

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

Announcements

10 May 2026

Welcome and Happy Eastertide! We are so glad you are here! This morning, our Priest-in-Charge preaches and presides, the Rev. Dr. Barrie Bates. Our musician is Sal Page.

Who Knew? Why are we called the Episcopal Church? Didn't we used to be "Protestant"? Our church was formally separated from the Church of England in 1789, which was well before anyone thought to use the word "Anglican." Our first bishop was ordained in the Scottish Episcopal Church (as opposed to the Church of Scotland, which is Presbyterian). The name "Protestant Episcopal Church" was chosen to be deliberately oxymoronic—being the middle way between extremes; it prevailed over its alternative: the "Reformed Catholic Church." We dropped "in the United States of America" in recent years, as we have dioceses and churches in nearly 30 countries.

Spotlight on Hymnody: The hymn tune called BRIDEGROOM (Hymn 513, to be sung today) was composed by Peter Cutts in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1969—for a hymnal project that never materialized. The original text began "As the bridegroom to his chosen," and it contained such phrases as "King until his realm" and "keep unto the castle"—imagery judged inappropriate for American congregations. So, the text committee for *The Hymnal 1982* commissioned the prolific hymn writer Carl P. Daw, Jr., to author a text to fit the tune. The first stanza portrays how the Spirit comes: as a dove, wind, and fire. The second stanza affirms that the Spirit is a corporate gift to the whole Church, and the third concerns itself with the purpose for which the Spirit is given: reconciliation, prayer, divine power, and quiet confidence.

Save the Date: Our annual welcome brunch will take place after church on June 14—to welcome back our seasonal members and to celebrate the beginning of summer (and, after this year, the end of winter!). To RSVP, call 231-582-2648.

Father Barrie will be at the diocesan clergy retreat Tuesday-Thursday this week, so calls and e-mail messages may go unanswered for a few days.

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

The Search for Our First Bishop

Throughout the bishop search process, our Bishop Search Committee calls on all people, parishes, and ministries in our diocese to be faithful in prayer for all nominees, applicants, the search and transition committees, and the person whom God is calling to be our first bishop diocesan.

The following prayer, written by the Rev. Mike Wernick, Bishop Search Committee Chaplain, is suitable for individual or corporate use:

Almighty God,
giver of every good gift and source of all wisdom,
look with favor upon your Church
in the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes
as we seek the bishop you are calling to shepherd and to lead us:
Grant to your people faith to discern, courage to choose,
and unity to follow in the way of your Son;
that guided by your Holy Spirit,
all of our prayers may rise up to you,
and we may continue to proclaim the Gospel
and serve the world in love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

TIMELINE

- *Application window is now closed*
- *The Search Committee is reviewing and culling applications, as well as conducting background checks*
- *A discernment retreat will be held in July with the candidates, the Search Committee, and the Standing Committee to select finalists*
- *In August and September, meet-and-greet sessions will be held around the diocese with the finalists*
- *The election will take place during Diocesan Convention, October 23-24*
- *Once sufficient consents of other dioceses are received, the bishop-elect is expected to begin ministry in the diocese as early as January 2027*
- *The actual ordination to the episcopate will take place on May 9 (which means our new bishop cannot confirm or ordain anyone until after that—unless she or he is already ordained a bishop)*