



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

June 1, 2025 | 9:30am

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*Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.*

### PRELUDE

*We stand.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 Holy Name.**

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

HYMN 392

## GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus, Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## GLORIA

**Fast and lively**

Org. *f*  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

5  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al -

9  
- migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

13 *mp*  
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

18  
Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

22  
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

27 Org.

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

32 *f*

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

35

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

40

with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

44 *ff* rit.

A - - men, a - - men, a - - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING

ACTS 16:16-34

A reading from Acts.

**O**NE day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” <sup>18</sup> She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

<sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL PSALM

*Sung by the congregation.*

PSALM 97



1. God reigns! Let earth re - joice! Let  
 2. God's fire ig - nites the clouds with  
 3. False i - dols rise to claim the  
 4. The ra - diance of God's light beams



o - ceans shout God's might! Borne up by truth and  
 judg - ment swift and just; the e - vil find their  
 weak - ness of our pride, but can - not touch the  
 joy in - to our days; now filled with God's own

*Refrain*



right - eous-ness, God's throne is our de - light.  
 deeds in vain; God's foes are brought to dust, Re -  
 faith - ful ones, for God stands at our side.  
 peace and love, our hearts re - sound with praise.



joice! Re-joice! God reigns! Let earth re - joice!

## SECOND READING

REVELATION 21:10, 22—22:5

A reading from Revelation

**S**EE , I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

<sup>16</sup> "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

<sup>20</sup> The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

SEQUENCE

PUER NOBIS

That Easter day with joy was bright;  
the sun shone out with fairer light  
when, to their longing eyes restored,  
the apostles saw their risen Lord!

GOSPEL

JOHN 17:20-26

The holy gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**ESUS prayed: "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have

given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

<sup>25</sup> “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SEQUENCE**

PUER NOBIS

All praise, O risen Lord, we give  
To you, once dead, but now alive!

To God the Father equal praise,  
And God the Spirit, now we raise!

*We sit.*

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

PASTOR MCCREIGHT

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Thy holy wings*

**HYMN 613**

**HOLY BAPTISM**

**ISABELLA GRACE COLON**

*Parents:* Elizabeth Maya Ruffels & Louis Antonio Colon *Sponsors:* Jessica Ruffels & Frederick Padgett

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

**PRESENTATION**

*Parents and sponsors:* We present Isabella Grace Colon for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

*Parents and sponsors:* I do.

As you bring Isabella to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with your child among God's faithful people,  
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in her hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture her in faith and prayer,  
so that your child may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help this child grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and sponsors:* I do.

Sponsor, do you promise to nurture Isabella in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Sponsors:* I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Isabella and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**We do.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Parents and sponsors:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Parents and sponsors:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Parents and sponsors:* I renounce them.

*Assembly stands*

As the whole people of God, let us profess our baptismal faith:

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**



Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, 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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Water is poured into the font.*

We give thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea, you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river, your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection, you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.** *Assembly is seated.*

## **BAPTISM**

Isabella Grace, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The minister places hands on head of newly baptized.*

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Isabella with the gift of your Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of newly baptized.*

Isabella, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

*A representative of the congregation lights and presents the baptismal candle.*

*Representative:* Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

*Representative:* Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*We kneel or sit for the prayers.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each intercession ends with these words:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*We stand.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We sit.*

## GREETINGS

## MEAL

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and  
gave himself for us,  
an offering and sacrifice to God.



### OFFERTORY HYMN

*When our song says peace*

HYMN 709

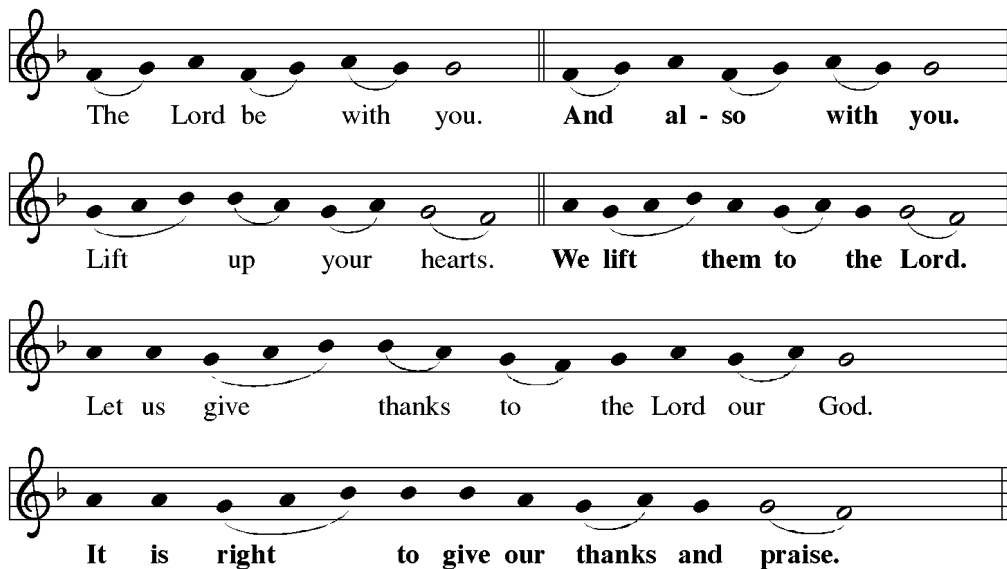
*We stand.*

### HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Majestic**

*f*

Org. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

6 *ff*

might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

**Slower**

*P*

Org. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

4 *pp*

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With all your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther who art in\_\_ hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;

Thy king-dom come; thy will be\_\_ done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.

Give us this day our\_\_ dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pass - es as

we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst\_\_ us. And lead us

not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the

king - dom, the po - wer and the glo - ry, for e - ver and e - ver.

A - men. For e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available if requested.*

*We sit.*

## LAMB OF GOD

**Slowly and gently**

Org. *p* Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

7 *mp* world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

13 *mf* sin of the world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

19 *rit. pp ppp* take a-way the sin of the world, grant us peace.

## MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

*Soul, adorn yourself with gladness*

HYMN 488

*We stand.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know  
and to love the risen Lord Jesus.  
The God of life, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN AT THE PROCESSION**      *Crown him with many crowns*      **HYMN 855**

**DISMISSAL**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

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St. Martin’s Mass, David Bednall, Oxford Music Press  
Lord’s Prayer, Traditional Afrikaan’s, arr. Marnus Lively-Greyling

**Worship Leaders Today**

Celebrant	The Rev. Martha McCreight
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Cheryl Milukas
Reader	Cheryl Milukas
Communion Assistant	Irene Hendricks
Acolytes	Liz Ylitalo
Usher	Irene Hendricks
Altar Committee	Eva Jakubek, Cheryl Milukas
Counters	Noel Bartels, David Hendrickson
Little Free Pantry	Peter Coffin, Gary Esposito
Coffee Hour	Jean Granskog, Cindy Willette

**This week we pray for . . .** Pastor Dennis and Carol Albrecht, Beryl, Beverly, Collette, Diane, Don, Jeanette, Lee, Marie, Nicolette, Sandra, and Shirley.

If you have pastoral needs, please reach out to Pastor Martha by email [MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com](mailto:MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com) or on her cell phone (406)565-3592.

**Synod Assembly:** The New England Synod Assembly will be meeting this week May 30-31st in Worcester, MA. Along with Pastor Martha, Mike and Cathy Mahler will be voting representatives for St John's. Please keep the entire assembly in your prayers as they conduct the business of the synod.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Tuesday, June 3

7:00 pm Sneak Peak via Zoom

### Wednesday, June 4

6:00 pm Mid-week Vespers - Chapel

### Sunday, June 8

9:30 am Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday

## Looking Ahead . . .

June 1	5:00 pm Fourth Annual Pride Evensong
June 4	6:00 pm Weekly Midweek Worship Begins Chapel
June 8	9:30 am Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday
June 15	3:00 pm Pastor Martha's Installation Service
June 19	Movie Night - Welcome Room 6:30 pm Social   8:30 pm Movie Begins
June 29	Mass on the Grass
July 27	Mass on the Grass
August 7 - 11	Choir trip to Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, VA
August 24	Mass on the Grass & Blessing of Backpacks
September 7	Rally Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am God's Work Our Hands Service Project 11:30 am Church Picnic
September 14	Return to 8:30 & 10:30 am Worship



## Save the date

Mark your calendars for a very special event! St. John's will celebrate the official installation of Pastor Martha McCreight on Sunday, June 15, at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary, with Bishop Piphio presiding. Immediately after the service, there will be a reception in the Welcome Room featuring appetizers and punch. All are welcome!

Assistance is needed to set up and clean the Welcome Room. We also need volunteers to bring appetizers or make a donation through St. John's online giving portal for cake, beverages, and decorations that we'll use to make the day extra special!

### **Undie Sunday - Underwear and Socks Collection**

We at St. John's are excited to once again join a multi-church drive organized by Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church that will benefit several shelters and organizations in Stamford. It's called, "Undie Sunday." From now until June 9, we will be collecting donations of new underwear and socks in all sizes for men, women, and children. Suggested and accepted items include: bras, long johns/thermal underwear, socks (cotton and/or thermal), t-shirts, tank tops/undershirts, underwear/briefs/boxers, and feminine hygiene products (e.g., tampons, pads). Please note: All items must be new and in their original packaging. Donations can be brought to Sunday worship or to the church during office hours, Monday-Thursday, 9am to 12 noon. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Effren at [meffren0703@gmail.com](mailto:meffren0703@gmail.com) or 203-515-0843.

**WE NEED YOU!**

**ACOLYTE SIGN-UP**



**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, READERS,  
USHERS, COFFEE HOUR, AND LFP SIGN-UP**



## What is ‘Vespers’?

Prayer service for the time of sunset and evening, also known as Evening Prayer. Inheriting the practice from Judaism, the Christian Church has observed certain times of the day with prayer since the apostolic period. By the 4th century, the practice of corporate prayer at designated times had become established. These daily prayer offices focus on times of the day rather than the day of the week. While the focus of Sunday is the Eucharist, a celebration of Christ's resurrection, daily prayers focus on the 24-hour cycle of light and darkness.

Evening prayer, like morning prayer, has a basic six-part structure: opening, psalmody, readings, gospel canticle, intercessory prayers, and concluding blessing. The visual focus of evening prayer is a lighted candle known as the Lucernarium candle, which is carried into the worship space. This practice originates from an ancient Jewish lamp-lighting tradition, which the early Christians adapted to represent Christ as the light of the world. This initial section of evening prayer is also known as the lunarium, from the Latin word lucerna, meaning "lamp."

We also sing the Psalms, the oldest form of song in worship since the Old Testament.

## MISSION STATEMENT

All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

## INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church Stamford CT is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, Mohican, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

**4<sup>th</sup> annual**  
**pride**  
**Evensong**

**Sunday June 1 at 5pm**

