

Prelude

Seating of the Bishop

The doors being closed, the Bishop stands outside and knocks on the door.

Rector *Who seeks to enter this church?*

Bishop Kara Wagner Sherer, Bishop of the
Church of God and Chief Pastor of the
Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

The doors are opened, and the Bishop enters and greets the congregation, saying

Bishop Grace and peace be with you, from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All **And also with you.**

The Rector welcomes the Bishop, saying
Bishop Kara, we welcome you to St. James
Episcopal Church!

Processional Hymn

OVER >

The Bishop responds saying

I thank you for your welcome. I promise, God helping me, to be a faithful shepherd and servant among you. I pray that the ministry which we will share may be pleasing to God, and that it may strengthen the life of this diocese, and the whole Church of God. I now ask to be seated in the chair that is the symbol of my office.

The Rector, standing near the chair, says
In the name of the vestry and on behalf of the
people of this congregation, I escort you, Kara,
to the presider's chair, symbol of your office as
chief priest and pastor in this community. May
the Lord stir up in you the flame of holy charity
and the power of faith that overcomes the
world. Amen.

The Bishop prays

O Holy God, in Christ you make all things new. Today in this house of prayer, I devote myself to your service. Grant me wisdom and compassion, that I may be a faithful witness to your Gospel and a shepherd to your people. Fill my life with praise for your marvelous work, that I might serve you with joy. Fill your church with the power of your Spirit, that our ministry together may bring healing to your people and glory to your name. Kindle in us the flame of justice and the power of faith that transforms each one of us and the world. **Amen**

The service continues with the opening acclamation.