

The Supreme Court Decision on Marriage Equality

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop of Maryland

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The Supreme Court of the United States' decision to legalize marriage for all who wish to be married was announced while the Episcopal Church gathered at General Convention in Salt Lake City. Our church is currently discussing this same issue and I do hope that we will have the courage and generosity to offer the sacrament of marriage to all people.

I wish to assure the clergy of the Diocese of Maryland that neither the Supreme Court decision nor any decision of General Convention will force anyone to officiate at any wedding. Lay members and clergy should review my [pastoral letter](#) of October 2012 when Maryland faced a vote on marriage equality which became law in the state.

As I said then I recognize this is, for some, a difficult issue. Clearly, we are in the midst of a new Pentecost, and I hope there is comfort in knowing that the first disciples of Jesus Christ felt discomfort and fear as they faced an unknown future. Let us be encouraged to believe that the Holy Spirit is similarly moving in and through us.

Meanwhile, let us celebrate the love of God in and through people who have previously been excluded from a sacramental union blessed by the Church. Let us pray that the Church benefits from marriages that build the beloved community of God.