



## Silence

## Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, Heavenly Father, Lord, and sustainer of all good things, we thank you for sustaining the creative work of this Search Committee as we move to a new phase of discerning your will for our beloved congregation and its ministry. Continue to guide and enable our ministry together and by your grace may we continue to perform the effective steps necessary in our search process. Lord, we continue to seek you and place ourselves, our work and your church in your care. In Jesus's name, Amen.

## Reflection

Vestries and other parish leaders should remember that they are acting not only in their own name but in trust for the people of God in their congregation. It is a God-given responsibility: first to seek God's will for the community of the New Covenant (BCP, page 854) where you are; and then, of equal importance to seek someone whom God is calling to be your leader...Parish leaders and priests come together with a common faith and a common task—to seek the guidance and will of God for God's people in that particular time and place.

When the hearts of all concerned are open to God's guidance, then we have grounds for hope that God will bless the call and support the covenant between parish and priest. Interviewing, therefore, is perhaps the most critical and vital part of the calling process.

It is indeed a time for inter-viewing—a time for priest and people to view each other searchingly through the eyes of faith—to pray hard for each other, to ask hard questions, and finally to make hard decisions. That we will do our part, and priests will do theirs, we can only pray. That God will do God's part, we have no doubt.

*Office of Transition Ministry, Episcopal Church*

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## **When our work is done: At the Close of Day**

### *Psalm 134*

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, \* you that stand by night in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; \* the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

*A Reading* Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14:9,22*

*The following may be said together*

Lord, you now have set your servant free \* to go in peace as you have promised; For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \* whom you have prepared for all the world to see; A Light to enlighten the nations, \* and the glory of your people Israel.

*Prayers for ourselves and others may follow.*

*The Lord's Prayer, traditional*

O LORD, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.