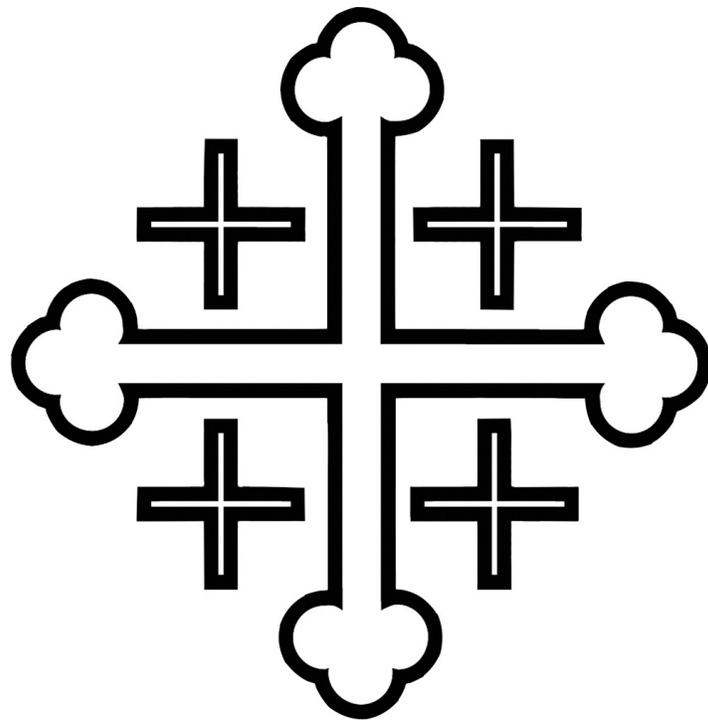
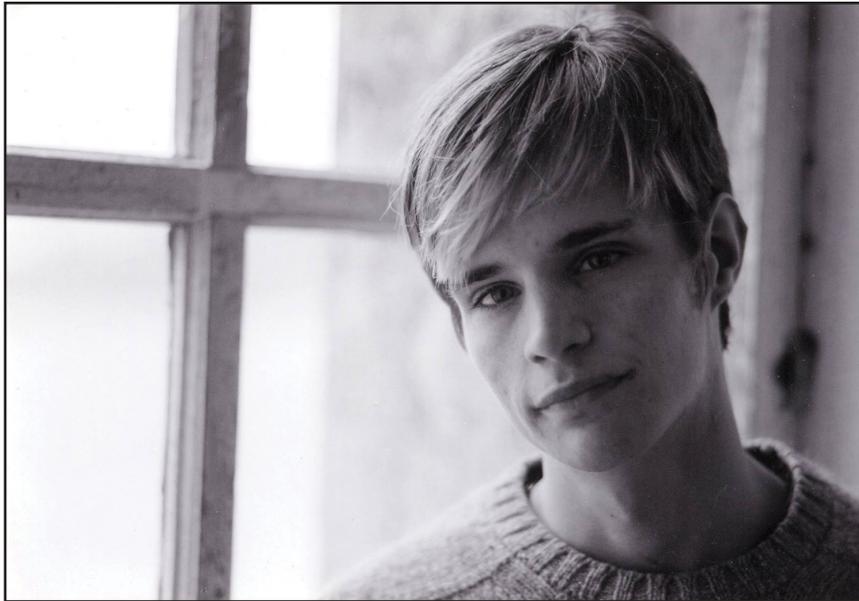


HONORING  
Matthew Wayne Shepard  
DECEMBER 1, 1976–OCTOBER 12, 1998  
A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



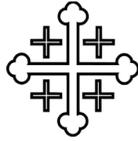
December 1, 2020

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



**Matthew Wayne Shepard**

Beloved son, brother, and friend, he continues to make a difference.  
Peace be with him and all who remember his life.



HONORING

# Matthew Wayne Shepard

DECEMBER 1, 1976–OCTOBER 12, 1998

## A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

*The people's responses are in bold.*

### PRELUDE

*You Light Up My Life*

Joseph Brooks (1938–2011)

### OPENING HYMN

*How Can I Say I Love the Lord?*

*Sung by all.*

*Koinonia*

How can I say that I love the Lord whom I've nev-er, ev - er seen be-fore; and for-get to say that I love the one whom I walk be-side each and ev-ery day? How can I look up-on your face and ignore God's love? You I must em-brace! You're my brother; you're my sis-ter; and I love you with the love of my Lord. Lord. Lord!

### THE OPENING SENTENCE

God is light, and in God is no darkness at all; if we walk in the light, we have union with each other. (*1 John 1:5, 7*)

### ANTHEM

*Because You Loved Me*

*Sung by the cantor.*

Diane Warren (b. 1956)

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

God is with us.  
God's love unites us.  
God's purposes steady us.  
God's Spirit comforts us.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Holy and ever living God, we thank you because you made us in your own image and gave us gifts in body, mind, and spirit. We thank you for the life of Matthew and for all that you did through him. As we honor his memory, make us more aware that you are the one from whom comes every perfect gift, including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Compassionate God, hear the cry of our hearts for all whose lives are diminished by injustice, prejudice, or violence. Renew their hope, restore their confidence, and hasten the day when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

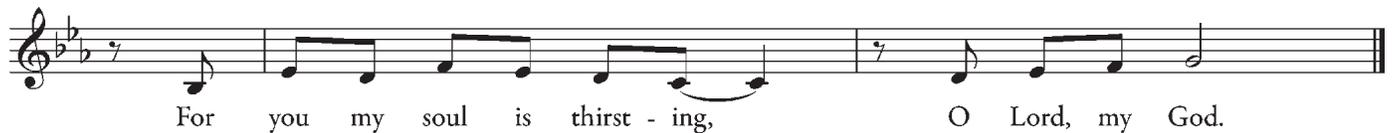
I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Here ends the lesson.

PSALM 63:1-4, 7, & 8

chant: Daryl L. A. Hunt (b. 1970), Victoria Purcell-Coan (b. 1971)

*The cantor introduces the refrain, then all repeat.*



*The cantor sings the verses.*

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.  
Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.  
For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

*All repeat the refrain.*

So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your Name.  
For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
My soul clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.

*All repeat the refrain.*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Here ends the lesson.

## THE HOMILY

The Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson

## ANTHEM

*Love*

*Sung by the cantor.*

Kirk Franklin (b. 1970)

Love,  
A word that comes and goes,  
But few people really know what it means to really love somebody.  
Love,  
Though the tears may fade away,  
I'm so glad your love will stay,  
'cause I love you, and you show me, Jesus,  
What it really means to love.  
The nights that I cried, you loved me.  
When I should have died, you loved me.  
I'll never know why you love me.  
It's a mystery to me, now I'm glad to see Jesus.  
When all hope was gone, you loved me.  
You gave me a song that you loved me.  
Now I can go on 'cause you love me.  
It's a mystery to me, now I'm glad to see Jesus.  
What it really means,  
What it really means,  
What it really means  
To love.

## THE PRAYERS

Let us pray to God our Creator, saying, Hear our prayer.

God, your will for us is abundant life; may Matthew know the fullness of life in your presence.

**Hear our prayer.**

You know the thoughts of our hearts and our search for faith; shed the brightness of your light on Matthew.

**Hear our prayer.**

You are greater than all our ideas and images of you; hold Matthew in the mystery of your being.

**Hear our prayer.**

We know you as perfect Mercy and Love; give Matthew knowledge of that love and mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

We praise you as the giver of life; gather all who mourn into the hope of renewed life.

**Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, to whom all the desires of our hearts are known before we ask, hear our prayers for Matthew, and for all who mourn, and grant us newness of life, and peace. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

With faith and hope, we pray,

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING PRAYERS

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness of human life. We remember before you this day our brother Matthew and all who have lost their lives to violent acts of hate. We pray that the gifts of all your lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer children may be recognized, welcomed, and celebrated in the world and in your Church. In your Holy Name we pray. **Amen.**

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that through this mystery your servant, Matthew, who has gone to his rest in Christ may share in the joy of his resurrection. We ask this in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of all creation, we offer you grateful praise for the gift of life. As we remember Matthew in our hearts this day, accept our thanksgiving for his life among us. Wherever we find ourselves in the course of our days, may we embody his legacy of faith and hope in the world. Help us be the Church he loved—a place of welcome, acceptance, and safety, that we may reflect the inclusive love of Jesus Christ. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may be the blessing to others that Matthew was to all whose lives he touched. May his life serve as a testament to the power of love, that all may be seen as beloved children of God. In your Holy Name we pray. **Amen.**

#### THE BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

#### THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### CLOSING ANTHEM

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

*Sung by the cantor.*

Jill Jackson-Miller (1913–1995) and  
Sy Miller (1908–1971)

Let there be peace on earth,  
And let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
The peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father,  
Family all are we.  
Let us walk with each other  
In perfect harmony.

With every step I take,  
Let this be my solemn vow,  
To take each moment and live  
Each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth,  
And let it begin with me.



## SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

### HOMILIST

The Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson  
*IX Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire (retired)*  
*Vice President of Religion, Chautauqua Institution*

### OFFICIANT

The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith  
*Dean, Washington National Cathedral*

### READERS

James Anderson  
*Bloomberg Philanthropies*

Dennis Shepard  
*Co-Founder, Board Member Emeritus, Matthew Shepard Foundation*

Judy Shepard  
*Co-Founder, Board Chair/President, Matthew Shepard Foundation*

### MUSICIANS

Daryl L. A. Hunt  
*Associate Director of Music for Contemporary Worship, Washington National Cathedral*

Imani-Grace Cooper, *singer*



*In recognition of Matthew Shepard's passion to foster a more caring and just world,  
and to honor his blessed resting place at Washington National Cathedral, we invite your generous support*

*December 1st is Giving Tuesday. In honor of Matt's birthday, every gift of \$50 or more made to the  
Matthew Shepard Foundation on December 1st, will be matched \$1-for-\$1 up to \$10,000.*

*Give now at <http://bit.ly/msfgivingtuesday2020>*

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