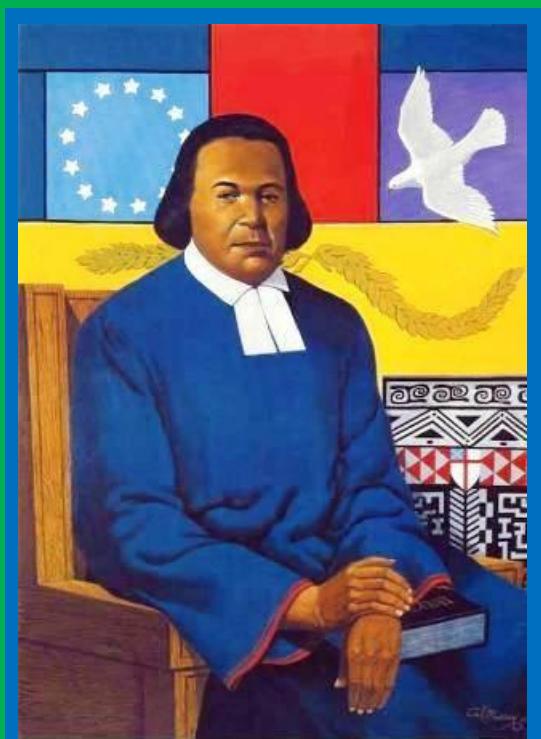


**THE ANNUAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK CELEBRATION  
OF  
THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF  
THE REVEREND ABSALOM JONES**

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



**Sunday, February 13, 2022  
Three O'clock in the Afternoon**

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

Guest Preacher: The Reverend Melvin Wilson  
St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, NJ

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



# Absalom Jones

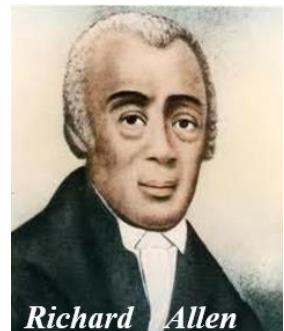
1746 – February 13, 1818

Absalom Jones was born into slavery in 1746 in Sussex County, Delaware. He taught himself to read using the New Testament, among other books. At 16, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia. There, he attended a night school for Blacks, operated by Quakers. At 20, he married another slave and bought her freedom with his earnings.

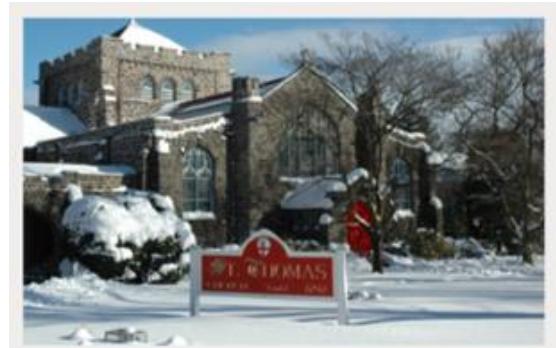


Jones bought his own freedom in 1784. At St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, he served as a lay minister for its Black membership, which greatly increased thanks to the active evangelism of Jones and his friend, Richard Allen. The alarmed White leadership decided to segregate Blacks into an upstairs gallery, without notifying them. When ushers tried to move them in the middle of opening prayers the next Sunday, the Black members walked out.

In 1787, Black Christians organized the Free African Society, the first organized Afro-American society. Jones and Allen were elected overseers. Members paid monthly dues to help those in need. The society established communications with similar Black groups in other cities and built a church that was dedicated on July 17, 1794.



The African Church applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on condition that: 1) they be received as an organized body; 2) they have control over their local affairs; and 3) 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 the Episcopal Church's first deacon of African descent in 1795 and as priest in 1804.



Allen, who wished the group to remain Methodist, left the society in 1793 and later founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

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 the community. St. Thomas Church grew to more than 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 and an article written by James Kiefer at <http://www.missionstclare.com/english/Respondent/feb13.html>

Raphaelle Peale, the oldest surviving child of prominent Philadelphia portraitist Charles Willson Peale, completed the portrait of Absalom Jones, on previous page, before the winter of 1810. It displays a dignity rarely accorded to African-American subjects in 19<sup>th</sup>-century art. Its style is simple and reminiscent of formal paintings of European clergy. The half-length portrait was highly unusual at a time when portraits typically depicted just the busts or heads of Black people. — adapted from an article by the rector in the March/April 2006 Messenger of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Englewood.

## ***WELCOME***

*We are glad you are able to join us in worship this afternoon. Please follow our COVID safety protocol and wear a face covering or mask covering your mouth and nose throughout the service. We also ask that you refrain from singing until the final hymn.*

# **CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE REVEREND ABSALOM JONES**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022**

## **THE GATHERING RITE**

**Prelude:** Praise Dancers of the Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church  
(Total Praise, Music by Richard Smallwood, Choreography by Neil Heywood)

*Please stand as you are able*

## **PROCESSION**

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, Thurgood Marshall, and Pauli Murray.
- 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.  
**Christ, have mercy**  
Bishop Lord, have mercy.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Bishop The Lord be with you  
**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

### Lector **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.**

## **Psalm 126 *In convertendo***

(*Led by the Psalmist*)

- 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**

**Blessed Absalom** (*LEVAS II: 44 – verses 1-5*)

*Led by Soloist*

1 Born in bondage, born in shackles,  
Born stripped of all dignity,  
Abs'lom Jones was bound, determined,  
That he would one day be free.  
Blessed Abs'lom, leads us, guides us,  
In the bonds of unity.

3 When in Philadelphia settled,  
He sought persons in great need,  
Dedicated to empow'rment,  
His own people did he lead.  
Blessed Abs'lom, pray that we from  
All indiff'rence may be freed

2 Seeking to expand horizons,  
Bible, primer he did find;  
To each word he was attentive,  
Learning, lest he fall behind.  
Blessed Abs'lom, liberates us  
From the prison of our mind.

4 One fine morning, while at worship,  
Wrested from his knees in prayer;  
He, his friends, were thus evicted:  
"You no more may praise God here."  
Blessed Abs'lom, pray that we may  
Stand steadfast and persevere.

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

*Please stand as you are able*

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!**

### GRADUAL HYMN

**Blessed Absalom** (*LEVAS II: 44 – verses 6-7*)

*Led by Soloist*

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 SERMON

The Reverend Melvin Wilson

*St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, N.J.*

### 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.

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

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.

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

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

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 Union of Black Episcopalians Diocese of 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.*

*To make an offering online, please visit [www.e-giving.dioceseofnewark.org](http://www.e-giving.dioceseofnewark.org)*

Or send checks payable to Union of Black Episcopalians and mail to  
Church of The Epiphany and Christ Church 105 Main Street Orange, New Jersey 07050  
Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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

*Led by Soloist*

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.

## HOLY COMMUNION

*The Bishop may begin the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Eucharistic Prayer D, BCP, page 372 using the inclusive language text from General Convention 2018*

Bishop God 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 our thanks and praise.**

Bishop

It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

All

**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.**

Bishop

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Holy God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who died and rose for us, you sent the Holy Spirit, your own first gift for those who believe, to complete your work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus 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 Jesus 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."

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

All

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Bishop

God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember Bishop Richard Allen and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Remember Bishop Barbara Harris, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, John Lewis, and Cicely Tyson and all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with blessed Philip the Apostle, with blessed Absalom Jones, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

All

**AMEN.**

Bishop	And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,	As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
All	<p><b>Our Father, who art in heaven,</b>  <b>hallowed be thy Name,</b>  <b>thy kingdom come,</b>  <b>thy will be done,</b>  <b>on earth as it is in heaven.</b>  <b>Give us this day our daily bread.</b>  <b>And forgive us our trespasses,</b>  <b>as we forgive those</b>  <b>who trespass against us.</b>  <b>And lead us not into temptation,</b>  <b>but deliver us from evil.</b>  <b>For thine is the kingdom,</b>  <b>and the power, and the glory,</b>  <b>for ever and ever. Amen.</b></p>	<p><b>Our Father in heaven,</b>  <b>hallowed be your Name,</b>  <b>your kingdom come,</b>  <b>your will be done,</b>  <b>on earth as in heaven.</b>  <b>Give us today our daily bread.</b>  <b>Forgive us our sins</b>  <b>as we forgive those</b>  <b>who sin against us.</b>  <b>Save us from the time of trial,</b>  <b>and deliver us from evil.</b>  <b>For the kingdom, the power,</b>  <b>and the glory are yours,</b>  <b>now and for ever. Amen.</b></p>

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Bishop	[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
All	<b>Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]</b>
Bishop	The Gifts of God for the People of God.
and may add	Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All members of God's household are welcome to receive Communion.  
 Communion during the pandemic is primarily in one kind, the Bread.  
 All benefits of the Sacrament are available in receiving the Bread alone or the Cup alone.*

*Communion will be offered at two standing stations. Six feet of distance and face coverings must be maintained while waiting to receive. After the person in front of you has completely moved away from the Communion station, step forward to receive the Bread. After you are more than six feet away from the Communion station, you may remove your face covering briefly to consume the Bread. Replace your face covering and return to your seat, being careful to avoid proximity to other worshipers.*

*If you do not wish to receive the Sacrament and would like to receive a blessing, please signal that to the Eucharistic Minister by crossing your hands over your chest when you approach them. You do not need to step close to the Communion station for a blessing.*

*If you do not wish to receive Communion or a blessing, remaining in place and offering prayer is very appropriate during this time. No one is required to come forward at Communion.*

*Please let one of the ushers or one of the clergy present know if you would like the Sacrament brought to you.*

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

**Let us Break Bread Together** (*The Hymnal 1982: #325*)      *Led by Soloist*

**1** Let us break bread together on our knees.  
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain: When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord have mercy on me.

**2** Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
Let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]

**3** Let us praise God together on our knees.  
Let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

*After Communion, please stand as you are able and say together*

### **POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER**

All

**Almighty and everliving God,**  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

**And now, Father, send us out**  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

**To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**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)

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*The Bishop blesses the People, and all respond*

All	<b>Amen.</b>
Deacons	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
People	<b>Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!</b>

## POSTLUDE

**We're Marching to Zion** (*LEVAS II*: #12)

## LEADING OUR CELEBRATION

### *Celebrant*

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

### *Guest Preacher*

The Reverend Melvin Wilson  
*St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, NJ*

### ***Deacons***

The Reverend Deacon Danielle D. Baker  
*St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Morristown*

The Reverend Deacon George E. Dredden III  
*St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Mountain Lakes*

### ***Acolytes***

Ms. Stella Hancock  
*St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Oakland/Franklin Lakes*  
Mr. William Miles  
*St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Oakland/Franklin Lakes*  
Ms. Vanessa Wigfall  
*Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark*

### ***Bishop's Canons***

The Reverend Canon Margo Peckham Clark, Canon for Congregational Life  
The Reverend Canon Andrew R. Wright, ThD, Canon to the Ordinary

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

Mr. William Miles  
*St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Oakland/Franklin Lakes*  
Ms. Stella Hancock  
*St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Oakland/Franklin Lakes*  
Ms. Sierra Mohamed  
*St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Oakland/Franklin Lakes*  
Ms. Shayla Graham  
*House of Prayer, Newark*

### ***Lector***

Ms. Sierra Mohamed  
*St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Montclair*

### ***Psalmist***

Ms. Shayla Graham  
*House of Prayer, Newark*

### ***People's Respondent:***

Ms. Marguerite Smith  
*St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Mountain Lakes*

## ***Dancers And Musicians***

### ***Prelude***

Praise Dancers from

Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church, Orange, N.J.

Mr. Neil Heywood, Director

Patrick Desormes

Akeem Kaswarra

NaJaya Desormes

Asimily Patience Karungi

Patrice Maynard

Kiah Smith

Coleen Pierre

Kayla Smith

Ian Richard

Jaden Smith

### ***Organist***

Melvin Calhoun, Organist

*St. Paul's and Incarnation Episcopal Church, Jersey City*

### ***Soloist***

Mrs. Janice Harrison - Aikens

*Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark*

### ***Audio and Video***

Craig Clark

Tony Turner

### ***2022 Absalom Jones Committee and Supporters***

The Reverend Deacon Danielle D. Baker

The Reverend Sharon Sheridan Hausman

Ms. Gail Barkley

Mr. Robert Simmons

Ms. Marguerite Smith

Mr. Cecil Broner, Sexton

Ms. Nina Nicholson

### ***COPYRIGHTS***

“Lift Every Voice and Sing is © 1921, Edward B. Marks Music Company  
All other music is in Public Domain

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service  
obtained from ONE LICENSE: A-708139



***OUR GUEST PREACHER***  
***The Reverend Melvin Wilson***  
*St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, N.J.*

***About Rev. Wilson:***

The Rev. Melvin E. Wilson was born in Cape Charles, Virginia. He is the youngest of two sons. He grew up in Norwalk, Connecticut, and received his early childhood and high school education there. His interests were music and academics.

Rev. Wilson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Connecticut, in 1984. He answered God's call to Christian ministry on May 15, 1981, while in college. After graduation from college, he entered Boston University School of Theology, Boston, Massachusetts, and graduated with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree in May 1987, majoring in New Testament and Pastoral Counseling. Rev. Wilson is presently a candidate in the Doctor of Ministry degree program at New York Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y., and has done post-graduate work at Regent's Park College, Oxford University in Oxford, England. Wilson is regularly consulted on issues related to church growth and evangelism and is often invited by churches of all denominations to preach revivals and lead workshops on various topics. His preaching and teaching assignments have taken him across the United States, Europe, the Caribbean and South America and to South and West Africa.

Rev. Wilson is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and has served as Pastor of five churches in the First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; Bethel A.M.E. Church, Carlisle, Pa.; Allen A.M.E. Church, Atlantic City, N.J.; People's Institutional A.M.E. Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.; St. Luke A.M.E. Church, New York, N.Y.; and St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Cambridge, Mass. He has held financial, executive leadership, and educational positions in the corporate and non-profit world.

Rev. Wilson serves as one of the National Co-Chairs of the African American Ministers Leadership Council for People for the American Way (501©3), a social justice advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. He also represents the A.M.E. Church on the Pan-Methodist Commission, was a member of the Mayor's Clergy Advisory Council of New York City and Mount Vernon, N.Y., and is Chairman of the Ministry of Evangelism of the New Jersey Annual Conference, A.M.E. Church. From November 2013 until June 2018, Wilson served as the Presiding Elder of the Brooklyn-Westchester District of the New York Annual Conference AME Church. On June 16, 2018, he was appointed as the 11th Pastor of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church in Orange, N.J., by Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram. In the Orange community, Wilson serves as a Chaplain for both the City of Orange Police Department and Fire Department. He is also a Chaplain for the Essex County Sheriff's Office and the New Jersey State Police.

Rev. Wilson is married to the former Rev. Leslie Watson Malachi, National Director of African American Religious Affairs for People for the American Way Foundation. They share three adult daughters: Lauren Alexandra, Adrienne Patryce and Olivia Symone; and are grandparents to Grayson and Gabriella Woodson, Lexington Wilson-Woods and Gwendolyn Wilson. He cherishes being a spiritual father/mentor to many others across all denominations. In his leisure time, Rev. Wilson enjoys buying books, traveling, listening to smooth jazz and gospel music, and spending time with close friends. He loves to teach and believes strongly in the words of the Old Testament minor prophet Hosea, who wrote in Hosea 4:6a, "my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge..."

**UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS  
DIOCESE OF NEWARK CHAPTER**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Northeast Regional Conference Saturday, April 30 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM**  
Registration details to follow



**National UBE Conference July 4 – 6, 2022**

**Registration:**  
<https://alliance.wufoo.com/forms/z1bk1op30q9916h/>

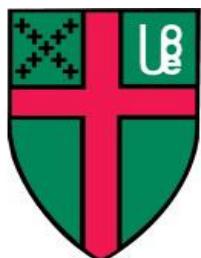
**Scholarship Luncheon June 2022**  
Join us as we celebrate our  
graduating high school students  
Details to follow



**Clara Horsley Celebration of Leadership  
October 2022**

Details to follow

**The Celebration of Absalom Jones**  
February 12, 2023 3pm at Trinity and  
St. Philips Cathedral 608 Broad Street, Newark NJ  
Details to follow



Union of Black Episcopalians Diocese of Newark Chapter  
c/o Epiphany and Christ Church  
105 Main Street  
Orange, NJ 07050