

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Feast of Dedication

5 October 2025

10.00 Sung Eucharist *with Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation*

Organ Eclogue

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

All stand as the Procession enters.

The Entrance Hymn #518

1. Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.

3. To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted lovingkindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls away.

2. All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody;
God the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns eternally.

4. Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee, for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.

5. Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three, and ever One;
One in might, and one in glory,
While unending ages run.

The Opening Acclamation and Collect of the Day

Bishop
People
Bishop
People
Bishop
People
Bishop
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.
There is one body and one spirit.
There is one hope in God's call to us.
One Lord, one Faith, One baptism
One God and Father of all.
The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray. O Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: We give thee thanks for the fellowship of those who have worshipped in this place; and we pray that all who seek thee here may find thee, and be filled with thy joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

1 Kings 8.22-30

A reading from the First Book of Kings.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, ‘O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, “There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.” Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. ‘But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Have regard to your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, “My name shall be there”, that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated.

Psalms 84 *The congregation sings the Refrain.*

Geoffrey Boulton-Smith



My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. **Refrain**

The sparrow herself finds a home and the swallow a nest for her brood; she lays her young by your altars, Lord of hosts, my king and my God. **Refrain**

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you, they walk with ever growing strength. **Refrain**

One day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. The threshold of the house of God I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked. **Refrain**

The Second Reading

1 Peter 2.1-5, 9-10

A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Alleluia



Cantor: I will worship toward thy holy temple, and give glory to thy name.

All: **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

John 5.1-18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew, Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed.

One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, 'It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.' But he answered them, 'The man who made me well said to me, "Take up your mat and walk."' They asked him, 'Who is the man who said to you, "Take it up and walk"?'

Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later, Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, ‘See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.’ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father is still working, and I also am working.’ For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Bishop Williamson

The congregation remains seated while the candidates move to the chancel step, and the Choir sings,

Veni Creator Spiritus, mentes tuorum visita, imple superna gratia, Quae tu creasti pectora. Qui diceris Paraclitus, Donum Dei altissimi, Fons vivus ignis, caritas, et spiritalis unctio.

Come Creator Spirit, visit the souls of thine own, fill with thy divine grace the hearts which thou hast created. Thou, the Comforter, Gift of the highest God, font of life, fire, love, and spiritual unctio.

Music: G. P. da Palestrina (1526-1594) Text: 10th c. Hymn

All stand.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

<i>Bishop</i>	The Candidates will now be presented.
<i>Rector</i>	I present <i>N.</i> for Confirmation.
	I present <i>N.</i> to be received into this Communion.
<i>Bishop</i>	Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?
<i>Candidates</i>	I do.
<i>Bishop</i>	Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?
<i>Candidates</i>	I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

<i>Bishop</i>	Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?
<i>People</i>	We will.
<i>Bishop</i>	Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

<i>Bishop</i>	Do you believe in God the Father?
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People

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Bishop

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in
Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor
as yourself

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and
respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates

Bishop

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their
commitment to Christ.

<i>Leader</i>	Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
<i>People</i>	Lord, hear our prayer.
<i>Leader</i>	Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
	Lord, hear our prayer.
<i>Leader</i>	Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
	Lord, hear our prayer.
<i>Leader</i>	Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
	Lord, hear our prayer.
<i>Leader</i>	Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
	Lord, hear our prayer.
<i>Leader</i>	Send them into the world in witness to your love.
	Lord, hear our prayer.
<i>Leader</i>	Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
	Lord, hear our prayer.

The Bishop concludes the prayers, saying,

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Following a period of silence, the Bishop then says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For those being confirmed,

Defend, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *s/he* may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *s/he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

For those being received into the Anglican Communion,

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes, saying

Almighty and ever-living God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand. You are invited to greet those around you in the name of the Lord.

The Peace

*Bishop
People*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

Hymn at the Offertory #520

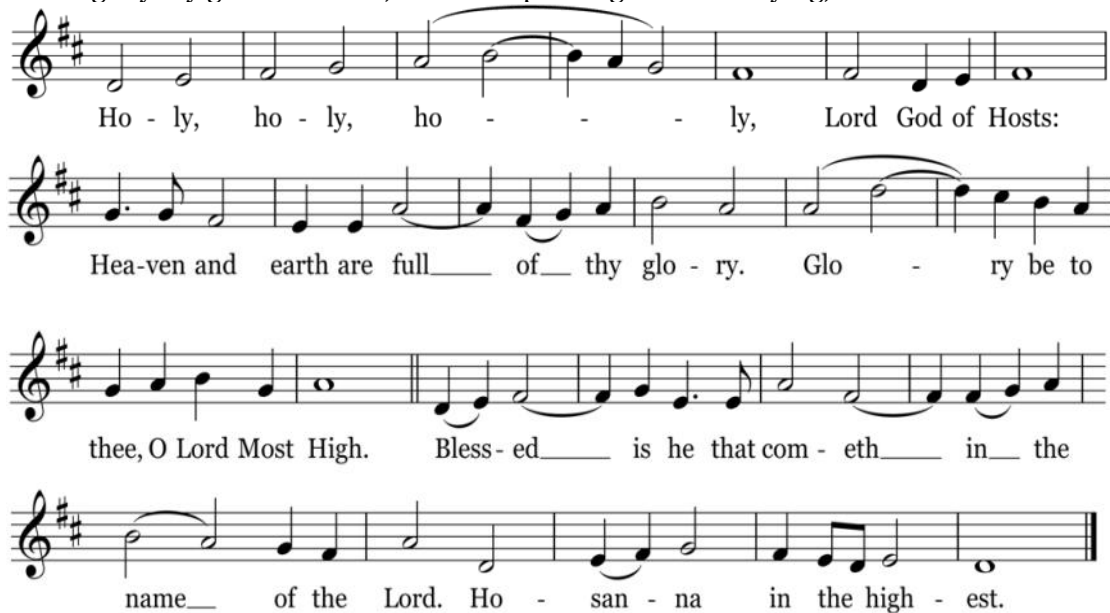
From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our great High Priest; in whom we are built up as living stones of a holy temple, that we might offer before thee a sacrifice of praise and prayer which is holy and pleasing in thy sight. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying,



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly, Lord God of Hosts:

Hea-ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be to

thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All kneel. The Bishop continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

The Fraction

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei from Missa Brevis "Veni Creator" *Giuseppe Antonio Bernabei (1649-1732)*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Communion is administered at the high altar. Please move at the direction of the ushers.

During Communion, the Choir sings

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and the Spirit of God dwelleth within you; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. For the love of whom you do this day, celebrate the joys of the temple with a season of festivity. Alleluia.

Music: William H. Harris (1883-1973) Text: Sarum Antiphon

Organ Verset de Procession sur l'Adoro Te

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

Remain seated or kneeling for the hymn.

Communion Hymn #593

After Communion, all kneel.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. **Almighty and ever living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The bishop blesses the people, first saying,

Bishop: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord,

All: **From this time forth for evermore.**

The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Closing Hymn #397

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Toccata

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

Notices

Thank you for joining us this morning. If you interested in learning more about Bethesda Church, please introduce yourself to an usher. You may also complete the form on the back page of this bulletin.

A very warm welcome this morning to our bishop, **Jeremiah Williamson**. Bishop Williamson was elected at a convention of the Diocese of Albany in September 2023, and ordained and installed as 10th Bishop of Albany in February 2024 at All Saints' Cathedral.

Congratulations to those being confirmed into Christ's holy catholic Church, and received into the Anglican Communion this morning.

Thank you to Fr Kriss and Bob Bullock for assisting at the altar, and to those reading and leading prayers at 8am Mary Withington; and at 10am Colette Manny, Paula Pinion and Darren Miller.

Please join us for **refreshments** following the 10am service. Thanks to those who baked for today's reception.

Special Monthly Envelope Funds raised in **October** will be divided between the feeding ministry at the local Presbyterian – United Church of Christ which provides a hot meal to those in need; and Christ Church Food Pantry, a ministry operated by the Episcopal parish in Ballston Spa.

Office Hours this week are Tuesday & Wednesday 10.00 to noon, and Thursday 1.30 to 3.30pm.

Midweek Service Beginning 16 October, there will be a service of Holy Communion on Thursdays at 12.10pm. All welcome.

Bethesda Book Club meets on Thursday 16 October at 5.30pm to discuss *The Testament of Mary* by Irish author, Colm Tóibín. For further information, or to register (if you have not already done so) contact office@bethesdachurch.org

Mere Christianity From scholarly literature to children's fantasy, C. S. Lewis is one of the most profound authors of the last century. His classic work *Mere Christianity* explores the great questions of life from a Christian perspective and is valued by people of all traditions. Join us on the following Sundays at 9am: Oct 19th, Nov 16th, Dec 21st and Jan 18th. Register at office@bethesdachurch.org

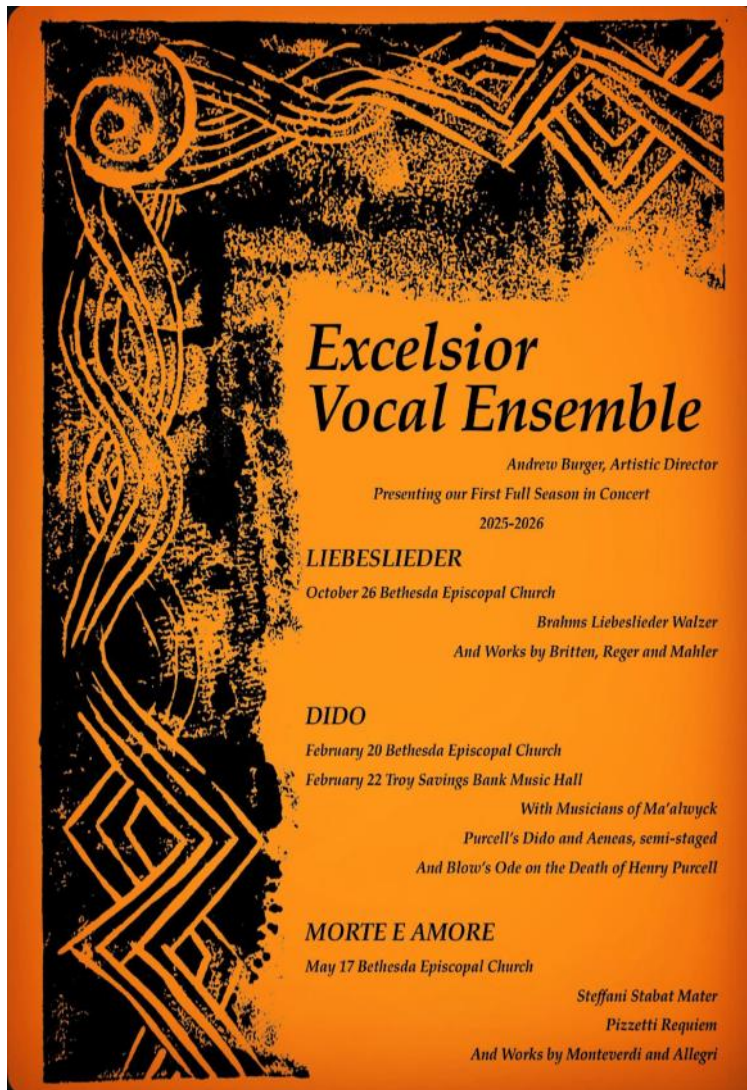
Musicians of Ma'alwyck return to Bethesda on Friday 24 October to present a programme of chamber works by 17th and 18th century Dutch composers. For more information about their upcoming season and to purchase tickets, please visit musiciansofmaalwyck.org

Excelsior Vocal Ensemble opens its 2025-2026 concert season at Bethesda Church on Sunday, 26 October at 3pm. Music by Brahms, Britten, Mahler and Reger.

This year's **Parish Retreat** at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park from 31 October—2 November is fully subscribed. If you would like to learn more about our retreat in 2026, speak to Fr Wallace.

LifeWorks Community Action is a non-profit established in 1965 that works to alleviate poverty by assisting local families and individuals with a wide range of services. Bethesda is currently collecting canned food household supplies on behalf of LifeWorks. Place donated items in the box by the side door entrance.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church, which is accessible via Congress Street, offers free parking for the first two hours.





Please place this form in the collection plate if you would like us to get in touch with you:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Home address: _____

Preferred contact method: _____

Contact Reasons:

- ☐ Visitor or new resident
- ☐ Would like more information about the church and/or worship
- ☐ Interested in opportunities to serve
- ☐ Would like to speak with or have a visit from the priest
- ☐ Would like information about pledge envelopes or regular giving to Bethesda
- ☐ Other _____

The Reverend Charles Wallace, *Rector*

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