

**An Overview of Worship
for
The 80th General Convention of
The Episcopal Church
Baltimore, Maryland
July 7-14, 2022**

**The Rev. Canon Mark Furlow, Worship Committee Chair
The Rev. Yein Kim, Worship Committee Vice Chair
The Rev. Ramelle McCall, Worship Committee Vice Chair**

“This report reflects the work of a genuinely diverse group of souls who sought to dream of liturgical experiences at our upcoming General Convention that authentically, and with cultural integrity, reflect something of the ethnic, cultural, and liturgical depth and diversity of the Episcopal Church. This prayerful process and effort will benefit us greatly as we worship the Almighty God of love ‘in spirit and in truth,’ just as Jesus taught us.”

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop

Worship at The 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church will be an expression of the wide-reaching diversity and deep unity of the Church’s liturgical tradition. Guided by the vision and direction of the Presiding Bishop and an initial framework provided by the Joint Committee on Planning and Arrangements Subcommittee on Worship, the General Convention Worship Committee continues the creative process of carrying forward the work of liturgical planning for the Convention. The Worship Committee is guided by its Chair, The Reverend Canon Mark Furlow, and Vice Chairs, The Reverend Yein Kim and The Reverend Ramelle McCall. It is subsequently divided into three groups, the Dreamers, Designers, and Implementors, with each group responsible for a different phase of planning. Each phase of the process is intended to flow out of the work of the prior group. The Presiding Bishop continues to offer direction and feedback during each phase of the process. The worship overview as presented here is a combination of the Dreamers’ work with adjustments made to adapt to the abridged 2022 General Convention format. Overall, the Committee’s work has been and continues to be focused on how to foster an appreciative, inclusive, and efficient process of liturgy development and implementation.

Prior to the start of its work in 2019, the Worship Committee was given some key assumptions and criteria:

- The block schedule for The 80th Convention
- The number and schedule of services with Communion (3)
- The need to plan a Convention Revival
- Worship must be “identifiably Episcopal” grounded in tradition
- Worship should connect to the people and place of General Convention
- Worship should reflect the diversity of the Church in worship

- Worship must include excellence in music and preaching
- Worship should strive for creative expression of language and visual beauty
- Worship should seek to honor internal church organizations in a helpful manner

Additionally, the Presiding Bishop chose a lectionary cycle early in the work of the committee, and will soon authorize and invite the preacher and presider for each liturgy.

Dreamers' Process Summary

The Dreaming phase of the Worship Committee's work is now complete after 6 successful 1 and half hour meetings of the Dreamers over the course of 2019 and 2020. The group, composed of a diverse array of 28 lay and ordained leaders from around the Church, was tasked with being a "sounding board" for the Church's voice and the Convention's liturgical expression. Over the course of their gatherings, the Dreamers engaged a variety of tasks and challenges with earnest love and appreciation for one another. Here are some of them.

- Prayed with scripture from the Convention's assigned lectionary
- Discussed the importance of the unity and diversity of Episcopal liturgical tradition
- Reviewed practices of the Way of Love and discussed how they might be involved in worship
- Raised up the value of enculturated worship with particular attention given to language and music and how they are naturally experienced in and through culture.
- Considered the scope of recent trends in liturgical revision and the recent actions of General Convention
- Identified opportunities for digital worship and evangelism
- Discussed the pastoral implications of the pandemic and the atrocities of recent and long-term racial unrest with the Presiding Bishop
- Considered advocacy for racial justice and the call to healing within the context of Baptismal Covenant

Unifying Elements & Points in Common

Tasked with reflecting on how the liturgies of General Convention are identifiably Episcopal, the Dreamers were asked to think about how Convention liturgies will raise up both the unity and the diversity of the Church. The unifying nature of the liturgy is critically important in that while diversification may be expressed through particular languages and cultures the liturgy itself is something shared in and through these differences. Along these lines the following are some key unifying worship elements for General Convention Worship articulated by the Dreamers and raised up by the Presiding Bishop.

- Given the scripture appointed from Proper 8 & 9 of the Lesser Feast and Fasts' Two-Week Eucharist Lectionary, emphasis will be placed on the spiritual process of repentance reflected in the themes of healing and the commissioning of disciples that

flow from the lectionary's sequence of Gospel readings. The Dreamers engaged a thorough *lectio divina* study of all appointed Gospel readings from Matthew and discussed common themes arising from the text. In the process, the group discussed God's call for the Church admits the hope and challenges of our present time. Overall, the prayer process was very rewarding, built relationships within the group, and built a unifying sense of direction for liturgies of General Convention. Given the depth and outcomes of this prior work, keeping the original lectionary assignments for 2021 seemed a reasonable choice for the rescheduled 2022 Convention. However, retaining this schedule means that Convention will not follow the original, intended timing of Lesser Feasts and Fasts.

- The Prayer Book *Ordo* will serve as a unifying framework for the order of all services whether for the Holy Eucharist, Morning Prayer, Liturgy of the Word, or the Revival.
- General Convention worship will embrace enculturated liturgy from around the Church. While multiple translations will be available for all services, the liturgies shall be shaped with an appreciation of how language and music is fully expressed and embodied in cultural particulars.
- The opening and concluding services for the General Convention will highlight the corporate unity of the Church as expressed in the gathering of the General Convention itself.
- The Episcopal Revival will be a unifying event for the Convention to celebrate its host city of Baltimore. The Revival will also celebrate God's Mission experienced throughout the Church with digital connections made between Baltimore and satellite locations across the Church.
- Liturgies will be shaped to maximize engagement in-person and online with an appreciation for the transformative opportunities of digital worship and evangelism.

“The opening and closing Eucharist provide the frame for the convention. The opening gathers the community for worship of God and our work, the closing sends the community that has been gathered into the world to witness to Jesus and his way of love. The other liturgies during the convention celebrate our life together in Christ reflecting some of the ethnic and cultural variety that is the tapestry of the Episcopal church. As a whole, the worship seeks to offer to God our life together in Jesus Christ.”

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop

Liturgical Diversification

The Dreamers acknowledge that the 8 services of the 2022 General Convention cannot fully express the rich and diverse range of The Episcopal Church's liturgical expressions. And, beyond the fact that General Convention exists, itself a unique, cultural context for worship, there is a desire to experience the cultural breadth of liturgy from around the Church while also providing particular moments of solidarity at Convention.

Thus, the Dreamers acknowledge the value of enculturated liturgy: worship that naturally arises from the culture of a particular context. While the liturgy itself is a shared experience of the Church's tradition, liturgy is not absent of culture. Quite the opposite. It is naturally experienced and embodied in and through culture. Therefore, experiencing the diversity of the Church's liturgical expressions must not only account for various styles, customs, and available resources, it must embrace language, music, and movement naturally embodied in culture. And, while we cannot bring all of the local experiences of particular dioceses, parish church, country, or region to the Baltimore Convention Center, we can make an effort to share in liturgies that highlight a broad cross-section of embodied expressions of worship from around the Church. This effort will attempt both to honor the Church's rich and linguistic, cultural, and musical diversification while also engaging the participants who are present at the Convention in Baltimore.

The Dreamers also discussed diversity in terms of inclusive language and gender identification with particular efforts made to raise up the voices of women and the LGBTQ+ community.

Here are some areas of diversification the Dreamers discussed.

- A rotation of different types of liturgies (e.g. Holy Eucharist, Morning Prayer, Liturgy of the Word, and Revival)
- A rotation of different types of music and musicians using a good range of the Church's musical resources
- Worship as expressed by the Episcopal Hispanic / Latinx community living within the cultural context of the United States
- Asian / Asian American and Pacific Islander-led worship that highlights the wide range of diversification within the AAPI community
- Episcopal Revival that celebrates Church-wide Mission within the diverse context of Baltimore with special emphasis on the culture of West Baltimore and connections made to digital locations throughout the Church
- Experience of the African American Spiritual
- Worship as expressed by the diverse Latinx community of Province IX
- Worship that offers an authentic linguistic and musical expression of the Indigenous Episcopal community
- Worship that celebrates the wide array of women's voices in the Church.
- Worship that acknowledges ecumenical connections
- Worship that includes high church expression.

Pandemic Acknowledgement

Due to the pandemic, some elements of the original 10 liturgies have been reorganized and reassigned to better incorporate them into the abbreviated 2022 block schedule.

Preachers and Presiders

The Worship Committee was tasked to raise up excellent preachers for General Convention. The Dreamers were asked to offer names to the Worship Committee Chair and Vice Chairs. Over 50 names were submitted. These names were collated and offered to the Presiding Bishop for consideration. The Presiding Bishop will extend invitations to preachers.

General Outline of Each Liturgy

1. July 7 - Eucharist

The Opening Eucharist on July 7 will launch the Convention with the use of the Penitential Order of the Eucharistic rite. This choice highlights our corporate desire to earnestly turn toward God for forgiveness and strength for the Christian journey. Among the seven practices of the Way of Love, special emphasis will be given to the word "Turn".

Along these lines, the service connects to the key Matthean themes that were identified in the Dreamers' scripture study. The passage for July 7 is the quirky but familiar scene of Jesus exorcising demons that enter swine and descend into the lake at Gadarenes. It is the beginning of a thematic journey arising from the lectionary's Gospel readings highlighting Jesus's power to address evil, mission to heal, and effort to move and inspire the disciples for Mission. Given the pastoral context of the pandemic, recent political upheaval, and hope amidst the stark challenges of racial injustice, we as a Church are given a moment to turn toward God.

This particular liturgy will be an opportunity to bring the whole Church together and launch the 80th General Convention. It will highlight familiar linguistic and musical expressions of the Eucharistic rite as commonly experienced across the Church. The Liturgy of the Word will be led in English and the Liturgy of the Table in Spanish. Efforts will be made to connect the unifying experience of the Mass to the newly gathered community of the 80th General Convention.

2. July 8 – Liturgy of the Word

Liturgy of the Word on July 8 will continue the lectionary's thematic trajectory of Jesus's healings with the passage of Jesus healing the paralytic. While the lead language will be English, the liturgy will highlight a wide cross-section of indigenous languages and prayer practices as experienced in local, Episcopal worship connected to various North American indigenous communities. Indigenous leaders from different Episcopal communities will shape the design of the liturgy, and efforts will be made to share how Episcopal worship is experienced in the context of various indigenous communities. The musical offering of this liturgy will be a key highlight.

3. July 9 – Revival

The General Convention Revival is intended to be a unifying moment for both the General Convention and the whole of The Episcopal Church. It continues the Convention's experience with the lectionary track highlighting the Calling of Matthew. In this same passage, Jesus dines with tax collectors and sinners highlighting God's Mission to heal those who are in need or shunned by others. The Revival will highlight the local, cultural context of the Convention's host city of Baltimore. However, it will also raise up the important and quickly emerging opportunities of online worship. Satellite Revival locations across the Church will link to the principal location in Baltimore and allow the Church to participate online. This event will showcase the possibilities of how the Church may be connected virtually. Both English and Spanish will serve as the liturgy's lead languages.

4. July 10 – Sunday Eucharist

Sunday's Eucharist on July 10 will depart from the Convention's Lessor Feasts and Fasts lectionary track to utilize the Church's world-wide use of the Book of Common Prayer's Sunday Eucharistic lectionary. The Gospel passage from Luke is the story of the Good Samaritan. Given its themes of service and discipleship, it connects with other passages from the Convention's LFF lectionary track. This liturgy will highlight the cultural diversity of The Diocese of Maryland while also incorporating various "high church" liturgical expressions that connect to Maryland's unique roots in church history. The lead language will be English.

5. July 11 – Liturgy of the Word

The liturgical format for July 11 will follow the order of the Liturgy of the Word from the Eucharistic rite. The Gospel passage from Matthew 9 is focused on the life-giving nature of God's Spirit and blessing and begins to pivot from the lectionary's themes of exorcism and healing toward the theme of discipleship. This liturgy will highlight an engagement of the Word embodied in the African American spiritual experienced within the context of the United States. Gospel music will be an integral part of this service. The lead language will be English.

6. July 12 – Liturgy of the Word

The liturgy for July 12 continues thematically with life-giving healings of the woman who touches Jesus's cloak and the girl who is sleeping and not dead. The liturgy's cultural expression will arise from Province 9. The lead language will be Spanish with a connection made to the charismatic, evangelical liturgical expression popular with youth and young adults from this Province of the Church. Efforts will be made to highlight the broad sense of the inclusiveness adopted by the youth community of the dioceses of Province 9 with intentional links made between this Convention liturgy and Evento de Jóvenes Episcopales (EJE19) hosted in Panama City, Panama.

7. July 13 – Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer on July 13 will continue to touch on the lectionary theme of discipleship as reflected in the passage from the Gospel of Matthew about the Mission of the 12 Disciples to the lost sheep of Israel. While English will serve as the lead language, the service will highlight a layering of unique linguistic, cultural, and musical expressions of the Asian / Asian American Pacific Islander Episcopal community.

8. July 14 – Eucharist

The Concluding Eucharist on July 14 will serve as a broad, unifying experience for the whole General Convention. It will draw on the broad and expansive liturgical resources of Enriching Our Worship and Enriching Our Music. This service will be sung. The lectionary's Gospel reading for the day recounts Jesus's commissioning of the disciples to go out, "like lambs in the midst of wolves," so the liturgy be an opportunity for the Convention and the Church to reflect on Christian discipleship: what it truly means to be commissioned by God. The lead language will be English. However, the service will reflect a diverse array of languages and cultures present at the 80th General Convention.

Next Steps: Liturgical Design

The next step in the planning process will be to commission and orient the Worship Committee Designers. Several Dreamers who have expressed an interest in continuing with planning work will continue. Other individuals who may have expressed interest in designing or were recommended to the Committee Chair or Vice Chairs will be appointed to the Designers Group by the Presiding Bishop. Preachers and presiders will be finalized in late Summer and early Fall 2021. Beyond working on the creation of digital media for use in worship, the Designers will be tasked with designing the common scenic elements to be installed or hung in the worship space. Designers will also be split into small groups to design each liturgy. These groups will consist of about 6-8 people. Each group will include a lead designer, a musician, and a deacon. Designers will meet via Zoom and wrap up their planning work in early winter 2021 to hand off service bulletins to implementors, translators, and General Convention staff. Special efforts will be made to gather a Digital Mission Team to serve and support the work of all of the liturgies particularly the Revival.

Final Steps: Implementation

The general hope for the implementation of worship at The 80th General Convention is that it will begin in earnest during the first quarter of 2022. Orders of service would have been approved prior to the end of 2021. Bulletins will be submitted to the General Convention Office for translation and electronic production. Implementors, including the preacher, presider, lead musician, altar guild member, digital missionary, and other key participants, will gather via Zoom to pray, review the order of worship for each liturgy, ask questions, and make final tweaks and preparations for leading worship. Digital media will be crafted for each liturgy, take final form and be submitted for technical prep. Preparations will be made in the Spring for final meetings

in Baltimore. There will be at least one walk-thru on paper and one full physical rehearsal of each liturgy.

Conclusion

The steps of dreaming, designing, and implementing the liturgies of The 80th General Convention are a part of a larger creative process that will continue to unfold before, during, and after our meeting in Baltimore. The Dreamers have offered a significant amount of thought and creativity the past year and a half. Their work has set the tone for the rest of the Worship Committee's process and will continue with the Designers' gatherings this fall.

We look forward to continuing the process in the coming months and arriving in Baltimore when we will, as the Prayer Book says:

Gather in the Name of the Lord
Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God
Pray for the World and the Church
Exchange the Peace
Prepare the Table
Make Eucharist
Break the Bread
Share the Gifts of God.

Worship Committee Dreamers: A Comprehensive List

Name	Diocese	Order
Thomas Alexander	Arkansas	Lay
The Rev. Paul Aparicio	Fond du Lac	Deacon
Mark Childers	Rio Grande	Lay
Dent Davidson	New York	Lay
The Rev. Sarah Dunn	Nevada	Priest
The Rev. Richard Easterling	Louisiana	Priest
The Rev. Dr. James Farwell	Virginia Seminary	Priest
The Rev. Canon Mark Furlow	Southwestern Virginia	Priest
The Rev. Dani Gabriel	California	Deacon
The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves	El Camino Reale	Bishop
Durango Jenkins	Colorado	Lay
The Rev. Yein Kim, Vice Chair	Los Angeles	Priest
Albe Larsen	California	Lay
The Rt. Rev. Jeffery Lee	Chicago	Bishop
The Rev. Ramelle McCall, Vice Chair	Maryland	Priest
Dr. Sandra Montes	Texas	Lay
The Rev. Brandt Montgomery	Maryland	Priest
The Rev. Jennifer Pavia	Los Angeles	Priest

The Rev. Cathlena Plummer	Navajoland	Priest
The Rev. Israel Portilla Gómez	Colombia	Priest
Yuri Rodriguez	Indianapolis	Lay
The Rev. Nelson Serrano	Colombia	Deacon
The Rev. Martini Shaw	Pennsylvania	Priest
The Rev. Callie Swanlund	North Carolina	Priest
The Rev. Masud Syedullah	New York	Priest
Daniel Weatherholt	Maryland	Lay
Patricia Wellnitz	Nebraska	Lay
The Rev. Julia Whitworth	Indianapolis	Priest