

Announcements

5 July 2026

Welcome! This morning, the Rev. Dr. Barrie Bates preaches and presides. Our musician is Sal Page. We continue our series on modern Anglican saints, hearing a bit about the late Rt. Rev. Barbara Clementine Harris, sometime bishop suffragan of Massachusetts.

Today, we congratulate our graduates: Matty Rose, Bree Rose, and Nathan Dobrosky all completed their secondary education this year. Nathan ships out later this week for a stint at sailing the seven seas in the U.S. Navy, and this why we begin by singing Hymn 608 today: it's the Navy hymn.

Spotlight on Hymnody: "There is something ironic in the fact that three of the most important national hymns of the United States of America should use tunes that are rooted in the culture of England, the country with which this nation fought to gain independence" (*The Hymnal 1982 Companion*). The tune we sing today as AMERICA (Hymn 717) is sung to the text "God save the King" in the British Empire, and it's a little surprising to discover that its composer cannot be identified. The text was penned by Baptist minister Francis Smith in 1831, and it originally included this stanza:

No more shall tyrants here
with haughty steps appear,
and soldier bands;
no more shall tyrants tread
above the patriot dead—
no more our blood be shed
by alien hands.

Who Knew? It was not until the Prayer Book revision of 1928 that provision was made for the liturgical observance of Independence Day. Proper psalms, lessons, and prayers were first appointed for this national observance in the proposed Prayer Book of 1786. They were deleted, however, by the General Convention of 1789, primarily as a result of the intervention of Bishop William White of Pennsylvania. Though himself a supporter of the American

Revolution, he felt that the required observance was inappropriate, since the majority of the Church's clergy had, in fact, been loyal to the British crown. Writing about the Convention which had called for the observance of the day throughout "this Church, on the fourth of July, for ever," White said, "The greater stress is laid on this matter because of the notorious fact, that the majority of the clergy could not have used the service, without subjecting themselves to ridicule and censure." Nowadays we pray—in the words of the appointed collect—that "we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace."

Have we got your information? Dave Penniman established a parish register for us, since we previously had none. This is where we record basic information, including birth, baptismal, and confirmation dates—most of which are blank. Barrie has copied your page, whether you are year-round or a seasonal member; please take it home and bring it back with the information completed. These pages are in a rack at the rear of the church.

A prayer for the nation: Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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