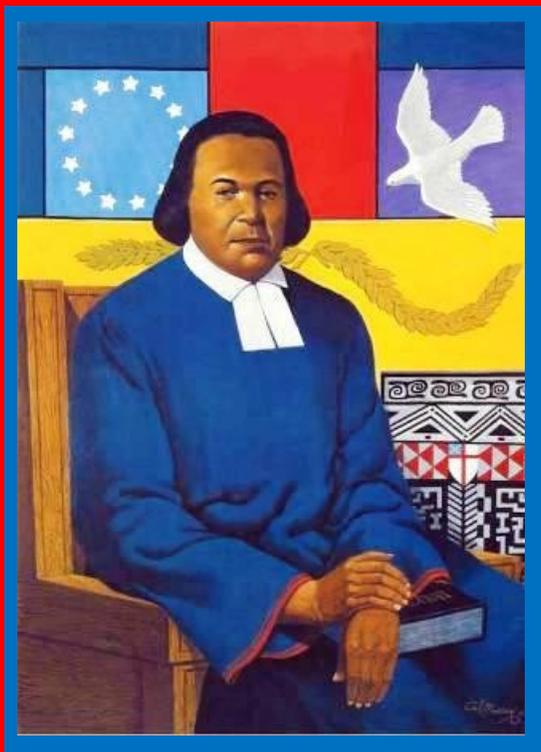


**THE ANNUAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK CELEBRATION  
OF  
THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF  
THE REVEREND ABSALOM JONES**

*The First Person of African Descent Ordained a Deacon and Priest in  
The Episcopal Church*



**Sunday, February 14, 2021**

**Three O'clock in the Afternoon**

***Celebrant:***

***The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, XI Bishop of Newark***

***Guest Preacher:***

***The Rt. Rev. Dr. Prince G. Singh, VIII Bishop of Rochester***



***Sponsored by the  
Newark Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians***



# Absalom Jones

1746 – February 13, 1818



Absalom Jones was born into slavery in 1746 in Sussex County, Delaware. He taught himself to read out of the New Testament, among other books. When sixteen, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia. There he attended a night school for Blacks, operated by Quakers. At twenty, he married another slave and purchased her freedom with his earnings.

Jones bought his own freedom in 1784. At St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, he served as a lay minister for its Black membership. The active evangelism of Jones and that of his friend, Richard Allen, greatly increased Black membership at St. George's. The alarmed white leadership of the church decided to segregate Blacks into an upstairs gallery, without notifying them. During a Sunday service when ushers attempted to remove them, the Blacks indignantly walked out in a body.

In 1787, Black Christians organized the Free African Society, the first organized Afro-American society, and Absalom Jones and Richard Allen were elected overseers. Members of the Society paid monthly dues for the benefit of those in need. The Society established communications with similar Black groups in other cities. In 1792, the Society began to build a church, which was dedicated on July 17, 1794.

The African Church 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 local affairs; and 3) that Absalom Jones be licensed as lay reader, and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794 the church was admitted as St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Bishop William White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795, and as priest in 1804.

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 own flock and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. 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.

—adapted from the *Absalom Jones biography in Lesser Feasts and Fasts*

*The portrait of Absalom Jones, shown above, was completed sometime prior to the winter of 1810 and displays a dignity that was only rarely accorded to African-American subjects in 19th century art. The half-length portrait shows Jones in ecclesiastical robes, with a Bible in hand. Its style is simple and reminiscent of formal paintings of European clergy. The portrait was highly unusual in a period when just the busts or heads of Black people were typically depicted. It reveals the dignity and respect that Absalom Jones' character demanded. The portrait was painted by Raphaele Peale, the oldest surviving child of prominent Philadelphia portraitist Charles Willson Peale. — modified from an article by the rector in the March/April 2006 Messenger of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Englewood.*

# CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE REVEREND ABSALOM JONES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021  
THE GATHERING RITE

**Prelude:** *The Lord's Prayer* H.A.I.L (Here Am I Lord) Liturgical Dance Company

**Opening Hymn:** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (LEVAS II: 109)

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge,  
Take it to the Lord in Prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in Prayer.  
In his arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Music: Charles C. Converse (1832-1918)  
Words: Joseph Scriven (1819-1866)

Bishop: We bless God from the North and from the South,

**Respondent: And from the East unto the West we proclaim the greatness of our God.**

Bishop: Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, 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 forever. **Amen.**

### **Invocation of our Ancestors in the Faith**

**Deacon:** We gather today from the four corners of our diocese, people united in faith from the four corners of the earth. What we do this day we do not do alone, nor is it done by ourselves alone, or for ourselves alone.

We are united with our ancestors in the faith, that great long line of women and men on whose shoulders we stand, whose memory still inspires us to be a people of faith, hope and love. So let us now call upon them, known and unknown, named and unnamed, as we, with them, worship in the presence of the living God.

**Leader 1:** Let us turn to the North, source of the great North Wind, and invoke the faithful who went before us: from Margaret of Scotland, Hilda of Whitby, Elizabeth of Hungary, Julian of Norwich and Patrick of Ireland, to Fredrick Douglas, W. E. B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Charles Houston and Thurgood Marshall.

**Respondent: Holy Spirit, mighty wind, gentle breeze, breath of God: Inspire our minds with the wisdom of our ancestors, crowd our imaginations with the vision of your coming reign, and empower our hope that we may build upon the foundation of the prophets and apostles, with Jesus Christ the chief cornerstone. Amen.**

**Leader 2:** Let us turn to the West, place of the setting sun, and invoke the faithful who went before us: from Kamehameha and Emma, King and Queen of Hawaii, the Martyrs of Japan, David Pendleton Oakerhater, missionary of the Cheyenne, to Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, and Alexander Crummell.

**Respondent: Gracious and loving God, you support us throughout the long day until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes: be our light in the darkness that, with the faithful ones who have gone before us, we, too, may find safe lodging and holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.**

**Leader 3:** Let us turn to the South, home of the sun, and invoke the faithful who went before us: from John Coleridge Patteson and his companion Martyrs of Melanesia, the Martyrs of New Guinea, Bernard Mizeki, Martyr of Rhodesia and George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand, to Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks, Jonathan Daniels martyred in Hayneville, Alabama, Medgar Evers, martyred in Jackson, Mississippi, Martin Luther King, Jr., martyred in Memphis, Tennessee, and Malcolm X, martyred in Harlem, and Oscar Romero, martyred in San Salvador.

**Respondent: Almighty God, by your grace you surround us with so great a cloud of witnesses; may we, encouraged by their example, persevere and run the race you have set before us, until at last, through your mercy, we with them attain to your eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.**

**Leader 4:** Let us turn to the East, from whence comes the light of day and the place of our ancient birth, and invoke the faithful who went before us, from the shores of Africa to the coasts of China: from Athanasius, Monica and Augustine of Hippo, to Sergius of Moscow, Channing Moore Williams of China and Japan, Henry Martyn of India and Persia, and the Martyrs of Uganda.

**Respondent: O God, you cause light to rise up in darkness for the godly: Hold us steadfast in the faith of our ancestors who witnessed to your light in days past, that encouraged by their example we may boldly proclaim your presence in our lives as light to the world. Amen.**

**Bishop:** We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

**Respondent: Jesus Christ, Lord of the living and the dead: With each generation your body of believers grows. Thank you for all who have gone before us, for what they achieved and what they learned. Give us strength to do your will, to be your body now. Amen.**

Bishop: Lord, have mercy.  
**Respondent: Christ, have mercy**  
Bishop: Lord, have mercy.

## **The Collect of the Day**

Bishop: The Lord be with you  
**Respondent: And also with you**  
Bishop: Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD:

### A Reading from Isaiah (42: 5-9)

This is what God the LORD says — the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

**Lector:** Listen to what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Una lectura de Isaías (42: 5-9)

Esto es lo que dice Dios el Señor — el Creador de los cielos, que los estira, que esparce la tierra con todo lo que brota de él, que da aliento a su pueblo, y la vida a los que caminan sobre él: "yo, el Señor, te he llamado en rectitud; Te tomaré la mano. Te mantendría y te hará ser un pacto para el pueblo y una luz para los gentiles, para abrir los ojos que son ciegos, para liberar cautivos de la prisión y para liberar de la mazmorra a los que se sientan en la oscuridad.

"Yo soy el Señor; ese es mi nombre! No voy a ceder mi gloria a otro ni a mi alabanza a los ídolos. Mira, las cosas anteriores han tenido lugar, y las cosas nuevas que declaro; antes de que la primavera en ser les anuncio a usted.

**Lector:** Escuche lo que el espíritu está diciendo al pueblo de Dios.

**Gente: Gracias a Dios.**

### Psalm 126 *In convertendo*

- 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.

**Gradual Hymn: *My Faith Looks up to Thee* (LEVAS II: 88)**

1 My faith looks up to thee,  
Thou lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
Take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly thine.

2 May thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be  
A living fire.

3 While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn today,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away;  
Pure, warm, and changeless be  
A living fire.

4 When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold, sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll;  
Blest Savior, then in love,  
Fear and distrust remove,  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul.

Music: Lowell Mason (1792-1872)  
Words: Ray Palmer (1808-1887)

*Please stand as you are able as we prepare to hear the Proclamation of the Gospel*

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to John (15:12-15).

**People: Glory to you, O 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!

**People: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**The Sermon:** The Rt. Rev. Dr. Prince G. Singh, VIII Bishop of Rochester

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon: With all our hearts and with all our minds, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Hear our prayer.”

Let us pray for the Church, the Body of Christ: that we may be unified as one Body of Christ in the world; that we may be mindful and responsive to the needs of those in our community; and that we may be open to everyone, regardless of whom they are, or where they come from.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: Let us pray for all who serve God in the Church: for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they may be visionary and prophetic leaders and faithful ministers of the Word and Sacrament; and for all the baptized, that we might seek and serve the presence of Jesus in every person that we meet. .

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: Let us pray for our nation and its leaders: that our words and actions would promote equality for all people, regardless of race or background; and that our local and national governments would be responsive to the needs of everyone, especially in our local communities. .

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: Let us pray for the world and its entire people: for peace in all communities and nations; for those who are excluded or dismissed because of others’ bias and fear, and that we each may see all people as members of the one human family.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: Let us pray for all who face violence: for an end to all violence between nations and peoples; for those whose homes and neighborhoods are torn because of the actions of others; for those who practice violence, and for those who meet violence with open hands.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: Let us pray for the needs within our communities: that education within our region would be of equal quality for all, and not dependent on the color of your skin, your economic status or the neighborhood you live in; for those who work, that all may receive the pay they need to support their families; and that each person, no matter where they live, would feel safe in their community.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: Let us pray for all who work for justice, peace, and equality in our world: that they might find the strength and endurance to stand up for those who might not have a voice; that they might be bold in their proclamation of what is right; and that the light and love of God may shine through their words and actions.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: Let us pray for all who find themselves in need of God's healing, love, or care: for all who are sick, that they might find healing; for those who feel alone and need to know God's love and care; and for those who are dying, that they might find comfort in God's loving embrace. We especially remember those we name now who are in need of our prayers.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the departed, and for all those who mourn, that we might all take comfort in the hope of the resurrection. We especially remember those whom we name now.

Lord, in your mercy; Hear our prayer.

*Please add your petitions and thanksgivings either aloud or in the silence of your hearts.*

Bishop: Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **AMEN.**

## **Greetings:**

**The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes, XI Bishop of Newark**

**Ms. Marguerite Smith, President of the Union of Black Episcopalians, Newark Chapter**

## **THE OFFERTORY:**

*Your offering supports the Episcopal Church's two Historically Black Colleges and Universities: St. Augustine's University, Raleigh, N.C., and Voorhees College, Denmark, S.C.*

## **Praise Dance: *Total Praise***

Praise Dancers of the Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church

(Music by Richard Smallwood, Choreography by Neil Heywood)

## ***Old Hundredth* (The Hymnal 1982: 380 v.3)**

3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Music: Louis Bourgeois (1510-1559)

Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Bishop: The Lord be with you  
**Respondent:** And also with you  
Bishop: Let us pray.

**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.**

### **Blessing:**

*The Bishop blesses the people.*

### **Closing Hymn:**

*Text on the following page*

### **Dismissal:**

*A Deacon dismisses the assembly and the people respond:* **Thanks be to God**

## Lift Every Voice and Sing (*LEVAS II: 1*)

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning 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.

2 Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning 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 away 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.

3 God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast 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.

Music: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

Words: J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)

## ***Leading Our Celebration***

### ***Celebrant***

The Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes  
*XI Bishop of Newark*

### ***Guest Preacher***

The Right Reverend Dr. Prince G. Singh  
*VIII Bishop of Rochester*

### ***Deacons***

The Reverend Deacon Sun-Hwan Spriggs  
*St. George's Church, Maplewood*

The Reverend Deacon Virginia Whatley  
*Church of the Good Shepherd, Fort Lee*

### ***Invocation of the Ancestors***

Mr. Tarique Morgan  
*St. Agnes and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, East Orange*

Ms. Stephanie King  
*St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Harrington Park*

Mr. Jasper Stone  
*St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Morris Plains*

Dominic Brathwaite  
*St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Montclair*

### ***Lector***

Ms. Amber Thompson-Quartey  
*Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark*

### ***Psalm Leader***

Mr. Dean Green  
*St. Andrew's Church, Newark*

### ***People's Respondents:***

Mr. George Dredde  
*St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Mountain Lakes*  
Ms. Bianca Malone  
*Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church, Orange*

## ***Musicians and Dancers***

### ***Prelude***

H.A.I.L (Here Am I Lord) Liturgical Dance Company  
Sister Kim Wiggins, Director  
Caija Brome-Cumberbatch, Arielle Crawford, Rianna Wiggins,  
Taylor-Rai Wiggins, and Kim Wiggins, Dancers  
*St. Barnabas Anglican Church, St. Michael, Barbados*

### ***Hymns***

Ms. Gail Blache-Gill  
*St. Paul's and Incarnation Episcopal Church, Jersey City*

### ***Offertory***

Praise Dancers from Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church, Orange NJ  
Mr. Neil Heywood, Director  
Dancers:

Neil Heywood	Marquis Philip
Coleen Pierre	Kayla Smith
Na'Jaya Desormes	Kiah Smith
Julian Desormes	Jaden Smith
Patrick Desormes	Leia Calixte
Akeem Kaswarra	Jasmin Diaz
Patience Karungi	Nicholas Diaz
Marvin Preval	Marcelo Diaz

### ***Lift Every Voice And Sing***

Virtual Choir  
Mr. Sal Lagattuta, Music Director  
*St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Mountain Lakes*

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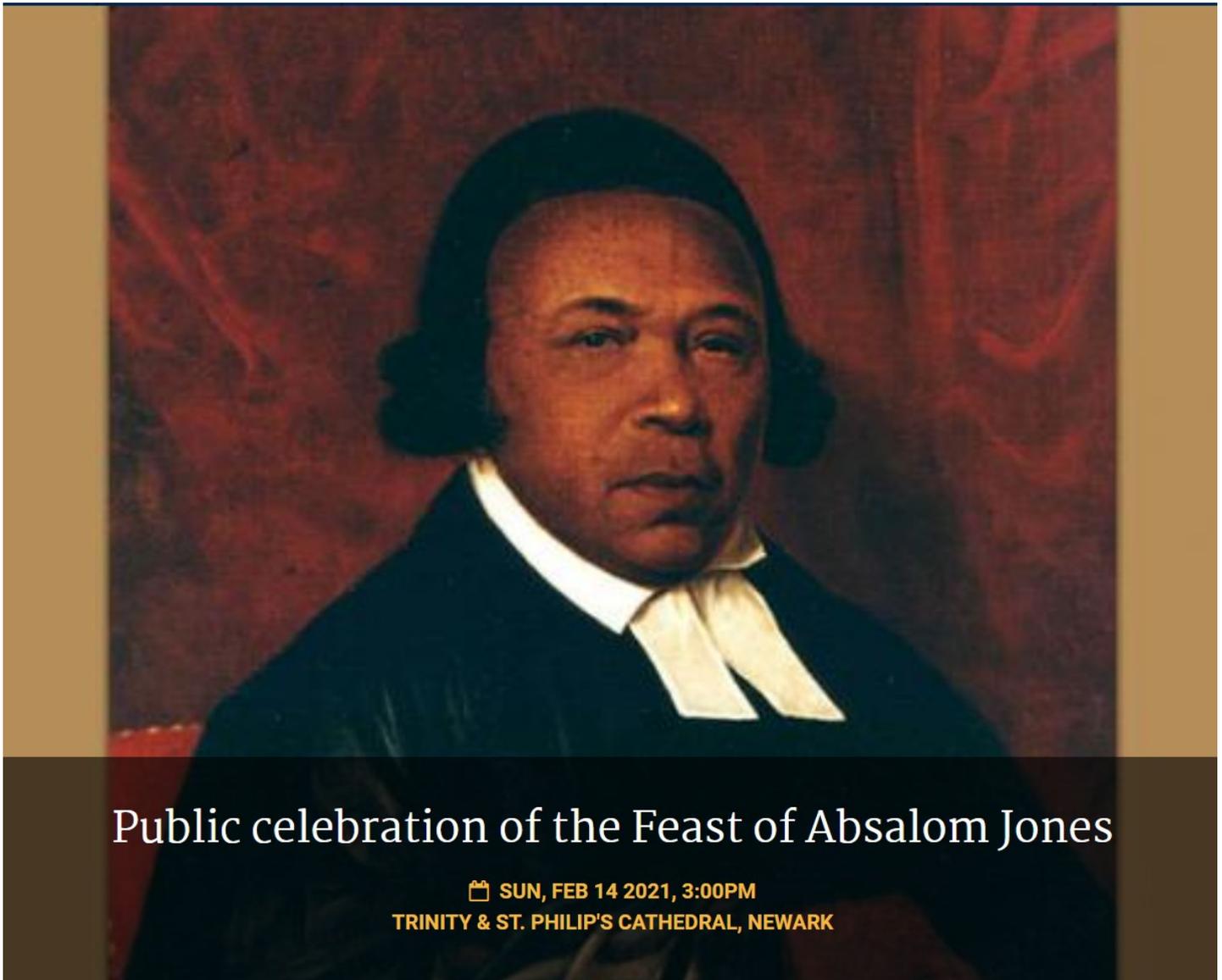
### **Our Guest Preacher**

### **The Rt. Reverend Dr. Prince G. Singh, VIII Bishop of Rochester**

#### **About Bishop Singh:**

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Prince G. Singh serves as the Eighth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, New York. Bishop Singh was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. He graduated from Madras Christian College, Tambaram, and Union Biblical Seminary, both in India. He was ordained a priest in the Church of South India (Anglican Communion) in 1990 and served congregations in rural South India. Bishop Singh holds postgraduate degrees in Practical Theology from Union Theological Seminary, Virginia (1994), from Princeton Seminary (1995), and a Ph.D. from Drew University in Religion and Society (2005). In 2011, Bishop Singh was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from General Theological Seminary in New York City. He served in the Diocese of Newark as Associate Rector at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown New Jersey (1997-2000) and as Rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Oakland, New Jersey, from 2000 until his election as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester in February 2008.





## Public celebration of the Feast of Absalom Jones

📅 SUN, FEB 14 2021, 3:00PM  
TRINITY & ST. PHILIP'S CATHEDRAL, NEWARK

The Diocese of Newark Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians will celebrate the life and ministry of the Rev. Absalom Jones, the first person of African descent ordained a deacon and priest in the Episcopal Church.

The Zoom link for the service will be sent in the *What's happening this week* email on Monday, Feb. 8. To subscribe, go to [dioceseofnewark.org/subscribe](https://dioceseofnewark.org/subscribe).

Offering checks, payable to **Union of Black Episcopalians**, can be mailed to

Church of The Epiphany and Christ Church  
105 Main Street  
Orange NJ 07050