



Celebrate his triumph!
Continue his work!

The Commemoration of Absalom Jones

14 February 2026

10:30am The Holy Eucharist

The Right Reverend Matthew F. Heyd, *Celebrant*
17th Bishop of New York

The Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes, *Preacher*
11th Bishop of Newark

**ST. JOHN
THE DIVINE**

WELCOME to the Diocese of New York's Blessed Absalom Jones Commemoration honoring the legacy of the first Black priest ordained in the Episcopal Church. Held annually since 2012, this commemoration celebrates Blessed Absalom Jones' groundbreaking ministry, resilience, and leadership that paved the way for a more diverse and inclusive priesthood.

Born into slavery, Blessed Absalom Jones endeavored for years to win his freedom. Soon thereafter, in 1787, as a lay minister in Philadelphia, he co-founded the Free African Society, a mutual aid benevolent organization that was the first of its kind created by and for black people. Later, he founded and became a lay pastor to the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, the first black Episcopal congregation, where people of African descent could worship God in dignity and without fear of oppression. In 1802, despite resistance from many in the Episcopal Church, he received Holy Orders and as a priest continued to hold an unwavering commitment to faith and care for those in need, racial reconciliation, and social justice.

Today, the Episcopal Church recognizes Blessed Absalom Jones' life and ministry as opening doors not only to men of African heritage, but also to people from many ethnicities and cultures, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and others. Blessed Absalom Jones was a trailblazer to the priesthood for all who wish to share the fruits of God's love and justice through the ordained ministry.

Since its inception, the Blessed Absalom Jones Commemoration has welcomed inspiring preachers.

Today we are honored to hear God's Word from the Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, consecrated in 2018 as the 11th Bishop of Newark, the first woman and the first person of African descent to serve this diocese as diocesan bishop. Bp. Hughes is among four other trailblazing women of African descent who were the first to be elected, between 2017 and 2019, as diocesan bishops in the Episcopal Church. Their voices and experiences of being "firsts" in various levels of church leadership are brought together in the book *This Band of Sisterhood: Black Women Bishops on Race, Faith, and the Church*, available for purchase today.

The Diocese of New York's efforts to celebrate and sustain the mission and ministries of people of African descent reaches beyond the annual Blessed Absalom Jones Commemoration that features a festival diocesan choir, parish banners, food, and other traditions of people of African descent. Today's offering, for example, will go towards The Absalom Jones Fund, which supports Historically Black Colleges and Universities affiliated with the Episcopal Church. The Diocese's Antiracism Committee and the New York Young Adult Network are sponsoring a Lenten study this spring, *Exploring the Danger and Sin of White Christian Nationalism*, featuring a reading of *The False White Gospel* by Jim Wallis. This and other books for the Lenten study are also available for purchase today. Further, a Sunday School curriculum about Absalom Jones has been created for both younger and older children's education. Refer to the back page of the leaflet to obtain information about these initiatives.

We are delighted you are with us today!

Please note: Photography and video recording may be in process while you are at the Cathedral. Entry into the facility signifies your release and consent to the possibility that your image may be used by the Cathedral for promotional purposes.

Prelude

I Love the Lord

Richard Smallwood

Music Provided by Jazz House Kids, Montclair, New Jersey

Dorian Lake and Larry Marshall, *vocalists*

Ariana Hartunin Sowa, *alto saxophone*

Necadon McCune, *drums*

Lark Villinski, *bass*

Instrumental Call to Worship

Drumming by Devin Grandison, Caren Calder, Crystal Energy, Ayodele Maakheru

The People stand, as able.

Entrance Hymn: There's A Sweet Sweet Spirit

Sung by All.



1 There's a sweet, sweet
2 (There are) bless - ings
3 (If you) say he



Spi - rit in this place, _____ and I know that it's the Spi - rit of the
you can - not re - ceive _____ till you know him in his full - ness, and be -
saved you from your sin, _____ now you're weak, you're bound, and can - not en - ter



Lord. _____ There are sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, _____
lieve. _____ You're the one to pro - fit when you say, _____
in, _____ you can make it right if you will yield; _____



and I know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord. _____
"I am going to walk with Je - sus all the way." _____
you'll en - joy the Ho - ly Spi - rit that we feel. _____

Refrain



Sweet Ho - ly spi - rit, Sweet Heav - en - ly Dove, Stay right here



with us, _____ fill - ing us with your love. And for these bles - sings _____ we



lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have



been re - vived _____ when we shall leave this place. 2. There are
3. If you (place.)

Words & Music: Doris Akers (1962)

The Acclamation

Bishop Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

Song of Praise*Led by the Festival Choir.*Glory to God (*Gloria in excelsis*): Canticle 20

GLORY, Glory, hallelujah,
 Lord we praise your Holy name,
 Glory, Glory hallelujah,
 Lord we praise your Holy name.
 Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to His people on earth.
 Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God.

Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
 Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
 You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.
 For you alone are the Holy One,
 You alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of the Father.
 Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.
 Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.
 Amen.

Music: Carl Haywood

The Collect of the Day*Bishop* God be with you.*People* 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
 our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*The People respond 'Amen'. The People are seated.***A Reading From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah***(42:5-9)*

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*People* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

Refrain sung by the People.

Naomi Randolph, reader

Joshua Coyne, violinist

Refrain

Those who sewed with tears in their eyes will come again with joy carrying the harvest!

Music: Justin Dehnert

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
 then were we like those who dream.
 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy. *Refrain*
 Then they said among the nations,
 "The Lord has done great things for them."
 The Lord has done great things for us,
 and we are glad indeed. *Refrain*

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
 like the watercourses of the Negev.
 Those who sowed with tears
 will reap with songs of joy.
 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
 will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.
Refrain

The People are seated.

A Reading From the Letter of Paul to the Galatians (5:1-5)

FOR freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm,
 therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of
 slavery.

Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that, if you let yourselves be
 circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. Once again
 I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that
 he is obliged to obey the entire law. You who want to

be reckoned as righteous by the law have cut yourselves
 off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For
 through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of
 righteousness.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: In My Life Lord Be Glorified Music

Sung by All, standing as able.

1. In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, — be glo-ri-fied; —
 2. In my song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, — be glo-ri-fied; —
 3. In your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, — be glo-ri-fied; —

1. In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied — to - day.
 2. In my song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied — to - day.
 3. In your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied — to - day.

Music: Bob Kilpatrick (b. 1952)

The People stand, as able.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel

Deacon The ✝ Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People 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. (15:12-15)

Deacon The Gospel of our Savior.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Lectura del Santo Evangelio

Diacono ✝ Santo Evangelio de nuestro Salvador Jesucristo, según San Juan.

Pueblo ¡Gloria a ti, Cristo Señor!

MI mandamiento es este: Que se amen unos a otros como yo los he amado a ustedes. El amor más grande que uno puede tener es dar su vida por sus amigos. Ustedes son mis amigos, si hacen lo que yo les mando. Ya no los llamo siervos, porque el siervo no sabe lo que hace su amo. Los llamo mis amigos, porque les he dado a conocer todo lo que mi Padre me ha dicho. (15:12-15)

Diácono El Evangelio del Salvador.

Pueblo Te alabamos, Cristo Señor.

After the opening prayer, the People sit.

The Sermon

The Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes
11th Bishop of Newark

Musical Offering

People Get Ready

Curtis Mayfield

April Watson & Marvin Drummond, *soloist*
Jamel Gaines Creative Outlet Dance Company
Dorian Lake and Larry Marshall, *vocalists*
Ayodele Maakheru, *guitar soloist, Brooklyn Blues Society*

PEOPLE get ready, there's a train a-comin'
You don't need no baggage, you just get on board
All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin'
Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord

So, people get ready for the train to Jordan
Picking up passengers coast to coast
Faith is the key, open the doors and board 'em
There's hope for all among those loved the most

There ain't no room for the hopeless sinner
Who would hurt all mankind just to save his own,
believe me now
Have pity on those whose chances grow thinner
For there's no hiding place against the kingdom's throne

The Nicene Creed

Said by All.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshipped
 and glorified,
 who 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.

The Prayers of the People

These prayers were composed by the youth of the diocese.

Leader (English)

To the Creator of all races and peoples, who loves each of us for our uniqueness, we offer our prayers, saying “Lord of all, hear your children.”

We pray for the Universal Church: that it will strive to promote the dignity of every human being and be a witness and sign of unity among all peoples. We pray especially for Sean, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; for Matthew and Allen, our Bishops; and for all priests, deacons, and laity of our Diocese.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

Leader (Yoruba)

We pray for the world: that all nations and communities will be graced with peace and happiness; that care for all of God’s creation will be a priority; and that we each may see all people as members of one human family. We pray especially, in this time of war, for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land, where the Prince of Peace was born.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

Leader (Haitian Creole)

We pray also for our own nation and leaders: that they will protect the powerless, not only the powerful; that they will be guided by your values, not votes, by what is right, not popular, by what is just, not expedient; and that our national, state, and local governments will be responsive to the needs of everyone, especially the poor.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

Leader (Japanese)

We pray for the children of the world, especially those who suffer from discrimination, warfare, oppression, disease, hunger, and being orphaned; and for children here at home who silently witness so many ills of our society: that they may be delivered from distress and grow up to enjoy a better world.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

Leader (Wolof)

We pray also for children who lack quality education, including here in our own nation: that education may become equal for all, and not dependent on skin color, economic status, or neighborhood.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

Leader (Fulani)

We pray for all who bear financial burdens, especially those who are unemployed and those who work yet do not earn a living wage: that they may share in your abundance.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

Leader (Spanish)

We pray for all workers: that they may have adequate income and decent working conditions, housing, education, and health care. May they be afforded the opportunity to thrive in this land of plenty.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

Leader (English)

We pray for God’s beloved children who are exploited sexually or forced to work: that those who are trafficked might know healing and justice; that those who exploit them will come to repentance and conversion; and that all might live in such a way that others are not made to pay the price for the comfort and convenience of a few.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

Leader (Garifuna)

We give thanks for those who have struggled and continue to struggle for civil rights and economic justice, and we commend to you those who were killed doing this work, especially Blessed Martin Luther King, Jr., Blessed Jonathan Daniels, Blessed Oscar Romero, Blessed Dorothy Stang, Blessed Dorothy Kazel, Blessed Maura Clarke, and Blessed Ita Ford.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

Leader (American Sign Language)

We pray for all the departed, especially those who died as victims of hatred, mistrust, and broken systems, and those who died too young or too soon; that they may rest peacefully.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

Leader (English)

We pray that you will strengthen our commitment to abolishing social structures that inhibit economic, educational, and social advancement of the vulnerable. May we follow the righteous examples of Blessed Enmegahbowh (John Johnson), Blessed Florence Li Tim-Oi, Blessed Pauli Murray, Blessed Barbara Harris, and Blessed Absalom Jones, as we honor their lives and witness this day.

Leader Lord of all,

People Hear your children.

The Bishop concludes the Prayers with this Collect

ALMIGHTY God, source of our life, we acknowledge you as Creator of all people of every race, language, and way of life. Help us to see each other as you see us: your children loved into being and sustained by your parental care. Keep watch over our hearts, that the evil of racism will find no home within us. Direct our spirits to work for justice and peace, that all oppressive barriers to your grace will fall. In Jesus' name we pray.

The People respond 'Amen'.

Confession of Sin & Absolution

Written by youth members of Grace Church/La Gracia, White Plains under the guidance of Lauren Reid and Ashley Elliott.

Bishop

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Reader

ALMIGHTY God, we acknowledge how we have sinned against you and willfully turned away from you. We apologize for those acts we have done in vain.

WE are sorry for sinning against you, in what we think, what we say, and what we do. We're sorry for those times when we have seen something wrong and haven't done anything to make it right.

We come to you humbly;

Please forgive us, for Jesus's sake, for our sins and the ungood we have done.

We promise to be better in the future, and to treat everybody the way we want to be treated, regardless of their differences.

Please forgive us so that we may move on and be the people you want us to be;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

The Bishop pronounces God's forgiveness, and the People respond 'Amen'.

The Peace

Bishop The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

After exchanging a greeting in the name of the Lord, the People are seated.

Welcome

Offering in Support of Black Higher Education

THE Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal HBCUs supports two institutions affiliated with The Episcopal Church since the 1800s: Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees University in Denmark, South Carolina. Donations to these HBCUs (divided equally between the two) help support scholarships and financial aid for students in need as well as funding for quality facilities, faculty recruitment and retention, and the development of religious life on campus. This is following the tradition of the immediate past Presiding Bishop Michael Curry who stated "That is a living legacy of Absalom Jones, who was born into slavery; his learning how to read led to his eventual emancipation from slavery and his work to bring slavery to an end and bear witness to the Gospel."

Please note that credit card payments and payments by check are subject to handling fees. Zelle payments, on the other hand, are not. If you wish to ensure that the full value of your offering reaches its intended users and your bank offers Zelle payments, we invite you to submit your payment via Zelle, to NYCHAPTERUBE@gmail.com. Memo "AJfund for HBCUs".

If you wish to make a credit card donation, please use the URL <https://bit.ly/48QEuGy>

Or QR Code



To donate by check, please make it payable to "Union of Black Episcopalians," memo: "Absalom Jones Fund", and mail it to:

Mabel Wernham, Treasurer
2040 Bruckner Blvd. Apt 14A
Bronx, NY 10473

Offertory Anthem

All are welcome to join in song.

This Little Light of Mine

Poet Gold/ Derrick Cross
and the Festival Choir

THIS little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

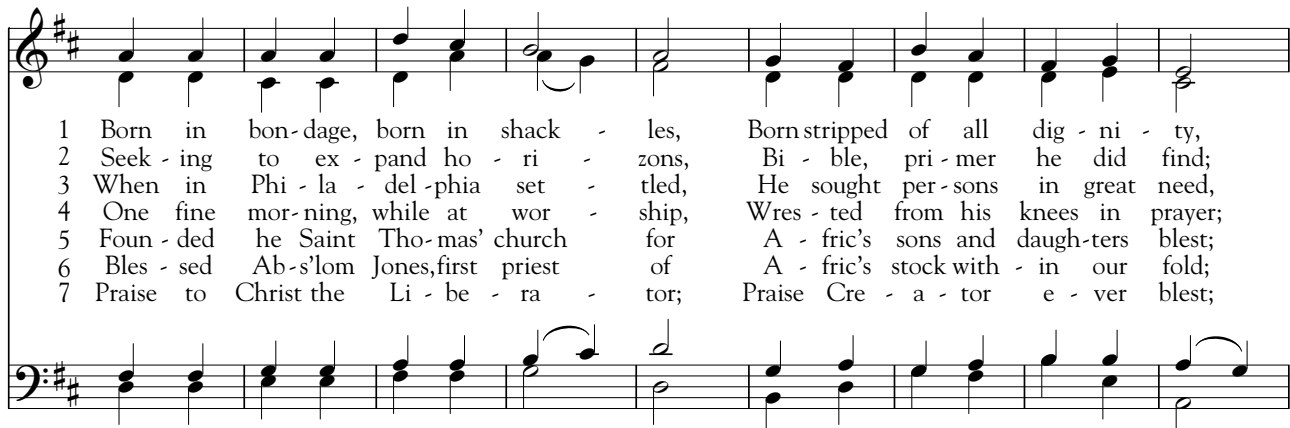
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

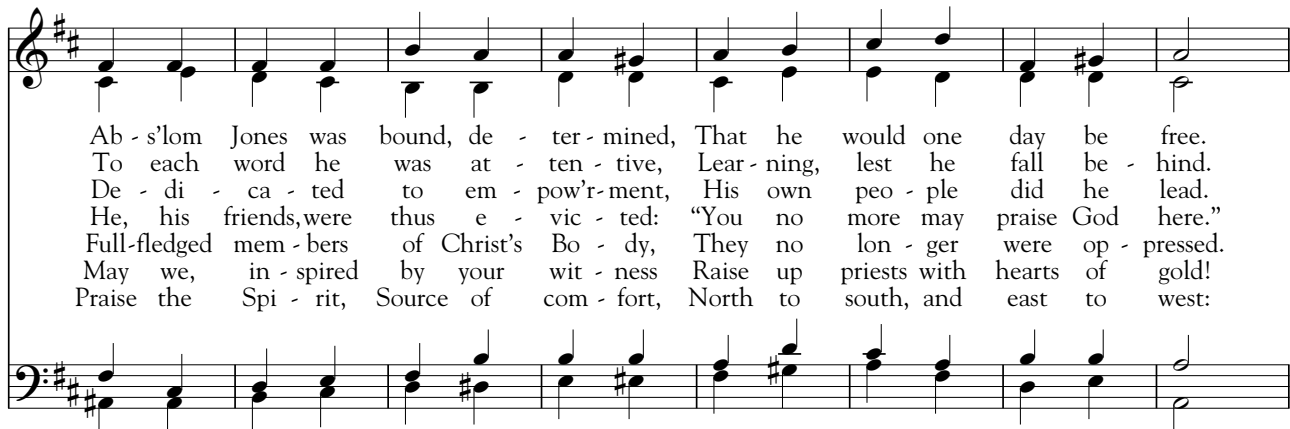
The People stand, as able.

Presentation Anthem

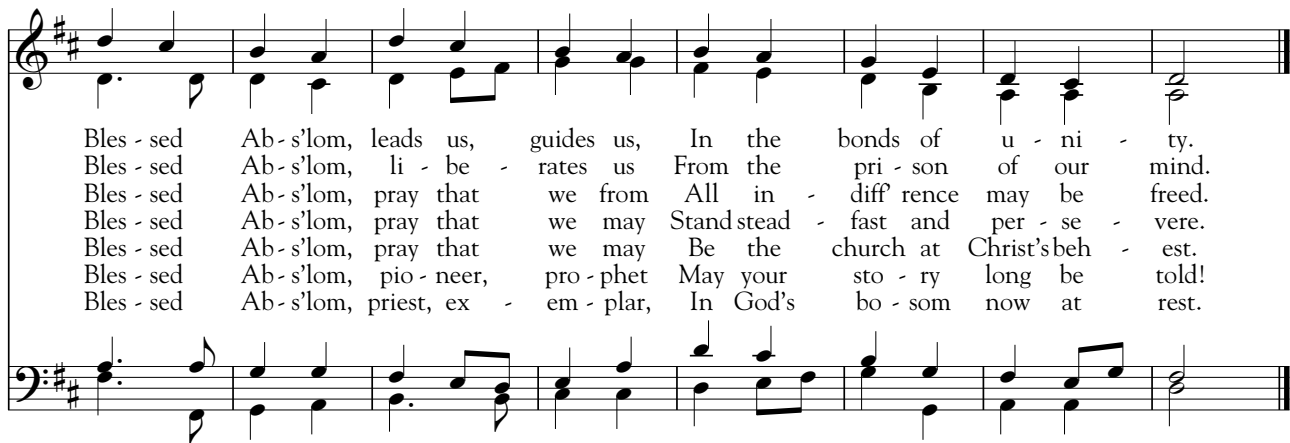
Led by the Festival Choir.



1 Born in bon-dage, born in shack - les, Born stripped of all dig - ni - ty,
 2 Seek - ing to ex - pand ho - ri - 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 mor - ning, while at wor - ship, Wres - ted from his knees in prayer;
 5 Foun - ded he Saint Tho - mas' church for A - fric's sons and daugh - ters blest;
 6 Bles - sed Ab - s'lom Jones, first priest of A - fric's stock with - in our fold;
 7 Praise to Christ the Li - be - ra - tor; Praise Cre - a - tor e - ver blest;



Ab - s'lom Jones was bound, de - ter - mined, That he would one day be free.
 To each word he was at - ten - tive, Lear - ning, lest he fall be - hind.
 De - di - ca - ted to em - pow'r - ment, His own peo - ple did he lead.
 He, his friends, were thus e - vic - ted: "You no more may praise God here."
 Full - fledged mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, They no lon - ger were op - pressed.
 May we, in - spired by your wit - ness Raise up priests with hearts of gold!
 Praise the Spi - rit, Source of com - fort, North to south, and east to west:



Bles - sed Ab - s'lom, leads us, guides us, In the bonds of u - ni - ty.
 Bles - sed Ab - s'lom, li - be - rates us From the pri - son of our mind.
 Bles - sed Ab - s'lom, pray that we from All in - diff' rence may be freed.
 Bles - sed Ab - s'lom, pray that we may Stand stead - fast and per - se - vere.
 Bles - sed Ab - s'lom, pray that we may Be the church at Christ's beh - est.
 Bles - sed Ab - s'lom, pio - neer, pro - phet May your sto - ry long be told!
 Bles - sed Ab - s'lom, priest, ex - em - plar, In God's bo - som now at rest.

Words: Harold T. Lewis (1947-2021)

Music: *Lauda Anima*, John Goss (1869)

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing.

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Bishop continues

WE praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

Sung by the Festival Choir.

Welcome Table Mass

Arr. Dr. Kim Harris and
Rodger Holland

HOLY, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Bishop continues

GLORY and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Blessed Mary the Godbearer, Blessed John the Divine, Blessed Absalom Jones, and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

People AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer*Sung by the Festival Choir.**The Lord's Prayer*

Albert Hay Malotte (1895–1964)



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

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

Forever

Forever

Amen

Amen

The Breaking of the Bread*Bishop* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.*People* We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**Agnus Dei***Sung by the Festival Choir.**Agnus Dei*

Arr. Kim Harris and Rodger Holland



LAMB of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Invitation to Communion*Bishop* The Gifts of God for the People of God.*The People then sit.*

You are welcome to receive Communion. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive Communion, please inform an usher and we will bring Communion to your seat.

Anthems*Sung by the Festival Choir.**I Am His Child* Moses Hogan / Neue Wiener Stimmen,
composer/ arranger*Christ Church New Brighton Staten Island Choir,
directed by Jana Ballard**Accompanied by Jeannine Otis*

I MAY not be all that you are
 I may not be a shining star
 But what I am
 I thank the Lord
 For making me His child

I may not be all that you are
 I may not be a shining star
 But what I am
 I thank the Lord
 For making me His child

Thank You Lord for hearing every prayer
 Thank You Lord for just being there
 Thank You Lord, Thank You Lord
 For I am not worthy of Your love

I may not be all that you are
 I may not be a shining star
 But what I am
 I thank the Lord

For making me His child
 Thank You Lord for hearing every prayer
 Thank You Lord for just being there
 Thank You Lord, Thank You Lord
 For I am not worthy of Your love

I may not be all that you are
 I may not be a shining star
 But what I am
 I thank the Lord
 For making me His child
 So, don't use me or abuse me
 For I am His child
 Don't tease me or mistreat me
 For I am still His child
 You can even talk about me
 But I am still His child

Improvisation on *Total Praise*Jae Lee, *pianist**The People stand, as able.***Post Communion Prayer***Bishop* Let us pray.*All say together*

GOD of abundance, you have fed us with the bread
 of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with
 Christ and one another; and you have made us one
 with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us
 forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim
 your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in
 the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The African-American National Anthem

Led by Malik Jardine, Tara Nachtigal, and Naomi Randolph.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the har - mo - ny of
 2 Sto - ny the road we trod, bit - ter the chast-'ning rod, felt in the days when hope un -
 3 God of our wear - y years, God of our si - lent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far

lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the list - 'ning_ skies; let it re -
 born_ had died; yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wear - y_ feet come to the
 on_ the way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the_ light; keep us for

sound loud as the roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
 place for which our par - ents sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
 ev - er in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we

taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us; fac - ing the
 wa - tered; we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, out from the
 met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee; shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry_ is won.
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at_ last, where the white gleam of our bright star_ is cast.
 neath thy hand may we for ev - er_ stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Words: James Weldon Johnson
 Music: J. Rosamond Johnson

The Blessing & Dismissal

The Bishop blesses the People, and the People respond "Amen."

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn in Procession

Sung by All.

1 We are march - ing in the light of God, We are march-ing in the
 2 Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha nyen'kwen-khos', si - ya hamb' e - ku - kha -
 3 Mar - cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios, Mar - cha - re - mos en la

light of God, We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march-ing in the
 nyen'kwen-khos. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen'kwen-khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku kha-
 luz de Dios. Mar-cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios, mar - cha - re - mos en la

(God.) _____
 (- khos'.) _____
 (Dios.) _____ (Oo) _____

light of, the light of God. We are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing,
 nyen'kwen, kha nyen'kwen-khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba,
 luz de la luz de Dios. Mar-cha - re - mos, re - mos, mar-cha - re - mos,

(God.) _____
 (- khos'.) _____
 (Dios.) _____

march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of, the light of God. We are march-ing,
 ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha nyen'-kwen, kha nyen'kwen-khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba,
 re - mos, mar-cha - re - mos en la luz de la luz de Dios. Mar-cha - re - mos,

(Oo) _____

march-ing, we are march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God. _____
 ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen'kwen - khos'. _____
 re - mos, mar-cha - re - mos, re - mos, mar-cha - re - mos en la luz de Dios. _____

Words: South African; Spanish words, Bernardo Murray (b. 1965)

Music: *Siyahamba*, South African

PostludeToccatà on *Amazing Grace*

C. Pardini

Malik Jardine, *Organ*

Music for the Reception provided by Charle Lovell & Company

Participants**Celebrant**The Right Reverend Matthew F. Heyd
*17th Bishop of New York***Bishop and the Bishop's Staff**The Right Reverend Allen K. Shin
*Bishop Suffragan of New York*The Reverend Canon Alissa Newton
*Canon to the Ordinary***Preacher**The Right Reverend Carlye F. Hughes
*11th Bishop of Newark***Deacons**The Reverend Deacon Cindy McCloskey, *Table Deacon*
*Saint John's & Saint Mary's (Castleton) Church, Staten Island*The Reverend Deacon Shirley M. Lawson, *Table Deacon*
*Saint Margaret's Church Staatsburg*The Reverend Deacon Pedro Rodriguez, *Gospeler*
*All Saints Church, Bronx*The Reverend Deacon Marcia Callendar, *Gospeler*
*Saint Michael's Church, Manhattan***Readers**Lazarus Haronua
*Saint Philip's, Manhattan*Rebekkah Bek
*Congregation of Saint Saviour at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine***Leaders of the Prayers***In Order of the Intercessions*Aiden Browne
*Saint Peter's, Peekskill*Jude Afere
*Saint Luke's, Bronx*Valerie Cherièl
*The Haitian Episcopal Church of The Good Samaritan, Bronx*Rina Nagaya
*Congregation of Saint Saviour at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine*Modou Diop
*El Barrio Angels at Saint Edward the Martyr, Manhattan*Yaya Samba Sy
*El Barrio Angels at Saint Edward the Martyr, Manhattan*Guadalupe Guerrero
*La Iglesia de Buen Pastor/Good Shepherd, Newburgh*Jonah Joseph
*All Saints' Church, Bronx*Irma Machado
*La Iglesia de Buen Pastor/Good Shepherd, Newburgh*Daryl Lewis
*Saint Ann's Church for the Deaf, Manhattan*Gabriel Wooden
*Congregation of Saint Saviour at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine***Leader of Confession**Ian Lukanich
*Christ Church Riverdale, Bronx***Minister of Ceremony**Lorraine Simmons
*Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine***Production Managers**Zackary Mellert
*Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine*Erick Solano
*Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine***American Sign Language Interpreters**

Patrice Harrington

Bernadine Virani

Spanish Language InterpreterThe Reverend Anahi Galante
Episcopal Diocese of New York

Participating Congregations and Organizations

All Saints' Church, Bronx
 All Saints' Church, Manhattan
 All Souls' Church, Manhattan
 Christ Church, Red Hook
 Christ Church New Brighton, Staten Island
 Christ Church Riverdale, Bronx
 Eglise Française du Saint-Esprit, Manhattan
 Grace Church/La Gracia, White Plains
 Grace Church (West Farms), Bronx
 Haitian Episcopal Church of The Good Samaritan, Bronx
 Holy Rood Church / Iglesia Santa Cruz, Manhattan
 La Iglesia de Buen Pastor/Good Shepherd, Newburgh
 Saint Andrew's Church, Bronx
 Saint Andrew's Church, Manhattan
 Saint Ann's Church, Bronx
 Saint Ann's Church for the Deaf, Manhattan
 Saint Bartholomew's Church, Manhattan
 Saint Bartholomew's Church, White Plains
 Saint James Church (Fordham), Bronx
 Saint John's Church, Westchester
 Saint John's & Saint Mary's (Castleton) Church,
 Staten Island
 Saint Luke's Church, Bronx
 Saint Margaret's Church (Longwood), Bronx
 Saint Margaret's Church, Staatsburg
 Saint Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery, Manhattan
 Saint Mary's Church (Manhattanville), Manhattan
 Saint Michael's Church, Manhattan
 Saint Paul's and Trinity Parish, Tivoli
 Saint Peter's, Manhattan

Saint Peter's, Peekskill
 Saint Philip's Church, Manhattan
 The Cathedral Congregation of Saint Savior
 at The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, Manhattan
 The Church of Saint Edward the Martyr, Manhattan
 The Church of Saint Luke in the Field Church, Manhattan
 The Church of the Crucifixion, Manhattan
 The Church of the Good Shepherd, Bronx
 The Church of the Heavenly Rest, Manhattan
 The Church of the Holy Innocents, Highland Falls/
 Saint Mark's Chapel, Fort Montgomery
 The Church of the Mediator, Bronx
 The Church of the Transfiguration, Manhattan
 Trinity Church, Manhattan
 Trinity Episcopal Church, New Rochelle

Participating Organizations

El Barrio Angels at Saint Edwards the Martyr Church,
 Manhattan
 Episcopal Church Women
 Jamel Gaines Creative Outlet Dance Company
 Jazz House Kids, Montclair, New Jersey
 Metropolitan Japanese Ministry
 The Order of the Daughters of the King chapters:
 Daughters of Bethany Chapter, Christ Church Riverdale,
 Bronx
 The Gladys Clark Chapter, Saint Philip's Church,
 Manhattan
 Saint Luke's Church, Bronx
 Union Black Episcopalians New York Chapter

About the Preacher: The Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes, 11th Bishop of Newark



ON May 19, 2018, the Rev. Carlye J. Hughes was elected as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Newark on the first ballot. Upon her consecration on September 22, 2018 at NJPAC, she became the first woman and African American to serve as bishop of this diocese.

Bishop Hughes is a life-long Episcopalian, who was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and raised in Ft. Worth, Texas. She earned a B.A. in Drama from the University of Texas in Austin, and for 20 years she made her home in New York City, while pursuing a career in Human Resources as a corporate trainer, mostly in the hotel industry.

While in NYC she discerned a call to the priesthood and attended Virginia Theological Seminary, earning a M.Div. in 2005. After a Lilly Fellowship at St. James' Church in New York City, she was called to serve as rector first at St. Peter's Church, Peekskill, NY; and most recently at Trinity Church, Ft. Worth, TX where she was the first African American priest and first woman rector to serve in the Ft. Worth diocese. She describes her ministry there as one in which she helped others "discover the ways they are called to serve God and God's people... supporting, encouraging, and empowering them to go and do what God created them to do." Because, Hughes stated, "Today's church is not one that can rest on the past while waiting for people to come and ask about the faith. Instead God is guiding us to be active participants in the world. An important element of my ministry... is to nurture and guide our capacity to build relationships with neighbors locally or on the other side of the globe."

Bishop Hughes has been active on the Board of Trustees of The Virginia Theological Seminary; as a member of the Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Convention Chaplain in the Diocese of New York, and in the former Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth as a member of the Standing Committee and as a General Convention Deputy. At the churchwide level, she has served the General Convention on the Task Force on the Study of Marriage and the Racial Justice & Reconciliation.

Bishop Hughes is married to David Smedley.

Absalom Jones Commemoration Planning Committee

Roberta Todd

Project Manager, Christ Church Riverdale, Bronx

Carla Burns

Co-Chair, Church of the Holy Innocents, Highland Falls

Earl K.D. Francis

Co-Chair, Saint Andrew's Church, Manhattan

Deborah Allen

Christ Church Riverdale, Bronx

Wendy Canas

Saint Ann's Church, Bronx

The Reverend Canon Victor H Conrado

*Canon for New York City;
Director for Congregational Development*

Tivuan Cooper

Saint Bartholomew's Church, Manhattan

Justin Denhart

Church of Saint Edward the Martyr, Manhattan

The Reverend Lisha Epperson

Saint Peter's Chelsea, Manhattan

Louise Hannibal

Saint Philip's Church, Manhattan

Harry Johnson

*Congregation of Saint Saviour at the Cathedral Church
of Saint John the Divine*

Myra Langford

Saint Andrew's Church, Manhattan

The Reverend Canon Steven Lee

Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, Manhattan

Louise Lewis

Saint Philip's Church, Manhattan

Zackery Mellert

Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, Manhattan

Lorraine Simmons

Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, Manhattan

Jeannine Otis

Saint Mark's Church -in -the-Bowery, Manhattan

The Reverend Canon K. Jeanne Person

*Christ Church of Red Hook;
Saint Paul's and Trinity Parish, Tivoli*

Diane B. Pollard

Church of the Heavenly Rest, Manhattan

Kyoko Toyama

*Congregation of Saint Saviour at the Cathedral Church
of Saint John the Divine, Metropolitan Japanese Ministry*

Kent Tritle

Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, Manhattan

Mabel Wernham

Saint Philip's Church, Manhattan

Yaniris Urbaz

Holy Rood / Iglesia Santa Cruz, Manhattan

We remember with gratitude William E. Randolph, Jr., who with Jeannine Otis co-directed the music for the annual Absalom Jones Commemoration from its initial service at the Cathedral in 2012 through 2021. Bill entered the greater life in 2021, yet his spirit still resides in our celebration.

Music Planning Subcommittee

Kent Tritle, Advisor

Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine

Jeannine Otis, Co-Coordinator of Music and Liturgy

Saint Mark's Church-in -the-Bowery, Manhattan

Justin Denhart, Co-Coordinator of Music and Liturgy

Church of Saint Edward the Martyr, Manhattan

Jana Ballard

*Music Director Christ Church New Brighton,
Staten Island Youth Choir*

The Reverend Lisha Epperson

Saint Peters Chelsea, Manhattan

Malik Jardine

Christ Church Riverdale, Bronx

Jae Lee

*Instructor at The Juilliard School and
The Episcopal Network Music Director*

Charles Lovell

Saint Philip's Church, Manhattan

Tara Nachtigal

Christ Church Riverdale, Bronx

Naomi Randolph

Christ Church Riverdale, Bronx

Darrell Smith Ph.D.

Artistic Director of Jazz House Kids, Montclair, NJ

Absalom Jones, Priest (1746–1818)

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, Wynkoop permitted Absalom to attend a night school for black people 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 like Wynkoop 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 also saved enough money to buy property and Absalom's freedom. Yet Wynkoop repeatedly refused Absalom's request to buy his freedom. Absalom persisted, however, because as long as Absalom was enslaved, Wynkoop could take his property and money. Finally, in 1784, Wynkoop relented and 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 at 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 of 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; and 3) that Absalom Jones be licensed as lay reader, and, if qualified, ordained as minister. In October 1794, the congregation 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 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. Jones died on February 13, 1818.

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