smith who have done so much work to make this possible, and this is an app that Geoff's been talking to diocese around the country about how they're doing this, we're trying to learn all the time from other people, as well as listening to you. And this is a site that we've heard others have used well. So we're going to test it out today. Here's the link, you see it on the screen, I just put it in chat, a simple way we're going to try voting together today. Now the question is really simple, I enjoyed the rain last night. Yes, no, or you can abstain. Well, we voting up to 5:45, so you can start voting now and you should be able to work it through, they'll ask you to verify your vote, for now. We're just testing if we can vote together, and report any trouble that you hear. So try the link, I'm going to put it back in once more. And if you have trouble here is the email address which you can email, and what we're going to trying to do is we get realtime results from this. So by the end of the meeting, after the social concerns presentation we're going to try to report the results, bishop, thank you. And thanks to all of you for testing this out with us as we see how we're going to be together the week of November 7th.

- Okay, thank you Matt, really appreciated that. I won't tell you how I voted, but I did manage to vote. Next we're going to hear from the Social Concerns Commission ably chaired by the Reverend Winnie Varghese. The Social Concerns Commission, and you'll see this on the video, is just a broad umbrella for a lot of different groups that do a lot of good things. So here's the video, enjoy.

- The Social Concerns Commission, is a commission of committees and you can see those committees on the screen in front of you. Today you're going to hear from a few of those committees, some are also reporting out in these preview conversations separately, and all of them will be included in the reporting that you get for Convention. If you were interested in participating and joining any of these groups, please let us know in the chat, we can track that, or feel free to reach out to any of us individually. The Advocacy Committee is a new committee of the Social Concerns Commission. This is a team of clergy and lay people, who are developing an online interactive presence, social media and web based, to help members of our diocese to move forward on positions on social justice issues, approved by resolution of Diocesan Convention. It's a really exciting new group, if you'd be interested in being a part of it, please do let us know in the chat or contact the diocese, and let them know so that we can follow up with you. And these are the current members of that committee.

- My name is Adrian Dannhauser and I chair the task force against human trafficking for the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Over the past several years, our task force has responded to the crisis of human trafficking through legislative advocacy, education, raising awareness through art and liturgy, and engaging at private sector to promote corporate social responsibility. This year, one of our areas of focus will be educating teens and parents about child sex trafficking. Traffickers are becoming more and more savvy in utilizing social media to lure minors into the sex trade. And this is especially true during the COVID pandemic, when there has been an increase in reports of online exploitation. Kids are spending more and more time on the internet than ever before, which provides opportunities for traffickers and predators to groom and exploit them. Another area of focus for our task force is legislative advocacy at the New York state level. We hope that New York will become the first state to decriminalize people who are bought and sold in prostitution while continuing to hold those who exploit them criminally accountable. We know that the majority of people prostituted are victims of human trafficking from vulnerable populations, and they should not be punished for their victimization, but rather they should be receiving services, that help them exit the sex trade and heal from the trauma that is inherent in it, we are encouraged that this type of model which has been instituted in other countries has curbed the demand for commercial sex. And finally, we hope that in the coming year, we discern and begin an initiative to address labor trafficking. So be on the lookout for information, resources, and calls to action from our task force. And if you would like to join or simply learn more about the task force against human trafficking, please do visit our page on the Diocesan website, and feel free to contact me directly at adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org.

- Hello, my name is Gawain De Leeuw. I'm the priest at St. Bartholomew's Church and White Plains, New York. I'm also the chair of the Economic Justice subcommittee. So this year we've been able to help communities in the South Bronx have access to wireless, so that their students can participate in their own learning. Furthermore, we were able to help pressure banks to provide the PPP loans that were available to our church communities. Furthermore, we were also able to develop longterm plans for some of our communities, so that they can transition off of fossil fuel. And this includes identifying trusted contractors, contractors who employ people from communities where there is great unemployment. Most of all, what we do is we train leaders, we train leaders to identify problems in their communities that require collective work to solve them. That means we identify partners, people

who have power, people who have passion, people who really want to make a difference. And this requires developing skills such as building relationships, how to hold meetings, and how to strategize so that we can do the work that we're called to do, work that is worthy of the gospel. Anyway, thank you for all your help, and we look forward to your continued support this coming year, God bless.

- Our baptismal liturgy, is the one that defines us as Christians, welcomes us to a community of love, it also calls us to renounce the evil powers of this world, which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God. Domestic violence and sexual assault, are about power and control, the antithesis of love.

- In the time of COVID, domestic violence has been called the shadow pandemic. Its victims are forced to shelter in place with abusers. 90% of victims experience threats, intimidation or humiliation, resulting in their abusers gaining more power and control. 24% report increasing financial abuse in face of growing unemployment, as well as facing the longterm economic damages of this pandemic. As a task force, we have expanded our name to signify the inclusion of sexual assault in our response with interpersonal violence. During COVID the calls from children to hotlines for example, for help have increased. We recognize every 73 seconds an American has reported in an incidence of sexual assault. Still knowing the majority of assaults remain unreported.

- The diocesan domestic violence and sexual assault taskforce calls upon all church leaders both laity and clergy to stand up for love, to let victims know that we care, and to point them toward resources that can bring them to safety, wholeness and healing. Learn more about this and what you can do to become a first responder. Ensure the signs of hope can be found in your church

- We welcome new members to our taskforce

- Welcome, I'm Matt Caulkins, serving as chair of the creation care committee the Social Justice Concerns Commission and here to present a little bit about what we're doing and talking and thinking about, in this critical area. There's so much to discern, there's so much to do. Let's hear a little bit. Liz Maxwell, Church of the Ascension, what do you say?

- I'm sharing some thoughts also from Jeff Gollhofer, who many of you know as a member of this committee and also the part of the Anglican representation on climate to the UN. He talks about how really the time that we've been dreading has arrived, it's not in future anymore because we're burning fossil fuels at such rate, we're facing the climate emergency and also the destruction of species at an unprecedented rate, we have wildfires and floods both, and melting ice caps on the two ends of the planet. It's really not a question of how much the seas will rise, of whether they'll rise, but how many feet and how soon. We've also lost 68% of mammals, birds, reptiles, and fish since 1970, because of destroying habitat and forests. COVID is really an example of this, what we're living with this pandemic,

because we are facing a kind of a crisis because of that habitat destruction. Really, our system has been a war on nature, and we need to refuse to do that. We need to come together understanding this is our common home, and the home of all God's creatures, and we will survive together, or we will not, I want to piggyback on Jeff to say that indeed it is about all of us together, humans and other than humans. And it is about our being our neighbors keeper, because those who are most vulnerable are those who are most affected by climate change. In COVID, we've seen that black and brown and poor people have suffered exponentially more, because of their vulnerability to this pandemic. It's the same with food insecurity, with immigration crisis- people having to leave where they've lived for generations because they can no longer grow food or even survive there. It's up to us to care for one another, by caring for the climate, and if we don't do it none of the other work that we do will really matter. I'd like to pass this on now to George Potanovic, who is a parishioner at the chapel of St. John the Divine in Tompkins Cove.

- Thank you, Liz, I became involved in environmental issues 30 years ago. I started a local group in my community called Space, was the only point of action for the environment. And during that time, I've encouraged people to participate in local government, going to town meetings talking to their local officials, taking an active role in legislation before those bodies, as well as the Rockland Water Coalition was a big effort to protect Rockland County's water supply and turn away from the idea of expanding water into water conservation. So in that we're creating a picture here of a very dire situation with what we can see now are the result of climate change. It's important that each of us realize that what we can do individually makes a difference. And that by working together as a congregation we can achieve a lot by letting people know how we feel and what to expect our local officials to do in terms of taking action to directly address these important issues. So I can expand a little bit more on that but that's kind of where I would go. And I would like to now turn over to Gawain de Leeuw from the St. Bartholomew's Church in White Plains, New York.

- Thank you, thank you, George. So one of the things that we did at St. Bartholomew's is that when our oil burner crashed, we decided to get off fossil fuels, and go directly to electricity, thereby reducing our carbon footprint by 30% and increasing our electric efficiency by upwards of 300%. There are things that every church can do, in order to reduce their own carbon footprint, so that we each do our part. If you want to talk about how we made that happen, please contact me, because the more churches that can get off oil, the more we can do collectively what we need to do to save our planet. And now I'd like to pass it onto Consuelo Hernandez, the Church of the Mediator in The Bronx.

- Greetings, my name is Consuelo Hernandez. I am a parishioner of Church of the Mediator here in The Bronx. At Mediator our work focuses on the soil remediation of our grounds, for healthy soil plays a major role in sequestering CO2, and bringing back health to our trees. Some are more than 100 years old, trees clean the air, provide oxygen, help call the streets in the city, and many more benefits for us all if we care for them, we built a garden to help feed our neighbors healthy, organic food. But also to teach them how to grow and care for the soil. We also incorporate permaculture principles on site, like capturing rain water from our roof, planting native plants for pollinators, for they are God's creatures as well. And producing no waste on our grounds, as every last leaf and weed goes back into our soil. We

are one of the few composting sites in The Bronx, offering our neighbors opportunity to divert their food waste from the landfill. It is estimated that organic waste composes about 1/3 of New York City's waste stream. Landfills emit toxic gases to our atmosphere, and leach toxins into our soil and groundwater. Composting can also help sequester carbon, every little bit counts. Zero waste initiatives in our church also are simple steps we take, and so can you to help care for his creation. And now I pass this on to Mr. Egbert Stolk

- Thank you, my name is Egbert Stolk. I'm serving as director of Diocesan Property Services and I'm part of the Bishop's staff of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. In my role, I support and advise parishes with any type of property matters. So the Bishop's staff of the Episcopal Diocese of New York is exploring ways to support congregations in their efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of churches as part of the resolution adopted in 2019. Within the diocese, we are not the only struggling to reduce the carbon footprint of the usually inefficient buildings, but also struggling with a challenge to protect all these buildings against more extreme weather caused by climate change. As part of the bishop's staff, we are in communication with all congregations throughout the diocese, together with the creation care committee, we want to explore ways, how to document or survey the energy use, and the cooling systems throughout the diocese. Part of the next year's goal is to explore what information we will need to document the progress we are making in reducing the carbon footprint as a whole. The diocese helps to support the churches, and the creation care committee in providing a platform to survey the progression we hope to make, over the next decade in reducing our carbon footprint. I would like to give it back to Matt Hawkins.

- Not only are we concerned about the larger issues and the injustice, but we start to think about how we can do something about it, acting locally, acting collectively, how our own congregation can do energy efficiency measures, and how we can start a garden, and a composting as in the Church of the Mediator. There's many ways, there's many churches, let's all work on this. And we would like to know more if you'd like to be part of our committee, we're absolutely welcoming any and all. And we'll see you when we end up gathering but for now, God bless you and let's keep our planet safe.

- Thanks to the Social Concerns Commission. That was a big video with lots in it. We're going to return now to Matt Heyd and see if we can get the results of our first sort of online ballot, Did you like the rain last night?

- So let's see, thank you all for both voting and letting us know if you had trouble with the voting. We've learned a lot over the last couple of weeks with your feedback. So your feedback, especially about wrinkles, trouble, problem you're having is especially important. And it looks like tonight, many of you were able to vote. So here are the official results. 106 folks were able to vote: 90 liked the rain, 14 did not, and two abstained. So we're just testing out this new site and to see how we can vote on resolutions and the budget together, as we get towards November 7th. Now, again, we want to hear from you. So I put my email in the chat, this is the election email election@dioceseny.org. If you send us

thoughts, notes, trouble you're having we can respond. And we together can prepare to have an election which we all participate in which the Bishop said we have agency all of us, at Convention. Bishop, thank you and thanks to everyone for participating today.

- Thank you Matt, for tackling what is arguably the most difficult part of conducting this Convention remotely. Each week, we have invited people who are engaged in the rollout meetings to have a time of prayer and to, if the spirit moves, articulate your prayers in writing in the chat room. And we're going to do that again tonight, I invite your prayers of intercession, petition, thanksgiving, any prayers, pleas to almighty God, assurances, praise, if you feel called or moved by the spirit to put your prayers in the chat room, please do, we're going to have a few moments of silence and you'll hear some music following. And then we'll move into our final prayer and songs. ♪ I am sending you light to heal you to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light to hold you in love ♪ ♪ I am sending you light to heal you to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light to hold you in love ♪ ♪ I am sending you light to heal you to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light to hold you in love ♪ ♪ I am sending you light to heal you to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light to hold you in love ♪

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

- 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 Oh God, to end starvation.

- 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 Oh God, to root out prejudice

- 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, Oh God, to end despair.

- For you have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

- We cannot merely pray to you Oh God to end disease.

- 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 Oh God, for strength, determination and willpower to do, instead of just pray, to become instead of merely to wish, amen.

- Before I offer a semifinal blessing, I want to invite you to stay a little bit after the blessing to hear from Sweet Honey in the Rock Ella's Song, we try to offer a closing song to send people off with. And the liturgy subcommittee has done such a wonderful job in choosing these pieces of liturgy and music. So my friends go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage, hold fast that which is good, render to no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint hearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, and the blessing of God who creates us, redeems us and sustains us, be upon you and remain with you this night, and always, amen. ♪ We who believe in freedom cannot rest ♪ ♪ We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes ♪ ♪ We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes ♪ ♪ We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes ♪ ♪ Until the killing of black men black mothers' sons ♪ ♪ Is as important as the killing of white men ♪ ♪ White mothers' sons ♪ ♪ We who believe

- Good evening, I'm Mary Glasspool, bishop assistant in the Episcopal Diocese of New York. And on behalf of Andy Dietsche, bishop diocesan, and Allen Shin bishop suffragan, and all the good people of the Diocese of New York. I welcome you to this our fourth rollout meeting as part of the 244th Annual Diocesan Convention. These meetings are recorded and are posted online usually the Friday after the meeting. So this Friday we'll try and make that deadline. And so you can see or see again, each of the meetings if you visit our diocesan website. I'd like to invite all of you who are participating and engaged, to use the chat room, we're not using the Q&A box at the bottom of your Zoom thing, we're using the chat room, but just as you are able and willing, state your name and where you're from, and we'll collect all that information. This evening we're focusing on the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and the Social Concerns Commission and we will see videos from them a little bit later in our program, right now we'll have an opening song and an opening prayer. ♪ Paul and Silas bound in jail ♪ ♪ Had no money for to go their bail ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Hold on hold on hold on hold on ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Hold on hold on hold on hold on ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Paul and Silas began to shout ♪ ♪ Doors popped open and they walked out ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Hold on hold on hold on hold on ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Well the only chains that we can stand ♪ ♪ Are the chains of hand in hand ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Yeah I got my hand on the freedom plow ♪ ♪ Wouldn't take nothing for my journey now ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Hold on hold on hold on hold on ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪ ♪ Hold on hold on hold on hold on ♪ ♪ Keep your eyes on the prize hold on ♪

- Oh, Lord our heavenly father whose blessed son came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Bless we beseech thee, all who following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others. That with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless and the needy for the love of him who laid down his life for us the same thy son, our Savior Jesus Christ who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever, amen.

- Thank you, Larry Marshall, for that opening prayer I've been honored and privileged to work with a small executive team of Matt Heyd, secretary of Convention, Sarah Saavedra, assistant secretary, Alice Yurke, the chancellor of the Diocese of New York Geoff Smith director of technology, Nick Richardson, director of communications. All those are the executive team for this Diocesan Convention, but we also have help from members of the staff of Church of the Heavenly Rest, Lucas Thorpe, Julian Jameson, who is staffing the chat room tonight, Lucy Breidenthal, who will keep the question and answer periods, and then we have technical assistance from Tom Haggerty, Joey Wales, Marty Cole. We have American sign language interpreter, Dory Griffiths, and captioning by Randy Freeman. And we also are honored to have Jeannine Otis and Larry Marshall and Allison Moore, part of our liturgy subcommittee, providing opening and closing songs and prayers. Thanks to all of you, it really takes a team. Tonight we have some longer videos, and we're going to start with the Cathedral of St. John the Divine I believe the video speaks for itself. So we'll move right into that, and if you have questions that you would like to direct to the staff of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, I do invite you to write them in the chat room, and we will see that those questions get delivered to the appropriate people, enjoy.

- Well, greetings from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, to the clergy and delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of New York. I'm Clifton Daniel, the Dean of the Cathedral, And I've invited the chapter of the cathedral, that is the clergy who served this great cathedral, to give a brief report of their own, regarding their specific areas of work. During the last year strange as it has been, your cathedral has stepped up to serve, to heal, to restore and to become ever more fully, and every way we can to be a house of prayer and welcome and safety for all people. The cathedral has served this year in the midst of this pandemic, by stepping up in partnership with Columbia University thanks to two very generous donors to serve a thousand meals a day, during the month of September. The feeding program on Sundays has more than doubled in numbers, serving anywhere between two and 400 people on Sunday. The clothing closet is open, and there are lines down the street, of people coming to seek clothing, especially in the cooler weather. The Advancing Community Together program, ACT, has been busy designing programs to serve preschool children and younger children whose parents are working. We are sharing space on the close with the cathedral school. We've sponsored blood drives, we have been a COVID test center. The cathedral is now open daily from 9:30 until 3:30, for individual visits. We pray that we will be able to open no earlier or just after January 15th for public worship. Part of the cathedral's ministry is to heal, we established a relief and recovery fund, to assist in serving those who are in need and continuing the ministry of the cathedral. The giving has been generous, people have supported the relief and recovery fund and generous and ways that are life giving and healing to this community. We've been broadcasting as you know, our Sunday services every week with an average of about 600 people a week watching these services. St. Francis Day will happen this year, however, it will be in a virtual way, you're all invited to come and join in that great celebration. And finally to

restore, the cathedral has worked on racial reconciliation, the congregation of Saint Saviour sponsored a Black Lives Matter march that filled Amsterdam Avenue with more than 1500 people. To march and witness for the core value of this cathedral, that all people are loved equally by God. And especially those who suffer poverty, oppression, segregation, racial hatred. In a week or so I'll be welcoming the president general, the president of the United Nations General Assembly to address us on UN Sunday, expanding our witness to a worldwide scene. We are hard at work, re-covering the dome of the cathedral, which will be done in about a year to prevent leaks and structural imperfections but it will be covered with a bright copper roof so that we become a beacon to the whole city in physical ways, as well as spiritual ways. We're working toward restoration of the great organ, which has been silent for over a year now, due to the fire on Palm Sunday a year ago. And we'll be awaiting that glorious day when once again, the organ adds its voice to the great voice of this cathedral, and work and witness and fellowship, and in service, I look forward to that day as I know we all do. Let me ask Canon Patrick Malloy, if he can tell us a bit about his job and what he does here at the cathedral.

- Thank you, Dean Daniel, I'd like to speak today, more cathedral. Like most of you, we last gathered for public worship in the cathedral beginning the first week of March, and since then, all of our services both during the weekend on the weekends have been virtual. It was a gradual process for us to decide the best way to do that, and we decided at the end of the day that we would broadcast all of the services in exactly this format, each of the participants from her or his own apartment. So we haven't really used the cathedral at all since the beginning of March. And we've done this as an attempt to stand in solidarity with one another, that none of us actually are going into the cathedral at this point. The result in a way has been remarkable, we've discovered a great deal, about how to use social media to make the presence of the cathedral known, not just locally, but nationally and even internationally. The number of people attending our services has increased tremendously, and while we do not for a minute think that virtual services are the equivalent, in person services, for so many reasons. We have learned something about the possibility of outreach and of welcoming people into our common worship. At our daily office for example at the cathedral, we celebrate the daily office every day. The average attendance most days was one or two people at each of the offices, morning and evening prayer. Now, we're getting 20, 30, 40 people at each of the offices from around the country who are forming a bond a community bond, not only of prayer, but of mutual support. So this pandemic is teaching us something about new ways that we can do liturgy not instead of common worship but in addition to it, that is to say not in place of in-person common worship, but in addition to it. The first major liturgy that we've had at the cathedral since early March happened just this past Saturday, when we ordained five people, three to the priesthood and two to the diaconate in the cathedral, it was a remarkable experience I think, for all of us, to again be in that great space. And it was a show of what can happen when so many people come together in such a concerted sort of way, to make something happen that's never been done before. Never before have we done that sort of live streaming ourselves, never before have we had to space people so far apart in the cathedral or to be so conscious of hygienic issues, and yet I think it turned out to be a lovely day for everyone, and having heard from the ordinands now how much they appreciated the day. And so I think now we're actually on the brink of new liturgical possibilities at the cathedral, and rather than just the end of old, and it could be sort of an exciting and expansive new time in our common life.

- Thank you Pat, let me call now on Canon Steven Lee, who is vicar of the congregation of Saint Saviour

- Thank you Dean, I would say the theme for the cathedral congregation's life, before the pandemic, you could say was breath: new programs, new people, new energy. And since the pandemic, we've had to pivot fairly dramatically toward a new direction, and that has been depth. And I would say that depth has been characterized by more Bible study, we have a Bible study now every week that attracts 30 to 40 people. We started with a close look at Job, and now we're doing a close reading of Genesis. We're still in the Garden of Eden, we've had about 10 classes and people are still coming. And so some Sundays you'll have people who show up at 10 for the Bible study, they stay for the service, they have coffee hour, Canon Malloy has been teaching a class on the Eucharist. And so what had been maybe an hour in person on a Sunday, now for people is three or four hours of worship and formation and Bible study. And so in that way I think we're really learning how to be deeper disciples of Jesus. And so going forward, the challenge for the congregation will be how do we continue to deepen? But now in this online world, sort of reopen that and we focus on breadth, how do we incorporate new people into this world? That's something that we'll be looking at in this coming year.

- Thank you Steven, and now for the newest member of the chapter of the cathedral, the clergy of the cathedral, I introduced to you Deacon Paul Daniels, a new deacon ordained this past summer, and soon to be God-willing, ordained to the priesthood. Paul is joining us on a part time basis, a halftime basis, because he is also in the doctoral program in systematic theology at Fordham University. He's been a welcome and a valued addition to the chapter and to the life of the cathedral. Paul?

- Thank you, Dean Daniel, it's a pleasure to be at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, to be a part of a wonderful community of praying, learning curious people, and to be on a team with such experience and yeah, and desire to bring the gospel to life, in various ways, I have really really enjoyed being able to meet folks via Zoom. And I'm grateful for the work that the cathedral has done to make that community, that virtual community, one that's very meaningful, and that's strong. And people have asked me time and again you know, how has it been, starting a job on the internet? And it's really been wonderful, they haven't missed a beat. And so I'm really looking forward to joining everyone in person. And for time being it's been wonderful to get to know folks where they are, in their intimate settings. And I think that is going to make the moment when we come together that much more meaningful and beautiful. So I'm grateful to be here, grateful to be in the Diocese of New York, and we're looking forward to making some, some really powerful things happen with this wonderful community, so thank you for having me.

- Thank you Paul, thank you for sharing these moments with us, I pray that God bless our ministries of the various and variety of ministries in the Diocese of New York, strengthen us for greater witness and to our Lord Jesus Christ and empower us, for greater service and greater witness to our nation, our community and our world, God bless you all.

- Thank you, Dean Daniel and cathedral chapter of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine The executive team working on Diocesan Convention reminds ourselves of our four core values in producing this Convention. We decided on these rather conversationally at the beginning and they we repeat them kinda every week, transparency, trust, accessibility and agency. Transparency is we're to do everything, so that people can not only see what we're doing but understand and even participate in it, because we believe that that kind of transparency produces trust, which is clearly a building block of community, and therefore of the body of Christ. Accessibility we use not simply to refer to the closed captioning and American sign language, and translation into Spanish, but also for technological purposes. We want everybody to be able to engage with Diocesan Convention as we conduct it for the first time in history remotely. So we really hold up, this is my favorite agency, which in this day and age when people feel so out of control of a lot of things, we want to say, you know what? You really do matter, and what you do matters, and your vote counts, and we want to hear from you and we want to engage with you. So we've been testing out how we're going to vote at Diocesan Convention, and Matt Heyd has fearlessly led us in exploring a number of different options, and I want to turn the program over to Matt Heyd right now, as he shares with you one of the options we're going to test tonight

- Thank you bishop, we have been exploring how to vote and our key is, and we'll put this up on the screen, is how we find a way to vote that's both easy and equitable. I mean, we're seeing out in the world, the troubles of voting and we together can model a different way of being together, so that everyone's voice is heard. The bishop just gave the values that we've been holding up, that she's led us through, transparency, trust, accessibility, and agency, we want no one left out. And so we're using these rollout meetings, as a way to test both voting and voting support. Now we've been listening over these past weeks, thank you for your emails, we've answered every email and we've been hearing two things. First, there's been trouble downloading the app we've been testing out, Crowd Compass. The second is that you need more time voting. So we want to make sure we respond to what we hear. For testing additional ways to simplify voting, we're going to try another site today. We're also looking at a plan to extend voting for candidates over several days, so that everyone, absolutely everyone has enough time to vote, and we have enough time to answer all your questions. So any trouble that comes up, we can make sure we respond to. We want to hear all the way through this process if you're having trouble, our goal in testing is to hear all the trouble, work out all the wrinkles, that's exactly what we're testing. So if you're sending a note and we'll give you the email address again at the end of tonight, if you're having trouble, let us know. Now, so here's what we're going to try tonight. We're going to try a new site called Election Buddy. I'm really grateful for the work and support of Sarah Saavedra and Geoff Smith who have done so much work to make this possible, and this is an app that Geoff's been talking to diocese around the country about how they're doing this, we're trying to learn all the time from other people, as well as listening to you. And this is a site that we've heard others have used well. So we're going to test it out today. Here's the link, you see it on the screen, I just put it in chat, a simple way we're going to try voting together today. Now the question is really simple, I enjoyed the rain last night. Yes, no, or you can abstain. Well, we voting up to 5:45, so you can start voting now and you should be able to work it through, they'll ask you to verify your vote, for now. We're just testing if we can vote together, and report any trouble that you hear. So try the link, I'm going to put it back in once more. And if you have trouble here is the email address which you can email, and what we're going to trying to do is we get realtime results from this. So by the end of the meeting, after the social concerns presentation

we're going to try to report the results, bishop, thank you. And thanks to all of you for testing this out with us as we see how we're going to be together the week of November 7th.

- Okay, thank you Matt, really appreciated that. I won't tell you how I voted, but I did manage to vote. Next we're going to hear from the Social Concerns Commission ably chaired by the Reverend Winnie Varghese. The Social Concerns Commission, and you'll see this on the video, is just a broad umbrella for a lot of different groups that do a lot of good things. So here's the video, enjoy.

- The Social Concerns Commission, is a commission of committees and you can see those committees on the screen in front of you. Today you're going to hear from a few of those committees, some are also reporting out in these preview conversations separately, and all of them will be included in the reporting that you get for Convention. If you were interested in participating and joining any of these groups, please let us know in the chat, we can track that, or feel free to reach out to any of us individually. The Advocacy Committee is a new committee of the Social Concerns Commission. This is a team of clergy and lay people, who are developing an online interactive presence, social media and web based, to help members of our diocese to move forward on positions on social justice issues, approved by resolution of Diocesan Convention. It's a really exciting new group, if you'd be interested in being a part of it, please do let us know in the chat or contact the diocese, and let them know so that we can follow up with you. And these are the current members of that committee.