



# Disability Day of Mourning

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Welcome

Welcome to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on the lands of the Duwamish and Coast Salish People, as we

mark the Disability Day of Mourning, transferred from March 1. We welcome you just as you are today- in Body, Mind, and Spirit. We invite you to engage in this liturgy however it feels right to you. Today we gather to acknowledge, name and mourn the 185 more people killed by their caregivers just for being disabled recorded in the past year. As you look about, know that there 185 candles lit here today to represent each one of these lives.

For accessibility, we have hearing assist headphones, digital and large print bulletins printed in OpenDyslexic to support vision and reading, along with printed sermon and spoken word available. Sensory devices

including noise reducing headphones, fidget tools, and coloring pages to keep your hands occupied. We have also set up retreat stations in the back of the church by the font and in the library off to the side where you can grab a snack, have down time, color pages, or pray. If you would like pastoral care or support. Rich Ater, a lay pastoral minister, will be in library and St. Andrew's Priest Father Kendall will be in the back. Please move about as you desire. Accessible restrooms are down the hall past the elevator. Know this is a space meant for you.

I invite you to join me in saying the bolded words together out loud. The music today is in the tradition of Taizé and found in the white binder in the pews. All the words are written in the bulletin and are repeated multiple times so they are accessible with or without use of the hymnal.

**Song 1: God Let My Thoughts Be Gathered (867)**

*Lyrics based on a prayer by Dietrich Bonhoeffer:*

**“God, let my thoughts be gathered and turn them to you. With you there is light in the deepest night. With you there is patience and help when I’m in need. Though I do not understand your ways, Lord, you know the way for me.”**

Officiant: O God, be not far from us.

People: **Come quickly to help us, O God.**

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Let us pray.

**God, Creator of all, help us to recognize that each of us has abilities and each of us has limitations. And yet we all have a part to play in bringing about Your**

Kingdom. You love each of us profoundly. In the spirit of gratitude and solidarity, we ask you to increase our awareness of both the gifts and the needs of those around us. Open our hearts, minds and doors to the gifts of every person. Help us to become truly welcoming communities where everyone can find a place at your table. We ask this in your name, **Amen.**

### Lament

*By John Pitts*

We do not ask for others to have eyes to see, for not all of us have eyes that can see. We do not ask for ears that listen, for not all of us have ears that can hear. But we do ask for hearts that beat with love and understanding, for all that live have hearts that beat.

We remember those whose hearts were stopped, not just because of a sickness of the body that overtook them but also because of a failing of society that refuses to give compassion for the complexity of the human condition.

And those of us who mourn here remember that those with disabilities are neither new or novel. Just as we remember those taken from us we must remember the prayers of Moses who stuttered, Jacob who limped, Paul who could hardly see, Peter who couldn't read the room, and Christ whose body was broken by the state. **Amen.**

Today, we gather as the Disability Community to mark another year of loss—individuals in our community who would still be alive if society believed their lives were worthy just as they were—much more than the burden their caregivers and this world believed them to be. Each had life, filled with Spirit and loved by God. We lament they are gone through the acts of those who should have cared for them. We are saddened. We are angry. We are scared. We name them all now:

Lonene Rogers 29, Mariah Alvarez 2, Desmond Thorpe 43, Matinah Hosannah 2, Andrew Criado 5, Aurora Criado 2, Elijah Criado 7, Isaac Criado 6, Tabasha Paige-Criado 30, 48-year-old man, Samantha Dean 29, Yohanes

Vincent 2-months, Stella Hamilton 72, Vickie Balogh 57, Tianna Kirchner 4, Inés Ben Allam 11, Nawal Ben Allam 13, Amy Jo Nelson-Smith 39, Lillie Griffin 82, Alyssa Sanderfer 26, Maqkwone Jones 3, Reygan Moon 2, Mercury Liggins 63, Nor Ghazali 31, 7-month-old girl, Jovany Morales 6-months, Christy Himes 40, Sharada Shukla Elder, Anthony Mitchell 55, Teresa Sutton Adult, 10-year-old girl, Qaseh Iskandar 5, Deanne Blanchard 76, Fraai Herdman 15-months, George Howson 73, Margaret Kahrer 81, Tarrin-Macin O'Sullivan 4, Steven Nunn 50, 3-year-old girl, Elizabeth Struhs 8, Sarah Harris 25, 21-year-old woman, Beverley McIlrath 80, Ivy Allen 3, Abou Jabateh 10, Fatumata Jabateh 8, Ashantae Glenn 12, 84-year-old woman, Steven Robinson 39, Kieu Lam 88, Noel Rodriguez-Alvarez 6, Unknown Elder Man, Elaine Whitman 44, Lindy Lucena 64, Alex 17, Titus Davenport 6, Kathy Pinkowski 71, Tomislav Nemes 69, A'riyan Johnson 2, 53-year-old man, Kristopher Snyder 7, Aisha Aminu 30, Kristin Rutherford 27, Jose Moreno 45, 39-year-old man, Zayn Matiin 6, 80-year-old woman, Dane Timms 7, Gary

Lehmeyer 76, Caroline Kreutzer 80, Ronnie Campbell Sr. 46, Ashley Mcconnaughey 32, 77-year-old woman, Kinsleigh Welty 5, Vinod Kumar 6, Emma Finch 96, Asimwe Novath 2, Serenella Mugnai 72, Jiovanni Dahl 8, Cleo Loizides 81, Marcie Bubul 81, Anka Papp 76, Linda Zamarripa 58, Carolyn Trimble-Weber 62, Susan McCoy 63, Sonto Khoza 60, James Stirling 77, Aurora Hurst 5, Giselle Glover 14, Larry Lawton 85, 12-year-old boy, Mark Howard 20, Baby M 60, Zayde Keohohou 15, Lincoln Button 5, Unknown Woman 80s, Lillie Sapp 82, Alice Anene 74, Louis Massaquoi Jr. 12, Joe Foster 64, Gilbert Balter 94, LaVonne Hoff 76, Darryl Smith 61, Daniel Garza 16, Manju Mahanto 61, Robert Francis 75, Delilah Villegas 19, Benjamin Murphy 33, Johny Thomas 67, Jean Hoelsing 74, Marjorie Galeener 3, Winter Acorn 3-months, Thomas Clubb 67, Secrett Curtis 23, Arshish Reddy 11, Ashish Reddy 9, 8-year-old girl, 43-year-old man, 14-year-old girl, Cristian Padilla 7, Karen Pautler 75, 70-year-old woman, Sidra 15, Omana 75, Gloria Tapia 81, Harihar Sahu 72, Logan Shippy 10, Esteban Cuello 6, Jakob Casey 18, Phoebe Bishop 17, Kamatchie

Naicker 83, Unknown Baby 1-month, Danielle Crosbie-Davidson 58, A'kyri Bell 11, 9-year-old girl 9, Patricia Kachinko 73, Cosby Dean 88, Chandrasen Ramteke 38, Ayla Mangan 32, Ralph Taylor III 4, Kylee Clark 14, Hershall Creachbaum 7, 6-year-old boy, Caleigh Lindsay 19, Arlinda Taylor 75, Muruganantham L 41, Hope McGrath 3, 1-year-old boy, Ryan Long 48, Anu Kumar 32, Unknown Elderly Man 80s, Cecelia Cross 10, Bryan Vasquez 12, Renesmay Eutsey 9, Rebeca Paiz 32, Dennis Recker 81, Rhys Cameron 8, Evan O'Connor 27, Unknown Elder Woman, Ana Gutierrez-Cedano 59, Unknown Man 60s, Yashodabai Patil 85, Jonathan Kinman 26, Jaxson Rantala 4, "S.B." 2-year-old boy, Katharine Woolums 93, Elakkodath Ramani 70, Elliot Perez 6, Somak Nath 28, Sean Brasfield 18, Diane Searcy 69, Unknown Elder Woman 70s, Anjana Kumari 27, Archana Mallesham 15, Anitha 38, 80-year-old woman, Volodymyr 10, Dominick Cuvillier 34, Patricia Hocking 86, Unknown Man 50s, Velma Koontz 87, Colton Warren Moser 25, Mosa'ati Moa 22, Tim Jones 39, Nurul Amin Shah Alam - 56

## **Song 2: The Lord Comes to Restore You (874)**

**Lyrics: "The Lord comes to restore you, God never turns away. The Lord comes with open arms to meet you, comes to be with you."**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

*Isaiah 49:15-16 Nlrv*

The Lord answers, "Can a mother forget the baby who is nursing at her breast?

Can she stop having tender love for the child who was born to her?

She might forget her child.

But I will not forget you.

I have written your name on the palms of my hands.

Your walls are never out of my sight.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

**Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 139, Good News Translation

Sung refrain: **God is with me, God is with me (x2)**

LORD, you have examined me and you know me.

You know everything I do;

from far away you understand all my thoughts.

You see me, whether I am working or resting;

you know all my actions.

Even before I speak,

you already know what I will say.

You are all around me on every side;

you protect me with your power.

Your knowledge of me is too deep;

it is beyond my understanding.

Refrain: **God is with me, God is with me. (x2)**

Where could I go to escape from you?

Where could I get away from your presence?

If I went up to heaven, you would be there;

if I lay down in the world of the dead,

you would be there.

If I flew away beyond the east  
or lived in the farthest place in the west,  
you would be there to lead me,  
you would be there to help me.

**Refrain: God is with me, God is with me. (x2)**

I could ask the darkness to hide me  
or the light around me to turn into night,  
but even darkness is not dark for you,  
and the night is as bright as the day.  
Darkness and light are the same to you.

**Refrain: God is with me, God is with me. (x2)**

You created every part of me;  
you put me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because you are to be feared;  
all you do is strange and wonderful.  
I know it with all my heart.  
When my bones were being formed,  
carefully put together in my mother's womb,

when I was growing there in secret,  
you knew that I was there—  
you saw me before I was born.

**Refrain: God is with me, God is with me. (x2)**

The days allotted to me  
had all been recorded in your book,  
before any of them ever began.

O God, how difficult I find your thoughts;  
how many of them there are!  
If I counted them, they would be more than the grains  
of sand.

When I awake, I am still with you.

**Refrain: God is with me, God is with me. (x2)**

O God, how I wish you would kill the wicked!  
How I wish violent people would leave me alone!  
They say wicked things about you;  
they speak evil things against your name.  
O LORD, how I hate those who hate you!

How I despise those who rebel against you!  
I hate them with a total hatred;  
I regard them as my enemies.

Examine me, O God, and know my mind;  
test me, and discover my thoughts.  
Find out if there is any evil in me  
and guide me in the everlasting way.

**Refrain: God is with me, God is with me. (x2)**

A reading of 1 Corinthians 13, an Autistic translation  
*Shannon Blosser*

If I speak about autism inclusion, but do not love autistic individuals and their families, I am only making noise in a field full of noise. If I have all the knowledge about autism, but do not listen and embrace the perspectives of autistic individuals, and do not express a desire to love them for who they are, then I have failed to be the church. If I build sensory rooms, create autistic-friendly worship spaces, and boast about how

inclusive the church has become without involving the perspectives of actual autistics, I have not loved, but have only listened to the needs of those who find autism as a distraction.

Loving the autistic person requires a listening heart. It does not seek to diminish the person's perspective, but considers their needs, desires, and perspectives for the church. It honors the autistic person as a child of God, and does not get angry or defensive when someone expresses how the church has failed to show love.

Love does not separate the autistic from others, but finds a way to include them in every aspect of the church's life together. Love seeks to understand, find common connections, and is willing to keep connecting with the community even when it is hard.

Love never gives up on an autistic person and their families.

Where there are sensory rooms as the only focus of inclusion, it will fail to be a truly welcoming place.

Where there are only words of acceptance, but no true

actions of love, the church will fail to be a loving witness of faith to the community. Where the church leans on false perspectives of autism or focuses only on behaviors, it will harm its outreach and connection to others.

There was a time when I did not know everything about autism. I spoke like one who thought I understood but I spoke without perspective and understanding. When I surrounded myself with the perspectives of actual autistics and embraced them, I grew in my knowledge and my love for those who often feel unwelcome by the church. Working together, we can be a living reflection of grace and love expressed to autistics, their families, and, equally with every person.

Three things are essential to autism inclusion: acceptance, understanding, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Hear what the spirit is saying to God's People

**Thanks be to God**

"Knowing God Through Autism"- Melissa Del Rio

*Printed copy available separately.*

**Song 3: Shepherd Song (851)**

*Lyrics from the Gospel of John*

**10:14, 10:27-30 & 14:9:**

**"I am the good Shepherd, my sheep know my voice.**

**When you have seen me, you have seen God.**

**I lay down my life and again I take it up.**

**I gather my loved ones and bring them home."**

*Sermon: Jessica Thompson*

*Printed copy available separately*

## Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God, the Source of Life,  
by whom every being in heaven and earth  
is created, named, and sustained.**

**We believe in God, the Living Word,  
who restores us to relationship  
and speaks to us through faith.**

**We believe in God, the Holy Spirit,  
who comforts, guides, and strengthens us  
to share the good news of grace.**

**We believe in God,  
one, holy, undivided Trinity:  
Source of Life, Living Word, Comforter:  
Mystery. Amen.**

## The Prayers

Scripture says that when we don't know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

We ring these bells to pray with those who are non-speaking.

We ring these bells to pray with those who have been silenced.

We ring these bells to pray with those who speak, but who are ignored or brushed aside.

We invite everyone to take a turn ringing these bells, using our bodies to join in community, to pray a prayer together that goes beyond words.

Please come forward to ring the bells or stay seated and we will bring them to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Officiant: Hear our cry, O God**

**People: And listen to our prayer.**

**Officiant: Let us 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.**

God our Creator, by whom we are each wondrously made: You made us in your image, equip us with gifts, and pour your love into us. When people see us as different, other, unable, unworthy, broken, scarred, wounded, and anything less than whole, grant us courage and forbearance while you work in them. When we are weary of questions, stares, barriers, intrusions, indignities, oppression, and injustice, ease our burdens. When we are in pain, in body or soul, give us your comfort, healing, and peace. Where you and the world need what we can uniquely offer, send us to serve in your Name; and help us remember, in and through all things, that you call us Beloved; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Song 4: **Deep Peace (842)**

*Lyrics:* **“Deep peace of the running waves, deep peace of the flowing air, deep peace of the shining stars to you, deep peace of the quiet earth.”**

Dismissal

The light shines in the darkness,

**and the darkness did not extinguish the light.**

Go in the light of Christ

**Thanks be to God.**



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All are invited to make an offering to  
as an expression of gratitude for God's  
You may place your offering in the  
plate, or you may make an online donation using the QR  
code. You can also TEXT your gift to 833-403-5392 using the  
message 'ASSIST'. Thank you for your generosity!



St. Andrew's  
generosity.  
collection

\* \* \* \* \*

St. Andrew's acknowledges that we are on the traditional  
lands of the Duwamish people. The Duwamish are still here  
and continue to honor and bring to light their ancient heritage.  
We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish  
people.



## SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

111 NE 80th Street Seattle, WA 98115 | 206.523.7476

[SaintAndrewsSeattle.org](http://SaintAndrewsSeattle.org)

[SaintAndrews@SaintAndrewsSeattle.org](mailto:SaintAndrews@SaintAndrewsSeattle.org)

Sunday Services: 8 am & 10 am weekly;

Contemplative Services: 5 pm on 1st Sundays

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8am-2:30 pm