

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION OF  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN NORTH TEXAS



SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022 AT 10 A.M.  
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
3401 BELLAIRE DRIVE SOUTH, FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76109

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer  
Convener, Celebrant & Preacher

Prelude *Crown Imperial* William Walton

# The Word of God

## Entrance Rite

ENTRANCE HYMN *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation (Lobe den Herren)* (H 390)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
join the great throng,  
psaltery, organ, and song,  
sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth:  
borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.  
Hast thou not seen  
how all thou needest hath been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;  
ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do,  
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen  
sound from his people again;  
gladly for ever adore him.

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

*The Celebrant may say*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE

*The following is sung, all standing*

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For

you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the  
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of  
 God the Fa-ther. A-men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father, you have given the Holy Spirit to abide with us for ever: Bless, we pray, with his grace and presence, the bishops and other clergy and the laity here assembled in your Name, that your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfill all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, your Son Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7 *Barbara Evans-Chowning, reader*

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead

of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.  
*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

PSALM: Psalm 78:14-20, 23-25

*Remain seated. We will read the Psalm in unison.*

14    **He led them with a cloud by day, \***  
      **and all the night through with a glow of fire.**

15    **He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \***  
      **and gave them drink as from the great deep.**

16    **He brought streams out of the cliff, \***  
      **and the waters gushed out like rivers.**

17    **But they went on sinning against him, \***  
      **rebellng in the desert against the Most High.**

18    **They tested God in their hearts, \***  
      **demanding food for their craving.**

19    **They railed against God and said, \***  
      **“Can God set a table in the wilderness?”**

20    **True, he struck the rock, the waters gushed out, and the gullies overflowed; \***  
      **but is he able to give bread**  
      **or to provide meat for his people?”**

23    **So he commanded the clouds above \***  
      **and opened the doors of heaven.**

24    **He rained down manna upon them to eat \***  
      **and gave them grain from heaven.**

25    **So mortals ate the bread of angels; \***  
      **he provided for them food enough.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 21:2-7   *Brent Walker, reader*  
*The people sit.*

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

<sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup>he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup>Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

SEQUENCE HYMN *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart (Slane) (H 488)*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought,— by day or by night,  
 thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
 Heart of my heart,—— what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

GOSPEL: Mark 10:35-45

*All stand.*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>35</sup>James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." <sup>36</sup>And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" <sup>37</sup>And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." <sup>38</sup>But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" <sup>39</sup>They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup>but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

<sup>41</sup>When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup>So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup>But it is not so among you; but

whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup>For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

*Deacon*           The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*           **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON (BCP p. 358)

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS (BCP p. 358) *All stand.*

*Celebrant*

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church. Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People*

**I do.**

*Celebrant*

Do you believe in God the Father?

*People*

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

*Celebrant*

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

*People*

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Celebrant*

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People*

**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.**



*Celebrant*

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

*People*

**I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant*

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People*

**I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant*

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People*

**I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant*

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People*

**I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant*

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People*

**I will, with God's help.**

*Celebrant*

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 359) *Roberta Skelton, reader*

*All remain standing.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Scott, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Presider stands and says* 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.**

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

*All stand.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

# The Holy Communion

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Today's plate offering will be sent to St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Uvalde, Texas. Checks should be made payable to Trinity Episcopal Church. Please include "Uvalde" in the memo line.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN *Will you come and follow me (Mary Alexandra)*

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

- 1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)  
 Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> Am7 B<sup>b</sup> Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

# The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 361)

*The People remain standing.*

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*        Lift up your hearts.

*People*            **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant*        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*            **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 361) *Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS *Celebrant and People*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



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



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 362)

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

EPICLESIS (BCP p. 363)

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 364)  
Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

INVITATION (BCP p. 364)  
*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)  
*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

COMMUNION HYMN *I come with joy to meet my Lord* (H 304)

*Unison or harmony*

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to  
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each  
 4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der  
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -  
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us  
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship  
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.  
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.  
 4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.  
 5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

COMMUNION HYMN *Come, risen Lord* (H 306)



1 Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest;  
 2 We meet, as in that up - per room they met;  
 3 One bo - dy we, one Bo - dy who par - take,  
 4 One with each o - ther, Lord, for one in thee,



nay, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;  
 thou at the ta - ble, bless - ing, yet dost stand:  
 one Church u - ni - ted in com - mun - ion blest;  
 who art one Sa - vior and one liv - ing Head;



thy - self at thine own board make man - i - fest  
 "This is my Bo - dy"; so thou giv - est yet:  
 one Name we bear, one Bread of life we break,  
 then o - pen thou our eyes, that we may see;



in thine own Sac - ra - ment of Bread and Wine.  
 faith still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand.  
 with all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.  
 be known to us in break - ing of the Bread.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

*After Communion, the Celebrant says* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
 you have graciously accepted us as living members  
 of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
 and you have fed us with spiritual food  
 in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
 Send us now into the world in peace,  
 and grant us strength and courage  
 to love and serve you  
 with gladness and singleness of heart;  
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING



POST-COMMUNION HYMN *All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine (Engelberg) (H 477)*



1 All praise to thee, for thou, O King di - vine, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 Thou cam'st to us in low - li - ness of thought; \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 Let this mind be in us which was in thee, \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 Where - fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur - pose, thou \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 Let ev - ery tongue con - fess with one ac - cord \_\_\_\_\_



1 didst yield the glo - ry that of right was thine, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 by thee the out - cast and the poor were sought; \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 who wast a ser - vant that we might be free, \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea - tures now, \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 in heaven and earth that Je - sus Christ is Lord; \_\_\_\_\_



1 that in our dark - ened hearts thy grace might shine. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 and by thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 hum - bling thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4 and given the Name to which all knees shall bow. \_\_\_\_\_  
 5 and God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored. \_\_\_\_\_



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.



Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Trumpet Tune* Andrew Carter

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**FOLLOWING THE POSTLUDE, PLEASE REMAIN SEATED OR QUICKLY CLEAR THE AISLES  
TO ALLOW STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS TO RESET THE SPACE FOR CONVENTION**

**IF YOU ARE A VOTING MEMBER OF CONVENTION, YOU MUST SIGN IN AT CREDENTIALING  
FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT**

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF DIOCESAN CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN NORTH TEXAS**

### **Agenda**

The sole business before the Special Meeting of Diocesan Convention is voting on  
reunion with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

11:45 am - Call to order - Bishop Mayer

- ◆ Opening Prayer
- ◆ Introductory Remarks
- ◆ Report of Credentials Committee/Determination of a Quorum
- ◆ Election of Secretary for Convention
- ◆ Episcopal Appointments for Convention
- ◆ Approval of Agenda
- ◆ Report of Resolutions Committee
- ◆ Vote on Resolution 1
- ◆ Adjournment

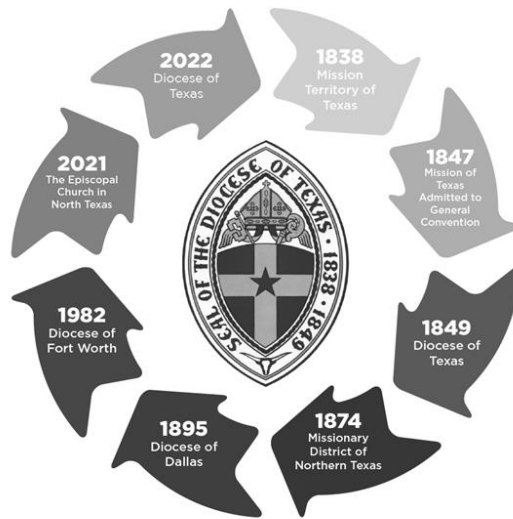
After adjournment, all are invited to a celebratory luncheon in the Parish Hall.

# SPECIAL MEETING OF DIOCESAN CONVENTION JUNE 18, 2022



SO IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THERE IS A NEW CREATION:  
EVERYTHING OLD HAS PASSED AWAY;  
SEE, EVERYTHING HAS BECOME NEW!  
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

## COMING FULL CIRCLE: Back Together Again



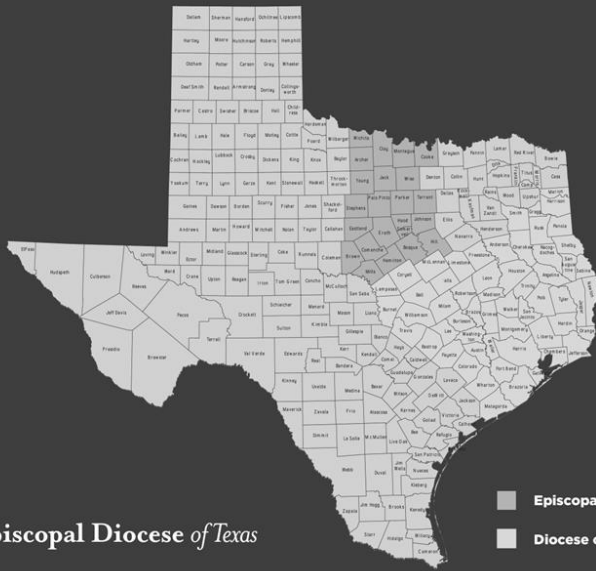
**Episcopal Church in North Texas  
and  
Diocese of Texas**



★ The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

- Episcopal Church in North Texas
- Diocese of Texas

**Episcopal Church in North Texas  
and  
Diocese of Texas**



★ The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

- Episcopal Church in North Texas
- Diocese of Texas

The Episcopal Church in North Texas Special Convention  
Saturday, June 18, 2022

## RESOLUTION RE REUNION WITH THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF TEXAS

Whereas, the diocese now known as The Episcopal Church in North Texas (“ECNTX”) was originally part of the territory comprising the Episcopal Diocese of Texas (“EDOT”); and

Whereas, the Episcopal Church in North Texas and the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, acting through their respective Bishops, diocesan staff and diocesan leaders, have had considerable discussion concerning the possible reunion of ECNTX with EDOT; and

Whereas, the people of the Episcopal Church in North Texas, having been deeply impacted by the departure of many of their congregations in 2008, desire to reunite with and become a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas; and

Whereas, the Bishop Provisional and the Standing Committee of ECNTX, on behalf of this Diocese, have entered into an Agreement of Reunion with EDOT, represented by their Bishop Diocesan and the Standing Committee, subject to the approval of this Special Convention and the Council of EDOT, said Agreement being attached hereto as Exhibit A;

Now Therefore be it Resolved, that this Special Convention of the Episcopal Church in North Texas hereby approves the Agreement of Reunion attached hereto and affirms its desire to reunite with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas pursuant to said Agreement and Canon I.10.6 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church; and

Be it Further Resolved, that this Special Convention directs the Bishop and the Standing Committee of this Diocese, working with the Bishop Diocesan and Standing Committee of EDOT, to complete the necessary steps under the Agreement and Canon I.10.6 to reunite the Episcopal Church in North Texas with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, including seeking the approval of a majority of the House of Bishops and of the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church, and to take all other steps reasonably necessary and appropriate under the Agreement and the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese to implement the reunion.

SUBMITTED BY: The Standing Committee and Bishop Provisional J. Scott Mayer

EXPLANATION: (by the submitters)

You are being asked to approve the reunion of the Episcopal Church in North Texas with and into the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

When The Episcopal Diocese of Texas (EDOT) was created in 1849, its territory included the entire state. Over time, as the population of the state grew, EDOT ceded parts of its territory to create new dioceses. For example, it ceded the north central part of the state to create the Diocese

of Dallas. In 1982, the Diocese of Dallas ceded its western 24 counties to create the Diocese of Fort Worth.

In 2008, the Diocese of Fort Worth was torn apart when, led by a former bishop, the diocese and many of its congregations left the Episcopal Church and joined the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). In response, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori convened a convention at which the congregations who wished to remain in the Episcopal Church as the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth elected a Bishop Provisional and populated the other diocesan bodies. Lengthy litigation between the two groups ensued over the issue of which group owned the name of “Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth” and the property of the diocese and its parishes. In 2020 the Texas Supreme Court ruled in favor of the ACNA group and awarded them the name and title to almost all of the diocesan and parish properties. When the Supreme Court of the United States declined to hear our appeal, the decision of the Texas Supreme Court went into effect.

As a result, the diocese that remained in The Episcopal Church was renamed “The Episcopal Church in North Texas” (ECNTX). In its 24 north Texas counties are 13 congregations, many of which have found new places to worship. The diocese remains headquartered in Fort Worth, and its Bishop Provisional is the Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Bishop of the Diocese of Northwest Texas.

After the conclusion of the litigation, Bishop Mayer convened a group of clergy and lay leaders to identify and evaluate options for the future of ECNTX. This discernment group eventually recommended to the Standing Committee that ECNTX reunite with and become a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

This process has resulted in the attached Agreement of Reunion, which has been approved by the Bishops and Standing Committees of both dioceses. It must now be approved by this Special Convention of ECNTX. It will be/has been approved by the Council of EDOT. Following the approval of this Special Convention, the Agreement of Reunion must then be approved by a majority of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church, whereupon the reunion will be complete under Canon I.10.6 of The Episcopal Church.

As set forth in the Agreement of Reunion, ECNTX will cease to exist, and its missions and parishes will become missions and parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, called the Fort Worth Convocation. Its clergy will likewise become clergy of EDOT.

A regional office of EDOT will be established in Fort Worth to serve the new North Texas Region. For a transition period, Provisional Bishop Mayer will serve the Northern Region as Bishop Assistant.

We are excited about the prospect of reunifying with the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. Together we have a great opportunity for evangelism and service in the Episcopal tradition in the north central Texas.