

A JOINT EUCHARIST IN CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ABSALOM JONES

12 FEBRUARY 2023

10:00 A.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church Tallahassee, Florida





bsalom 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 layreader, 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. Jones died on February 13, 1818. *[From Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022]*

The Word of God

Tower Bells

Processional Hymn All stand as they are able.



- 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
 - Blessed Abs'lom, pray that we ma 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.

The Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

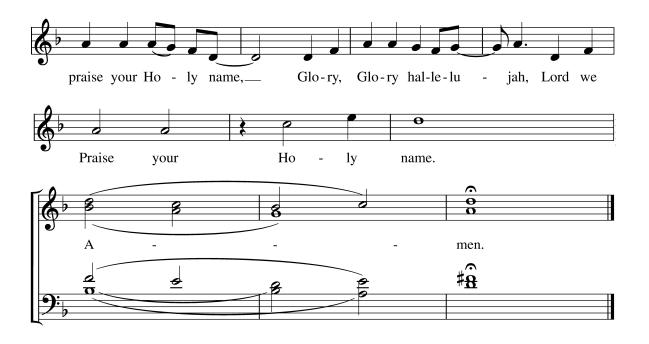
The Celebrant continues

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*.

Song of Praise







The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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*.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

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. [Isaiah 42:5-9]

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians:

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner 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. [Ephesians 4:1-6]

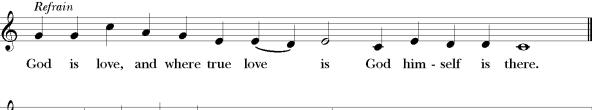
The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 Prayed in unison

- 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.

Sequence Hymn All stand as they are able.







The Holy Gospel

All standing as they are able, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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." [John 15:12-15]

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Hugh Chapman Rector of St. Michael and All Angels

People

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

All stand as they are able.

Fr. Lacy Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil

and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People I do.

Fr. Chapman Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

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

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Fr. Chapman Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Fr. Lacy Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and

fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Fr. Chapman Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever

you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

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

People I will, with God's help.

Fr. Chapman Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Fr. Lacy Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,

and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Fr. Chapman concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen*.

The Prayers of the People

All kneel as they are able. An appointed Leader offers the following petitions.

O Lord our God, Father of all, as we gather in your presence today, two parishes but one people, accept our humble petitions that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. *Amen*.

That, following the example of Blessed Absalom Jones, your Church may seek repentance, reconciliation, and restoration and reflect to the world the Beloved Community you desire us to be, we pray to you, Lord God.

Give us grace, O Lord, to accept the call to be agents of reconciliation and bearers of peace.

That those entrusted with authority in our city, state, and nation may support the changes needed to exercise leadership and promote healing in an authentic, responsible, and peaceful manner, we pray to you, Lord God.

Give us grace, O Lord, to accept the call to be agents of reconciliation and bearers of peace.

That the fullness of justice and compassion may be extended to all victims and families who have known the anguish of violence, abuse, discrimination, murder, or the threat thereof, we pray to you, Lord God.

Give us grace, O Lord, to accept the call to be agents of reconciliation and bearers of peace.

That our communities and schools may find ways to actively participate in efforts to eliminate violence, that our country may take the lead in fostering conditions for healing racial division, we pray to you, Lord God.

Give us grace, O Lord, to accept the call to be agents of reconciliation and bearers of peace.

That we may be strengthened in our bonds of affection as today marks the beginning of a new relationship between St. Michael & All Angels and St. John's, we pray to you, Lord God.

Give us grace, O Lord, to accept the call to be agents of reconciliation and bearers of peace.

That we may be courageous in living out the Gospel, we pray to you, Lord God.

Give us grace, O Lord, to accept the call to be agents of reconciliation and bearers of peace.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds the following Collect.

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The Confession and Absolution

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory

Special envelopes in the pews are available to direct your offering either to St. Michael & All Angels or to St. John's. Today's loose offering—including all loose cash and any undesignated checks—will go to support our local chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians.



The Union of Black Episcopalians stands in the continuing tradition of more than 200 years of Black leadership in the Episcopal Church. Beginning with the establishment of St. Thomas Episcopal Church by Absalom Jones in 1794 in the city of Philadelphia through the election of Barbara Harris as Suffragan bishop of Massachusetts, there has always been a strong corps of Black Christians in the Episcopal Church. People like James Holly, Henry Delaney, John Walker, Tollie Caution, Charles Lawrence, Deborah Harmon Hines, and countless others.

Organized in 1968 as the Union of Black Clergy and Laity, the Union is the proud inheritor of the work of these people and earlier organizations, the Convocation of Colored Clergy, the Conference of Church Workers Among Colored People, all dedicated to the ministry of Blacks in the Episcopal Church. The name was changed to the Union of Black Episcopalians in 1971.

The Union of Black Episcopalians is a confederation of more than 55 chapters and interest groups throughout the continental United States and the Caribbean. Learn more about our local chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians during our reception in Alfriend Hall today.

Offertory Hymn (All sing)





Presentation of the Gifts All stand as they are able.



The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The People remain standing. The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 the chosen vessels of your grace, and the lights of the world in their generation. 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



The People kneel as they are able. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Evangelist, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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*.

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

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

Refrain (sung by all):



Verse (sung by the choir):

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Refrain

The Celebrant says

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Solo

I want Jesus to walk with me Chris White, baritone

Communion Hymn..... Let us break bread together

- Let us break bread together on our knees.
 Let us drink wine together on our knees.
 Let us break bread together
 Let us drink wine together
 - Let us break bread together on our knees.
 - When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

- on our knees.
 Let us drink wine together
 on our knees.
 When I fall on my knees,
 - when I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, Oh Lord, have mercy on me.
- Let us praise God together on our knees.
 Let us praise God together on our knees.
 When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Communion Hymn......This little light of mine

- This little light of mine,
 I'm goin'a let it shine.
 This little light of mine,
 I'm goin'a let it shine.
 This little light of mine,
 I'm goin'a let it shine.
 Let it shine, let it shine,
 let it shine.
- 2. Everywhere I go,
 I'm goin'a let it shine.
 Everywhere I go,
 I'm goin'a let it shine.
 Everywhere I go,
 I'm goin'a let it shine.
 Let it shine, let it shine,
 let it shine.
- 3. All through the night,
 I'm goin'a let it shine.
 All through the night,
 I'm goin'a let it shine.
 All through the night,
 I'm goin'a let it shine.
 Let it shine, let it shine,
 let it shine.

Communion Hymn......In Christ there is no East or West

- 1. In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North; but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2. In him shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord close-binding human kind.
- 3. Join hands disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be!
 Who serves my Father as a son is surely kin to me.
- 4. In Christ now meet both East and West, in him meet South and North; all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

Postcommunion Prayer

The People kneel as they are able.

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Priest may bless the people.

Processional Hymn All stand as they are able.





The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses the people with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Tower Bells

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for the parishes of St. John's & St. Michael and All Angels and in celebration of Sandra Howard's birthday, for all she does for so many, from her adoring family.

All are invited to a reception in Alfriend Hall.

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