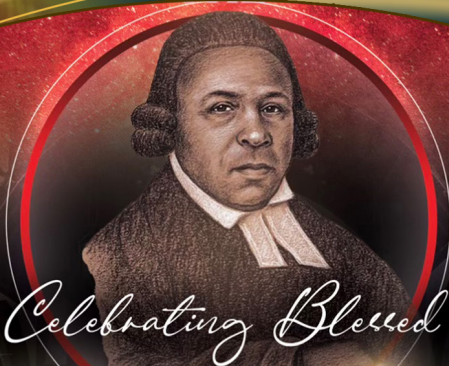




The Episcopal Diocese
of Pennsylvania



Celebrating Blessed
ABSALOM
JONES
2026

THE COMMEMORATION OF BLESSED ABSALOM JONES
HOLY EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2026

GATHERING: 10:30AM

MASS: 11:00AM

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN-PAOLI
212 W LANCASTER AVE, PAOLI, PA 19301



BLESSED ABSALOM JONES

Absalom Jones was born enslaved to Abraham Wynkoop a wealthy Anglican planter in 1746 in Delaware. He was working in the fields when Abraham recognized that he was an intelligent child and ordered that he be trained to work in the house. Absalom eagerly accepted instruction in reading. He also saved money he was given and bought books (among them a primer, a spelling book, and a bible). Abraham Wynkoop died in 1753 and by 1755 his younger son Benjamin had inherited the plantation. When Absalom was sixteen Benjamin Wynkoop sold the plantation and Absalom's mother, sister, and five brothers. Wynkoop brought Absalom to Philadelphia where he opened a store and joined St. Peter's Church. In Philadelphia Benjamin Wynkoop permitted Absalom to attend a night school for black people that was operated by Quakers following the tradition established by abolitionist teacher Anthony Benezet.

At twenty, with the permission of their masters, Absalom married Mary Thomas who was enslaved to Sarah King who also worshipped at St. Peter's. The Rev. Jacob Duche performed the wedding at Christ Church. Absalom and his father-in-law, John Thomas, used their savings, and sought donations and loans primarily from prominent Quakers, in order to purchase Mary's freedom. Absalom and Mary worked very hard to repay the money borrowed to buy her freedom. They saved enough money to buy property and to buy Absalom's freedom. Although he repeatedly asked Benjamin Wynkoop to allow him to buy his freedom Wynkoop refused. Absalom persisted because as long as he was enslaved Wynkoop could take his property and his money. Finally, in 1784 Benjamin Wynkoop freed Absalom by granting him a manumission. Absalom continued to work in Wynkoop's store as a paid employee.

Absalom left St. Peter's Church and began worshipping at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. He met Richard Allen who had been engaged to preach at St. George's and the two became lifelong friends. Together, in 1787, they founded the Free African Society a mutual aid benevolent organization that was the first of its kind organized by and for black people. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. At St. George's, Absalom and Richard served as lay ministers for the black membership. The active evangelism of Jones and Allen, greatly increased black membership at St. George's. The black members worked hard to help raise money to build an upstairs gallery intended to enlarge the church. The church leadership decided to segregate the black worshippers in the gallery, without notifying them.

During a Sunday morning service, a dispute arose over the seats black members had been instructed to take in the gallery and ushers attempted to physically remove them by first accosting Absalom Jones. Most of the black members present indignantly walked out of St. George's in a body.



Prior to the incident at St. George's the Free African Society had initiated religious services. Some of these services were presided over by The Rev. Joseph Pilmore an assistant St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The Society established communication with similar black groups in other cities. In 1792 the Society began to build the African Church of Philadelphia. The church membership took a denominational vote and decided to affiliate with the Episcopal Church. Richard Allen withdrew from the effort as he favored affiliation with the Methodist

Church. Absalom Jones was asked to provide pastoral leadership and after prayer and reflection he accepted the call.

The African Church was dedicated on July 17, 1794. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Magaw, rector St. Paul's Church, preached the dedicatory address. Dr. Magaw was assisted at the service by The Rev. James Abercrombie, assistant minister at Christ Church. Soon thereafter the congregation applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: 1) that they be received as an organized body; 2) that they have control over their own local affairs; 3) that Absalom Jones be licensed as a lay reader, and, if qualified, be ordained as minister.

In October 1794 it was admitted as the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. The church was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1796. Bishop William White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795 and as priest on September 21, 1802.

Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, and warned the oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves." To him, God was the Father, who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." But it was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his congregation and by the community.

St. Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. The congregants formed a day school and were active in moral uplift, self-empowerment, and anti-slavery activities. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument. Absalom Jones died on February 13, 1818.

Mr. Art Sudler with The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (Absalom's church), contributed to a biography on him as excerpted.

THE FEAST OF BLESSED ABSALOM JONES

The Gathering

MASTER OF CEREMONY
The Rev. Dr. Antonio Baxter

Lincoln University Choir
Dr. Lloyd Mallory, Director

The Camden Brass Ensemble
Mr. Jamal P. Dickerson, Director

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Prelude

Reimagination of Let My People Go
Mr. Rasaan H. Bourke, Organist

Rasaan Bourke

*Bishop
Assembly*

Let us go forth in peace.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

PROCESSION Camden Brass Ensemble



OPENING HYMN | Blessed Absalom

1. Born in bond-age, born in shack - les, Born stripped of all dig - ni - ty,
 2. Seek - ing to ex - pand hor - i - zons, Bi - ble, pri - mer he did find;
 3. When in Phi - la - del - phia set - tled, He sought per - sons in great need,
 4. One fine morn - ing, while at wor - ship, Wrested from his knees in pray - er;

1. Abs' - lom Jones was bound, de - ter - mined, That he would one day be free.
 2. To each word he was at - ten - tive, Learn - ing, lest he fall be - hind.
 3. Ded - i - ca - ted to em - pow' r - ment, His own peo - ple did he lead.
 4. He, his friends, were thus e - vic - ted: "You no more may praise God here."

1. Bless - ed Abs' - lom, leads us, guides us, In the bonds of u - ni - ty.
 2. Bless - ed Abs' - lom, lib - er - ates us From the pri - son of our mind.
 3. Bless - ed Abs' - lom, pray that we from All in - diff' - rence may be freed.
 4. Bless - ed Abs' - lom, pray that we may Stand stead - fast and per - se - vere.

5. Founded he Saint Thomas' Church for
 Afric's sons and daughters blest;
 Full-fledged members of Christ's Body,
 They no longer were oppressed.
 Blessed Abs'lom, pray that we may
 Be the church at Christ's behest.

6. Blessed Abs'lom Jones first priest of
 Afric's stock within our fold;
 May we, inspired by your witness
 Raise up priests with hearts of gold!
 Blessed Abs'lom, pioneer prophet
 May your story long be told!

7. Praise to Christ the Liberator.
 Praise Creator ever blest;
 Praise the Spirit, Source of comfort
 North to south, and east to west:
 Blessed Abs'lom, priest, exemplar,
 In God's bosom now at rest.

Words: Harold T. Lewis (b. 1947) Music: *Lauda Anima*, John Goss (1800-1880) From *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

BLESSING OF THE ABSALOM JONES ICON

*As the procession ends, the icon of Absalom Jones is placed on its pedestal.
 The Celebrant blesses the icon with holy water and incense and then says*

Bishop
 Assembly
 Bishop

Blessed Absalom, lead us, guide us!
In bonds of unity, lead us, guide us! Amen.
 Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose will it is to be glorified in your saints, and who raised up your servant Abslom Jones to be a light in the world; shine we pray in our hearts, that following his example, we in our generation may strive for the liberation and reconciliation of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom you have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit throughout all ages. Amen.



OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Bishop
Assembly*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever, Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Bishop

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE | Lift Every Voice and Sing

(Sung by all.) Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;

Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last,
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Words: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) Music: J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Bishop The Lord be with you.
Assembly **And also with you.**

Bishop Let us pray.

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 42: 5-9

Ms. Cynthia S. Rivers

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
Response **Thanks be to God.**

FROM THE PSALTER | Psalm 126

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream.
2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy.
3 Then they said among the nations, *
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
4 The Lord has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.
5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
6 Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.
7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

SECOND LESSON | Ephesians 4: 1-6

Ms. Sydney Lamptey,

Church of St. Andrew & St. Monica, Philadelphia, PA

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.



Reader The Word of the Lord.

Response Thanks be to God.

All stand and sing stanzas 1 and 2 of the Gradual Hymn as the Gospel Book is carried to the Ambo.

GRADUAL HYMN | Come Down oh Love Divine

Hymn: 561

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system includes three numbered stanzas. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system continues the lyrics. The fourth system concludes the hymn with a double bar line.

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,
and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;
O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place
and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890), alt. Music: *Down Ampney*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.



THE HOLY GOSPEL | John 15: 12-15

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Response **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
Response **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Following the proclamation of the Gospel, the Assembly resumes singing verses of the Gradual Hymn found on page 10

All sit.

SERMON MEDITATION | *Your Love Divine* by Richard Smallwood | **The Absalom Jones Choir**

SERMON | **Dr. Kenyatta Gilbert**
Dean, Howard University’s Divinity School

All stand.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.



We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE | Ms. Sherrie Tatman, *Intercessor*
Church of St. Andrew & St. Monica, Philadelphia, PA

Intercessor God of freedom and justice: We celebrate today your servant, Absalom Jones, the first person of African ancestry ordained in The Episcopal Church. Empower your Church, O God, and the Diocese of Pennsylvania its people and its clergy. Teach us how to continue the ministries of reconciliation and peace and to grow Absalom Jones' ministry of racial justice. God of power and goodness:

Response **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God who hears, you put the tears of our forbearers into your bottle, recording them in your book: Help the nations of the world hear their citizens' concerns by responding to injustice, war, and slavery with actions that lead to peace. God of power and goodness:

Response **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God who creates, Blessed Absalom reminded us that sacrifices must be accompanied with action: Guide our feet to run the race without getting weary. Keep us focused on the fight for equality. God of power and goodness:

Response **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Healing God, deliver those who call upon your name: Inspire our hearts with hope as we offer prayers for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Assist them to grow from strength to strength as they come to know you more fully. God of power and goodness:

Response **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God of compassion, you hear your people's cries and prayers in heaven: Help us remember that we stand on the prayers of our ancestors. As they prayed for current and future generations, so must we pray today for our sisters and brothers who have died and for those yet to come. God of power and goodness:

Response **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant then prays

Almighty God, you created all people and blessed us by making us in a wondrous variety. As you were with Blessed Absalom, be with us as we seek to make "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Support each of us as we work to do your will, that together we may make a difference. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - Adapted from "A Litany of Thanksgiving for Absalom Jones"
written by the Reverend Jemonde Taylor.)

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.
Assembly **And also with you.**

COMMISSIONING OF A NEW ABSALOM JONES ICON IN HONOR OF CANON JAMES WYNN

Adapted from the Book of Occasional Services

Bishop: Siblings in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good, especially that of ordained ministry. Our purpose now is to commission a new icon of Blessed Absalom Jones in honor of Canon James Wynn's contributions to the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania and his ministry more broadly. We pray that all who look upon this icon will remember their own baptismal covenant, and strive towards justice, freedom and reconciliation.

Congregation: **Do you believe that this person, through their ministry, has been committed to Christ, has exercised the ministries of proclamation and witness to the gospel, has advocated for dignity and justice for all persons, has worked for peace and inclusion, and loved and served their neighbors?**

Congregation: **We Do**

Bishop: Canon Wynn, you have been a faithful witness of the gospel and priest exemplar. You have been called to ministries of the Church, to be carried out in communities, congregations, dioceses, and all the places in which you serve. Do you now accept this honor to the glory of Christ our Lord, in the benefit of the Church?

Canon James Wynn: **I Do.**

Bishop: Eternal God, you have promised your salvation to all peoples, and have given us a place at the table and a vision of the great multitude gathered with you in eternal glory: Help us bring the and legacy of Blessed Absalom Jones and all your saints into all the places where it is so desperately needed. Bless and encourage Canon Wynn, strengthen his ministry to come, keep him safe; grant him your courage and your love; and enable him to hear and to speak new words of hope; through Jesus Christ, the living Word. Amen.

WELCOME

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. (Psalm 50:14)

Today's offering will be contributed toward the commissioning of a diocesan icon of Blessed Absalom Jones.

Checks should be made payable to:
The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

You may also make a donation using the QR code below.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR TABLE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | *The Old Rugged Cross* in Memory of Dr. Abbington

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

<i>Bishop</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>Assembly</i>	And also with you.
<i>Bishop</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>Assembly</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Bishop</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>Assembly</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints, who have been chosen vessels of your grace, and the lights of the world in their generations. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS | *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, #255

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, Holy, Holy, #255 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Music: Grayson Warren Brown (b. 1948), *A Mass for a Soulful People*. Copyright © 1979 North American Liturgy Resources, 10802 N. 23rd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85029. All Rights Reserved.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and give it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."



Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Bishop and Assembly

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints in the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(The Book of Common Prayer – Eucharistic Prayer A)

Bishop And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

The Lord's Prayer (sung by all)

**Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Music - Albert Hay Malotte

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Silence is kept during the breaking of the bread.

Bishop Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Assembly **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

AGNUS DEI | *Lift Every Voice and Sing II, #270*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
Grant us peace.

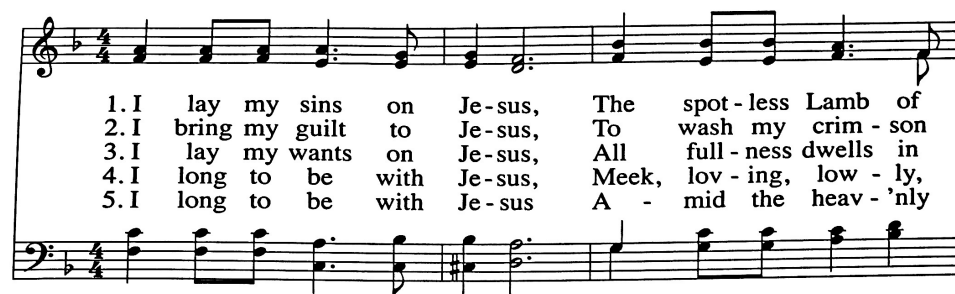


Please follow the direction of the Ushers to receive Holy Communion.
Gluten-free wafers are available.

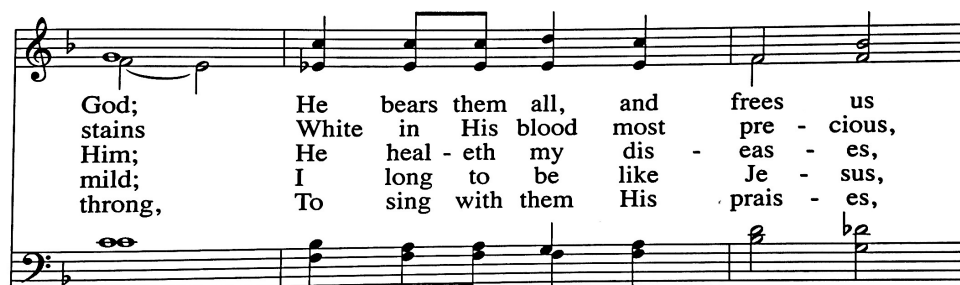
The Ministers of Communion will intinct the consecrated host for you upon request.

COMMUNION ANTHEM | *It's My Desire* by Horace Boyer- ABJ

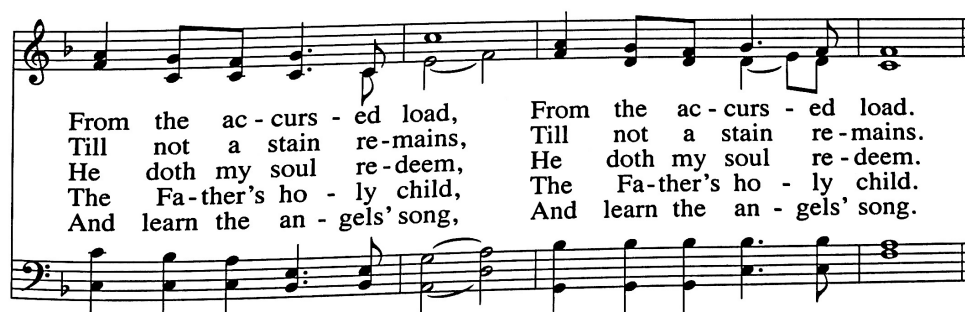
COMMUNION HYMN | *I Lay My Sins on Jesus*



1. I lay my sins on Je-sus, The spot-less Lamb of
2. I bring my guilt to Je-sus, To wash my crim-son
3. I lay my wants on Je-sus, All full-ness dwells in
4. I long to be with Je-sus, Meek, lov-ing, low-ly,
5. I long to be with Je-sus A-mid the heav-'nly



God; He bears them all, and frees us
stains White in His blood most pre-cious,
Him; He heal-eth my dis-eas-es,
mild; I long to be like Je-sus,
throng, To sing with them His prais-es,



From the ac-curs-ed load, From the ac-curs-ed load.
Till not a stain re-mains, Till not a stain re-mains.
He doth my soul re-deem, He doth my soul re-deem.
The Fa-ther's ho-ly child, The Fa-ther's ho-ly child.
And learn the an-gels' song, And learn the an-gels' song.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
Tune: BRADLEY, 7 6 7 66; Allen W. Foster, b.1940, © 1965, Allen W. Foster



COMMUNION HYMN | *I Am the Bread of Life* Lift Every Voice and Sing II, #335



1 I am the bread of life;— they who
 2 (The) Bread that I will give— is my
 3 (Un-) less— you eat— of the
 4 I am the re - sur - rec - tion,
 5 (Yes,) Lord, we be - lieve— that—



1 come to me shall not— hun - ger; they who be -
 2 Flesh for the life of the world, and they who
 3 Flesh of the Son of— Man— and—
 4 I— am the— life.— They who be -
 5 you— are the— Christ,— the—



1 lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 2 eat— of this bread, they shall live for
 3 drink— of his Blood, you shall not have life with -
 4 lieve— in me, e - ven— if they
 5 Son— of God who— has



1 me— un - less the— Fa - ther draw them.
 2 ev - er.— they shall live for ev - er.
 3 in you. you shall not have life with - in you.
 4 die,— they shall live for ev - er.
 5 come— in - to— the— world.—



And I will raise them up, and I will raise them



And I will raise them up, and I will raise them



up, and I will raise them up on the

up, and I will raise them up on the

The first system of the musical score is for the first two stanzas. It consists of three staves: a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and two piano accompaniment staves (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics 'up, and I will raise them up on the' are written under the vocal line. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests.

last day. 1-4 Final Ending

5 Yes, day.

last day. 2 The 3 Un- day. 4 — 5 Yes, (z)

The second system of the musical score continues the piece. It also consists of three staves. The lyrics 'last day.' are written under the vocal line. There are two endings: a 'Final Ending' marked '1-4' and a '5 Yes, day.' ending. The music includes a 'Final Ending' section with a repeat sign and a '5 Yes, day.' section with a repeat sign. The piano accompaniment features sustained chords and moving lines.

The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.

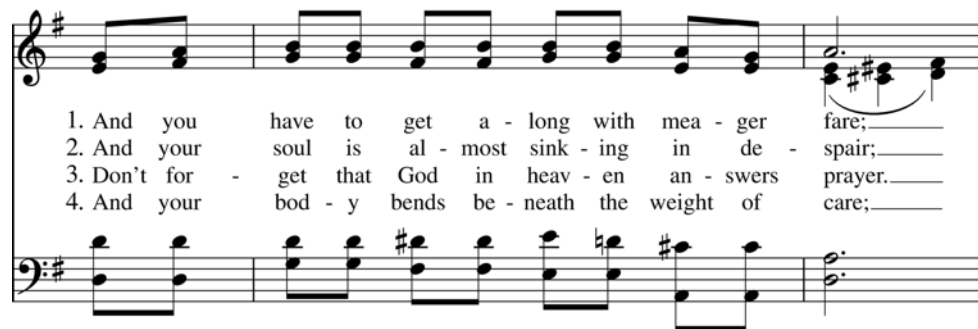
Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927), adapt. of John 6. Copyright © 1971, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928). Copyright © 1971, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.



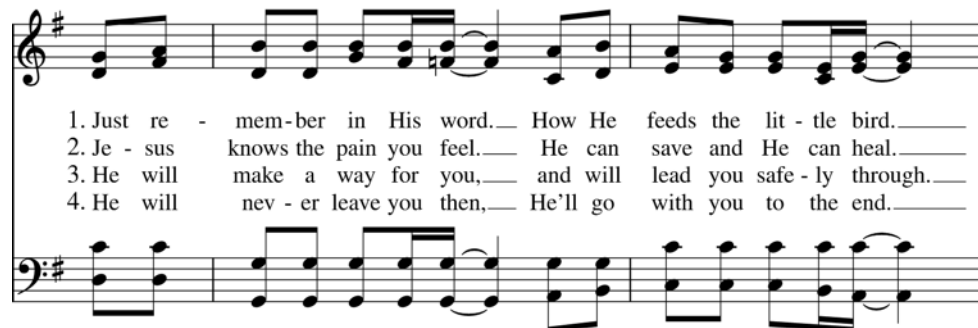
COMMUNION HYMN | Leave It There | *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, #197



1. If the world from you with-hold, of its sil-ver and its gold,
 2. If your bod-y suf-fers pain, and your health you can't re-gain,
 3. When your en-e-mies as-sail, and your heart be-gins to fail,
 4. When your youth-ful days are gone, and old age is steal-ing on.



1. And you have to get a-long with mea-ger fare;
 2. And your soul is al-most sink-ing in de-spair;
 3. Don't for-get that God in heav-en an-swers prayer.
 4. And your bod-y bends be-neath the weight of care;



1. Just re-mem-ber in His word. How He feeds the lit-tle bird.
 2. Je-sus knows the pain you feel. He can save and He can heal.
 3. He will make a way for you, and will lead you safe-ly through.
 4. He will nev-er leave you then, He'll go with you to the end.

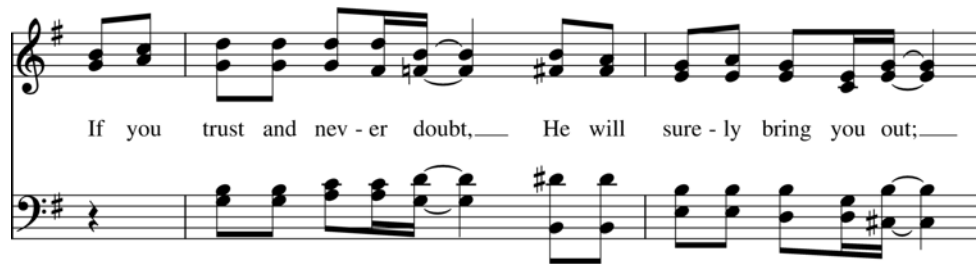


1. Take your bur-den to the Lord and leave it there.
 2. Take your bur-den to the Lord and leave it there.
 3. Take your bur-den to the Lord and leave it there.
 4. Take your bur-den to the Lord and leave it there.
 (leave it there)



Leave it there, leave it there, leave it there, leave it there,
 Leave it there, leave it there, leave it there, leave it there,





Words: Charles A. Tindley (1851-1933). Music: Charles A. Tindley; arr. Verolga Nix (b. 1933).

Words: Henry Frances Lyte (1793-1847) Music: Eventide, William Henry Monk (1823-1889) Hymnal 1982.

All stand.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER *(said by all)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and single-ness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CELEBRANT'S BLESSING

DISMISSAL

*Deacon
Assembly*

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



RECESSIONAL HYMN | *We're Marching to Zion*

1 Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne,
And thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

*We're marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion,
The beautiful city of God.*

2 Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God;
But children of the heav'nly King,
But children of the heav'nly King,
May speak their joys abroad,
May speak their joys abroad. (refrain)

3 The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Or walk the golden streets,
Or walk the golden streets. (refrain)

4 Then let our songs abound,
And ev'ry tear be dry;
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,
We're marching thro' Immanuel's ground,
To fairer worlds on high,
To fairer worlds on high. (refrain)

POSTLUDE | *Sortie on Siyahamba* | **Rasaan H. Bouke**
Mr. Rasaan H. Bourke, Organist



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CELEBRANT

The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

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The Reverend Canon Jordan Francis. Casson
Chairman, The Absalom Jones Diocesan Committee
Canon for Peace and Reconciliation, The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

PREACHER

Dr. Kenyatta R. Gilbert
The Founding Executive Director, The Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing

DEACON

The Reverend Renee Coleman
St. Luke's Germantown, Christ Church & St. Michael's

ICON BEARER

The Rev. Dr. Antonio Baxter
The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

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The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia, PA

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CHALICE BEARERS

Black Clericus of The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania



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ORGANIST

Mr. Rasaan H. Bourke

PERCUSSIONIST

Greg Clark

THE ABSALOM JONES CHOIR

Dr. Jay Fluellen, Coordinator

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Dr. Llyod Mallory Director





The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez was ordained on July 16, 2016, as the 16th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, the second oldest and fourth largest in the Episcopal Church. Gutiérrez emphasizes evangelism, discipleship, innovation, creativity, accountability, adaptability, integrity and hope. He restructured the Diocesan offices to better serve its parishes without increasing the budget and intensified staff efforts towards serving the people of the diocese. Ninety percent of staff time is spent among the diocese's churches - assisting, supporting and envisioning.

Since his ordination, hundreds of ministerial goals have been realized, the diocese was incorporated, the budget was unified and all finances were made available for monthly review. In 2019, the diocesan offices were moved to Norristown to better serve the people of God. Through worship, fellowship, and study, the diocese has embarked on an intentional path of mission, service, and addressing poverty.

Bishop Gutiérrez comes from a family dedicated to public service and he spent over two decades serving in government. He is now using his extensive experience in government, economic development, and business development to effectively enable ministry within the diocese. Over the past five years, administrative functions, operations, and programs were restructured to address the community's needs.

Listening and working collaboratively with clergy and laity, ineffective programs have been discarded, technology expanded, and new ministries were initiated. The diocese has re-opened closed churches, new programs are flourishing, and the diocese is becoming a significant community presence. Things once thought impossible are now being lived out. There is a unity of purpose and no fear of failure. The diocese is experiencing a resurgence in unity, ministry, communications, and service.

Gutiérrez believes strongly in the global ministry of the Anglican Communion. The diocese is now involved in relationships and ministries throughout the world. The diocese is deeply engaged with the work of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Consultative Council. A groundbreaking covenant was signed with the Diocese of Jerusalem as well as new ministries formed with dioceses in Latin America, Wales, Africa, Asia, and South Asia. Gutierrez sees the church as the foundation of a moral and loving nation and the cornerstone of all human relationships in the world.

Before his calling as bishop, Gutiérrez had a distinguished career in both The Episcopal Church and in public service in New Mexico. Rebuilding and growing churches were the hallmark of his time in key leadership positions at The Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande. At the request of the Presiding Bishop, he served in an administrative oversight position for The Episcopal Church in Navajoland, which included being vice president of the Navajoland Economic Development Corporation.

His career in public service included serving as chief of staff to the Mayor of Albuquerque and Director of Economic Development. More than 25,000 private sector jobs were created as a result of his efforts to recruit new businesses and expand existing ones.



Through his involvement in local, state, and national politics and extensive experience and expertise in government, Gutiérrez also taught political consulting and marketing as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico. In 1998, he founded a strategy, marketing, media, and political consulting company called Mensajes.

Through his involvement in local, state, and national politics and extensive experience and expertise in government, Gutiérrez also taught political consulting and marketing as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico. In 1998, he founded a strategy, marketing, media, and political consulting company called Mensajes.

Throughout his years in public service and in the church, Gutiérrez has served as a board member for numerous national organizations. In 2022, he is serving as chair of The Social Justice and International Policy Committee for the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church. He currently serves as president of The Compass Rose Society, which supports the work of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Anglican Communion throughout the world, and was appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the General Secretary of the Anglican Consultative Council to serve on the Church Growth and Planting Commission for the Anglican Communion. He is chair of the Board of Trustees for Episcopal Community Services, The Church Foundation, and the Widows Corporation. He serves as a board member for The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, The Church Farm School, and The Episcopal Academy. He also is a trustee of the General Seminary of The Episcopal Church. In addition, Gutiérrez is a conferee of the Venerable Order of St. John; a co-convenor of the Bishops United Against Gun Violence; a member of the Religious Leaders Council of Philadelphia; and Vicar-General of the British Officers Club of Philadelphia.

A native of New Mexico, Gutiérrez comes from a family that settled in “the Land of Enchantment” in the 1500s. He oversees and operates San Policarpo Viñedo y Caballos (Vineyard and Horses), the family business in New Mexico. He received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and History and a Master of Public Administration (concentration in budgeting), all from the University of New Mexico. While at the University of New Mexico, he was named a Graduate Scholars Fellow. Gutiérrez earned a diocesan certificate in Anglican Studies through the Trinity School for Ministry and a Master in Theological Studies from St. Norbert College.

Aside from his faith, Gutiérrez counts as his most important role and greatest responsibility a position he assumed on June 26, 1998, when he became the extremely proud father of his son Jude, a graduate from the University of New Mexico with a degree in criminology. It is a joy he shares with his wife, best friend, and partner of 32 years, Suzanne Fletcher Gutiérrez. The family shares in this joy with a household of dogs, turtles, pheasants, owls, and the other miscellaneous “pets” that wander through their lives.

Bishop Gutiérrez deeply believes in the strength and faith of people of the diocese living as the Body of Christ. He emphasizes a bishop’s role as pastor to the clergy and a shepherd to the laity. He invites you to join this revolutionary and renewing diocese as we seek to know Jesus and change the world. God is with us and our message and purpose is clear - Jesus Christ.





REV. DR. KENYATTA R. GILBERT

Dean of Howard University's Divinity School

Rev. Dr. Kenyatta R. Gilbert is a nationally recognized scholar on African American preaching, and is currently serving as Dean and Professor of Homiletics at Howard University School of Divinity. His journey towards his esteemed position begins with his bachelor's degree in political science from Baylor University in 1996. Driven by a profound calling, he pursued further education at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he earned both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Practical Theology, specializing in homiletics.

As an ordained Baptist minister, Dr. Gilbert has enriched congregations across various regions including Texas, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Kenya. In 2006, he found his professional home at Howard University, where he continues to inspire and educate future generations of ministers and scholars.

Dr. Gilbert's scholarly contributions extend beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his prolific writing and public engagements. He is the author of four influential books: *Exodus Preaching: Crafting Sermons about Justice and Hope*, *A Pursued Justice: Black Preaching from the Great Migration to Civil Rights*, *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching*, and *Just Living: Meditations for Engaging our Life and Times*. His insights on Black preaching, civil rights, and social justice have been featured in various esteemed platforms including PBS NewsHour, Sojourners, Word & Way, Religion Dispatches, and The Conversation.

In 2011, Dr. Gilbert founded The Preaching Project, a transformative ministry dedicated to empowering ministers for effective service within African American churches and communities. Furthermore, he served as the Black Congregations Resource Center's founding director at Howard University. In 2024, his inaugural year as dean, Dr. Gilbert was awarded a \$1.25 million Compelling Preaching Initiative grant to launch programs on African American preaching at Howard and a \$60,000 technology grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion to upgrade classrooms for HyFlex online learning. He is the General Editor for the forthcoming Preaching, Theology, and Culture book series by Fortress Press, and is a board member of the Association of Theological Schools. Additionally, Dr. Gilbert is a respected member of the editorial board of *Homiletic*, a peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the Academy of Homiletics, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to academia and social justice, Dr. Gilbert was honored with induction into the Martin Luther King Jr. International Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College in 2022 and a recipient of the Diamond Award for Excellence in Leadership from the Not Alone Foundation, Inc. Most recently, Dr. Gilbert was named the 2024 McClendon Scholar-in-Residence at New York Avenue Presbyterian in Washington, DC and Baylor University Alumni Alliance's Robert L. Gilbert Distinguished Alumni Award. Through his multifaceted roles as a scholar, preacher, educator, and community leader, Dr. Kenyatta R. Gilbert exemplifies a commitment to excellence, equity, and empowerment.





Celebrating Blessed
ABSALOM
JONES
2026

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NOTES

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