

April 5, 2025

Church of the Holy Comforter
4819 Monument Ave
Richmond, VA 23230

Dear Holy Comforter Family,

I write to you today with both gratitude and a deep sense of care for our parish family as we prepare to walk through a time of transition together.

As many of you know, our rector, The Rev. Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith, will be concluding 12 years of service at Holy Comforter on April 27th. We give thanks for her faithful service, spiritual leadership, and the many ways she has enriched our community. Please join me in holding Hilary in prayer as she prepares for the next chapter of her ministry. We will celebrate with her at a reception following the April 27th morning service.

Change in clergy leadership is always a significant moment in the life of a parish, but I want to reassure you that the Vestry is working closely with the Diocese of Virginia to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition. With the guidance and support of the Diocese's Transition Minister, The Reverend Will Dickinson, we are already engaged in a process of discernment to prepare for the appointment of an interim priest.

This interim period will be one of reflection, renewal, and preparation—a time for us to listen to the Holy Spirit's leading as we look toward the future of our shared ministry. The Vestry remains committed to leading our parish with care, prayer, and a listening heart throughout this process.

Please know that your voice and your prayers are vital during this time. There will be opportunities in the weeks ahead for the congregation to come together, ask questions, and participate in our collective discernment. As we move forward, we do so with confidence in God's presence among us and in the strength of our parish community.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to me or any member of the Vestry. We are here for you and with you.

With peace and love,
Angie Palmer
Senior Warden
Church of the Holy Comforter