



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Happy Vaccination Day
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message
March 19, 2021

On St. Patrick's Day 2021, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton received her first COVID-19 vaccination shot. This was her process.

Healthcare worker: We're gonna get your left arm, please?

Bishop Eaton: Yes, please. See, this will give me Michelle Obama arms without having to work out.

Healthcare worker: Can you verify your name and date of birth for me?

Bishop Eaton: Elizabeth Eaton. We're at the Village of Skokie Department of Health, where these wonderful people are helping all of us get back to life out of isolation.

Healthcare worker: Ready?

Bishop Eaton: Yup! (To screen.) You ready? Alright!

Healthcare worker: I'm gonna have you relax your arm, OK? Nice and easy.

Bishop Eaton: OK. Yay!

Healthcare worker: There you go!

Bishop Eaton: Thank you!

Healthcare worker: How was that?"

Bishop Eaton: That was perfect. You're very good. Thank you. So you see, there's nothing to it.

Healthcare worker: I'm going to put a band-aid on you.

Bishop Eaton: Perfect.

Healthcare worker: You want to go to the waiting area — the ladies will direct you where to go.

Bishop Eaton: So I've had my first dose. We're in a waiting area to see if we have any adverse reactions. I feel fine.

Happy St. Patrick's Day! As you saw, the process was really very straightforward, easy. The volunteers and medical staff are remarkable — in and out in a few minutes. I had a 15-minute waiting period, no side effects. So it's really not a burden to get this vaccine. And it's something that's important — not only for me but also for my family, for my colleagues, for my friends, for our community. The more of us who get vaccinated, the sooner we can all join together singing hymns out loud in church and in other places. It's really important.

And St. Patrick's Day is one of my favorite festivals of the year because it's a time to think about the freedom that we've been given in God. I always read the Magnificat, about "God has turned things upside down." This vaccine will reverse the turmoil of this time of isolation.

So be well, dear church.

