

The Rev. Jerry Sather

The Rev. Jerry E. Sather is an Episcopal Priest and retired military chaplain with 32 years of ministry experience in churches and the chaplaincy.

Father Jerry was born and raised in Montana and grew up in the Methodist tradition. After one year of college, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as a saxophonist with the 6th Army Band of the Presidio, San Francisco and with the Third Infantry Division Band, Wurzburg, Germany. Jerry met his British wife, Annette, while stationed in Germany.

Following his active duty Army service, Father Jerry returned to his home state and completed a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Montana. Sensing a call to ordained ministry, he enrolled at Portland Seminary in Oregon graduating with a M.Div. in 1988. He then accepted a call to the Edison, NJ Church of the Nazarene where he served as pastor for seven years. Later, in 1995, he was called to the pastorate of St John's United Methodist Church in Hope, NJ. Throughout his ministry in New Jersey, Father Jerry also served as a U.S. Army Reserve Chaplain.

Father Jerry entered the U.S. Air Force, now as Chaplain Sather, in 1999. His first assignment was back in his home State of Montana where he served as pastor to the liturgical service. This began his long journey to the Episcopal Church under the influence of a fellow chaplain and now Bishop for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries, the Rt. Rev. Carl Wright.

Chaplain Sather's next assignment was Installation Chaplain at Izmir, Turkey, also known as the biblical city of Smyrna. He served as the Senior Protestant Chaplain at RAF Mildenhall, England and Offutt AFB, Nebraska. After his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in 2009, he was assigned as Wing Chaplain at Misawa Air Base, Japan. While there, he received the Humanitarian Service Medal for support to the Japanese people following the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. He also deployed as Deputy Command Chaplain, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, supporting military missions in East Africa and building relations with African chaplains.

In 2012, Chaplain Sather was assigned as Command Chaplain, Special Operations Command Central, Tampa, Florida where he coordinated pastoral care to Special Operations Forces throughout the Middle Eastern Area of Operations.

Chaplain Sather moved to Vandenberg AFB, CA as Wing Chaplain in 2015. It was during this period that he completed his move to the Episcopal Priesthood. He received a Certificate of Anglican Studies from Nashotah House Theological Seminary and was ordained to the Diaconate in June of 2016. He was ordained to the Priesthood in January of 2017.

Chaplain Sather's final Air Force assignment was as Wing Chaplain at RAF Alconbury, England. While assigned to Alconbury, he received permission to officiate in the Church of England from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Ely. He led several services within the Diocese of Ely and preached at Evensong at Oriel College, Oxford University. Father Jerry retired from the U.S. Air Force on 1 December 2020 following 25 years of Active Duty and 41 years of total service.

Father Jerry is excited to return to parish ministry after many years in military chaplaincy. He brings a wide range of experience in leadership, preaching, spiritual formation, pastoral care, and strategic planning. He feels a particular call to interim ministry, believing his background has prepared him for this special work.

Current as of 9 March 2021.

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Jerry and his wife, Annette have been married for 38 years. They have three adult children and a grandchild all living in Southern California.

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