

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

Announcements

19 July 2026

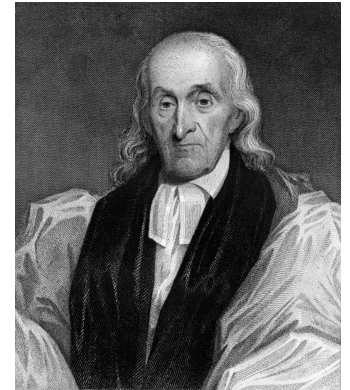
Welcome! This morning, the Rev. Dr. Barrie Bates presides, and we welcome back Betsy Gerdeman Lawrence as our preacher. A graduate of our diocesan Academy for Vocational Leadership's preaching program, Betsy's career spans several nonprofit sectors, including the United Way, public media, Washington National Cathedral, Y.M.C.A. and Interfaith Dialogue, and the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado. Her last position was Senior Vice President at P.B.S. She is currently owner of B.G.L. Consulting, Inc., providing strategic visioning, board development, and funds-development strategies for a variety of nonprofit clients. Betsy has spent much of her non-career energy in spiritual studies and practices. She attended Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C., is a certified Spiritual Director and both a licensed Lay Worship Leader and Lay Preacher. Betsy has lived in many places across the U.S. as well as in England and New Zealand. She is honored to now call Northern Michigan home.

Our musician is the ever-lovely Sal Page.

Spotlight on Hymnody: While it may seem odd to sing a harvest hymn out of season, today we are singing "Come, ye thankful people, come" (Hymn 290). The late November date of our American Thanksgiving Day removes any close association to the cause of the occasion for prayer and praise, as the harvest is long over—so it may be a bit odd for us to sing it then, as well. But in today's Gospel story, Jesus speaks of a different sort of harvest, when "the righteous shall shine like the sun" in the kingdom of God. In this harvest—which the hymn writer calls God's "final harvest-home"—we, for ever purified, in God's presence shall abide.

On our web site (episcopalboyne.org), you can donate to the church in support of general operations, our outreach contributions in the community, or to enhance our new endowment fund—in which case your gift will help support Nativity in perpetuity!

Who Knew? Bishop William White, who we commemorate in our church calendar on July 17, was the chief architect of the Constitution of the American Episcopal Church and the wise overseer of its life during the first generation of its history. He was the Presiding Bishop at its organizing General Convention in 1789 and again from 1795 until his death. He was a theologian of no mean ability, and among his proteges, in whose formation he had a large hand, were such leaders of a new generation as John Henry Hobart, Jackson Kemper, and William Augustus Muhlenberg. White's gifts of statesmanship and reconciling moderation steered the American church through the first decades of its independent life. His influence in his native city, Philadelphia, made him its "first citizen." To few men has the epithet "venerable" been more aptly applied. *Blessed be God in the angels and in the saints.*



Good news in the Anglican Communion: The 19th meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council took place in Belfast, Northern Ireland, from June 27 to July 5. Representatives from 37 of the Anglican Communion's 42 autonomous provinces attended. So—in spite of the schism declared only this past spring—most of the member churches have remained in conversation. According to Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally, "What unites us is greater than what divides us. God has chosen to work through our messy body to love the world he saved." Amen to that!

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The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates, Priest-in-Charge