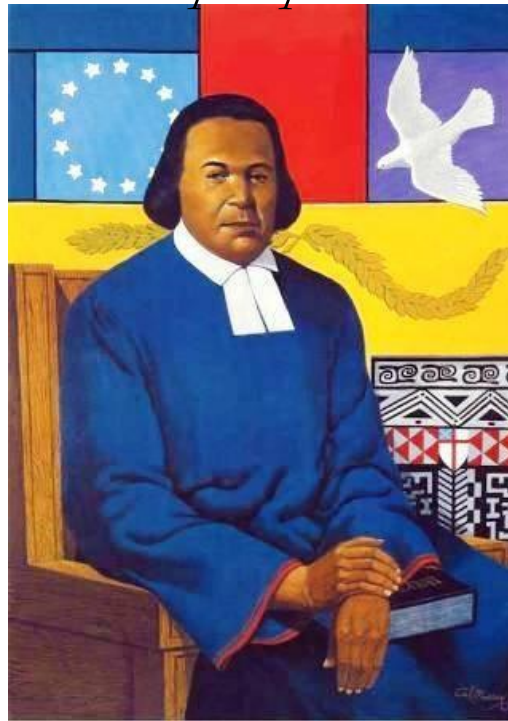


**THE ANNUAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK CELEBRATION
OF
THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF
THE REVEREND ABSALOM JONES**

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



**Sunday, February 12, 2023
Three O'clock in the Afternoon**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/dionewark>

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

**Guest Preacher: The Reverend Leslie Marie Wilson, First Lady
St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, NJ**



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



Blessed Absalom Jones

1746 – FEBRUARY 13, 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



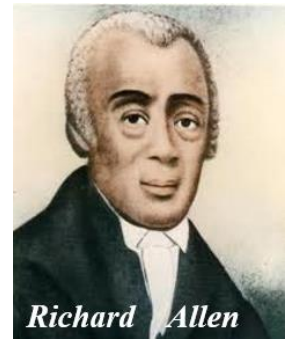
in reading. He also saved money he was given and bought books (among them a primer, a spelling book, and a bible). Abraham Wynkoop died in 1753, and by 1755 his younger son Benjamin had inherited the plantation. When Absalom was sixteen, Benjamin Wynkoop sold the plantation and Absalom's mother, sister, and five brothers. Wynkoop brought Absalom to Philadelphia, where he opened a store and joined St. Peter's Church. In Philadelphia, Benjamin 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 also worshiped 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 purchase 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 worshiping 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 significantly increased Black membership at St. George's. The Black members worked hard to raise money to build an upstairs gallery intended to enlarge the church. The church leadership decided to segregate the Black worshipers 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. The 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

would be received as an organized body; 2) that they would have control over their local affairs; 3) that Absalom Jones would be licensed as lay reader, and, if qualified, be ordained as a 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 antislavery 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 February 13, 1818.

REVISED ABSALOM JONES BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

*By Arthur K. Sudler, William Carl Bolivar - Director
Historical Society & Archives
African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas*

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. Thank you.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE REVEREND ABSALOM JONES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

THE GATHERING RITE

PRELUDE

THE PROCESSION

Please stand as you are able and sing

HYMN We've Come This Far By Faith

LEVAS II: #208

Refrain

We've come this far by faith
Leaning on the Lord
Trusting in His holy word
He never failed me yet
Oh, oh oh oh, oh oh oh
Can't turn around
We've come this far by faith

1 Don't be discouraged
When trouble's in your life
He'll bear your burdens and
Move all misery and strife
That's why *(Refrain)*

2 Just the other day I heard someone say
'They didn't believe in God's word'
But I can truly say that God had made a way
And He never failed me yet
That's why *(Refrain)*

Bishop Blessed be the one, holy and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

INVOCATION OF OUR ANCESTORS IN THE FAITH

*St. Matthew AME Church Liturgical Dance Ministry
Music: Great is thy Faithfulness*

Reader 1 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.

Reader 2 On this day we remember and embrace those who have left this earthly pilgrimage. And 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.

Reader 1 Fredrick Douglas, W. E. B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, Charles Houston, Thurgood Marshall, Reverend Richard Allen and Reverend Absalom Jones, Kamehameha and Emma, King and Queen of Hawaii, David Pendleton Oakerhater, missionary of the Cheyenne, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, and Alexander Crummell.

Reader 2 John Coleridge Patteson and his companion Martyrs of Melanesia, the Martyrs of New Guinea, George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand, Florence Li Tim-Oi, Anna Julia Haywood Cooper, Manche Masemola, Martyr of South Africa, Ida B Wells.

Reader 1 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, Malcolm X, martyred in Harlem, and Oscar Romero, martyred in San Salvador, Desmond Tutu, John Lewis, Reverend Pauli Murray, Bishop Barbara Harris

Reader 2 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.

People **Christ, have mercy**

Bishop Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Bishop The Lord 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 your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Lector A Reading from the prophet 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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.

THE GRADUAL HYMN

Please stand as you are able and sing

HYMN Go Down, Moses

LEVAS II: #228 verses 1-2

1 When Israel was in Egypt's land,
let my people go;
Oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go. (Refrain)

2 The Lord told Moses what to do,
let my people go;
To lead the children of Israel through,
let my people go. (Refrain)

Refrain:

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.

*Deacon
People*

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

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

Go Down, Moses

LEVAS II: #228 verses 3-4

3 They journeyed on at his command,
let my people go;
And come at length to Canaan's land,
let my people go. [Refrain]

4 Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
let my people go;
And let us all in Christ be free,
let my people go. [Refrain]

THE SERMON

The Reverend Leslie Marie Wilson, First Lady

St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, NJ

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.**

Bishop The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

GREETINGS

The Rt. Reverend Carlye J. Hughes, XI Bishop of Newark
Ms. Marguerite Smith, President Union of Black Episcopalians Diocese of Newark Chapter

THE OFFERTORY

Your offering will support the two Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs):
[Saint Augustine's University](#) Raleigh, N.C. and [Voorhees College](#) Denmark, S.C.

To make an offering online, please visit www.e-giving.dioceseofnewark.org Or use the QR Code
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!



St. Matthew AME Church Liturgical Dance Ministry

MUSIC For Every Mountain by Kurt Carr

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.

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 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

**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.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Bishop

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All

Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

Bishop

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All members of God's household are welcome to receive Communion. Gluten-Free Communion wafers are available. If you wish to receive just the Bread, the Eucharistic Minister will place the wafer in your hand to consume. If you wish to have the Bread intinct (dipped into the wine), the Eucharistic Minister will dip the Bread into the Cup and then place it in your hand to consume. If you wish to sip from the chalice, received the Bread, consume it, and then go directly to the chalice and sip from the Cup.

All benefits of the Sacrament are available in receiving the Bread alone or the Cup alone. 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. Please let one of the Ushers or Priests know if you would like the Sacrament brought to you.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Let us Break Bread Together

The Hymnal 1982: #325

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)

I Surrender All

LEVAS II, #133

1 All to Jesus I surrender,
all to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live. (Refrain)

2 All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow;
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,
Take me, Jesus, take me now. (Refrain)

3 All to Jesus I surrender
Make me, Savior, wholly thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that thou art mine. (Refrain)

4 All to Jesus I surrender
Lord, I give myself to thee;
Fill me with thy love and power,
Let thy blessings fall on me. (Refrain)

Refrain: I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

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

POST COMMUNION 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

As you are able, please stand and sing in place.

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.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Bishop blesses the People, and all respond

All **Amen.**

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Altar party departs

POSTLUDE Every Praise by Hezekiah Walker

LEADING OUR CELEBRATION

Celebrant

The Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes
XI Bishop of Newark

Guest Preacher

The Reverend Leslie Marie Wilson, First Lady
St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, NJ

Deacon

The Reverend Deacon Erik Soldwedel
St. Paul's, Paterson

Distinguished Fellow Verger

Eric Ofosuhene
Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark

Crucifer & Acolytes

Mr. Dean Green
St. Andrew's, Newark

Ms. Isaida Velez
Christ Church, Harrison

Ms. Lavina Jango
House of Prayer Episcopal Church, Newark

Ms. Jodie Velez
Christ Church, Harrison

Thurifer

Ms. Vanessa Wigfall
Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark

Banner Bearer

Ms. Roberta A. Moseley
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Morristown

Bishop's Canon

The Reverend Canon Andrew R. Wright, Th.D.

Invocation of our Ancestors in the Faith

The Reverend George E. Dredden, III
Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark

The Reverend Lorraine Harris
Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church, Orange

Lector

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

Psalmist

Ms. Bianca Malone
Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church, Orange

Prayers of the People

The Reverend Danielle D. Baker
St. Paul's, Morris Plains

Dancers

St. Matthew AME Church Liturgical Dance Ministry

St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, NJ

Reverend Crystal Newby-Reynolds, Minister of Liturgical Arts and Youth

Adrian Broadnax

Hawaiian Epps

Robin Lewis

C. Clair Stephens

Lisa Newby-Wallace

Zina Williams

Carol Wright

Organist

Mr. Robert "Buddy" Williams
Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark

Audio, Video and Livestream

Craig Clark
Tony Turner

Eucharistic Ministers

The Reverend Danielle D. Baker
The Reverend George E. Dredde, III
The Reverend Melissa C. Hall
St. James, Upper Montclair
The Reverend Sharon Sheridan Hausman
St. John's, Boonton
The Reverend Deacon Erik Soldwedel
The Reverend Canon Andrew R. Wright, Th.D.

2023 Absalom Jones Committee and Supporters

Ms. Bianca Malone
Mr. Robert Simmons
Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church, Orange
Ms. Marguerite Smith
St Peter's, Mountain Lakes
Mr. Cecil Broner, Sexton
Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark
The Reverend Danielle D. Baker
The Reverend George E. Dredde, III
The Reverend Canon Andrew R. Wright, Th.D.

Our Thanks

With honor and thanks, we acknowledge The Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes; Guest Preacher, The Reverend Leslie Marie Wilson, First Lady; and the gracious hospitality of Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral.

We thank the acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, St. Matthew AME Church Liturgical Dance Ministry, and clergy from around our Diocese whose presence and contributions enriched our worship service today.

We also extend our thanks to Nina Nicholson, Jane Jubilee, and the members of the UBE Diocese of Newark Chapter.

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Our Guest Preacher



The Reverend Leslie Marie Wilson, First Lady St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, N.J.

About First Lady Wilson:

Reverend Leslie Marie Wilson is First Lady of Saint Matthew A.M.E. Church and is the current National Director of African American Religious Affairs (AARA) for People For the American Way and People For the American Way Foundation. As the director, Leslie is responsible for program planning, implementation of the two core programs that make up AARA: African American Ministers Leadership Council (AAMLC – c3) and African American Ministers In Action (AAMIA – c4). She has also created four new opportunities to inform and engage faith leaders: "Healing Grace – Shepherds Gathering: A Dialogue on The Black Church, Stigma, Prejudice and Homophobia," the VESSELS civic education and participation initiative, the Micah Leadership Council for faith leaders under the age of 40, and the VASHTI health and leadership initiative for African American women and girls. AARA endeavors to build a strong association of

progressive clergy, theologians, seminarians and ministry lay leaders who will encourage African American churches and communities to become more civically engaged and promote social justice programs and policies in areas of public education, health care, equal justice, civic participation and economic justice for all. Representing now 2,400 women and men from various Christian traditions across the country, leaders participate in strategic trainings, issue briefings, projects and partnerships to faithfully and effectively provide a prophetic, progressive voice and presence that counters right-wing religious rhetoric and advances a vision of "a beloved community." AARA is essentially a ministry that works with people of faith who believe in help and not harm, power and not pain, and hope in the face of hopelessness.

Recognized by the Center For American Progress as one of "15 Faith Leaders to Watch in 2015," Reverend Wilson is the former national policy director for the Balm In Gilead and served for nine years as the director of the Multicultural Programs Department of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice where she managed and developed La Iniciativa Latina (LIL), the Women of Color Partnership Project (WOCPP), and the National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) which included annual planning of the National Black Religious Summit on Sexuality for African American clergy and laity. Leslie has served as the national coordinator and field director for the National Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and the coordinator of the Public Policy Institute of the Citizenship Education Fund, the 501(c)(3) arm of the Rainbow. She is a master trainer, has received training by several institutions, has written 6 training curriculum (1 award winning) and has provided training to over 28,000 leaders almost exclusively within the African American faith community for over 30 years.

Formerly Leslie Watson Malachi, she is happily married to Reverend Leslie Marie Eugene Wilson, Pastor/Teacher, Saint Matthew A.M.E. Church, Orange, NJ. Leslie attended Southern University (Baton Rouge, LA) majoring in political science, Trinity University (Washington, DC) focusing on business administration, and graduated with a BA in ministry from Richmond Virginia Seminary. A published poet, she recently contributed writings to "Mr. President: Interfaith Perspectives on the Historic Presidency of Barack H. Obama" and "These Sisters Can Preach" (volume 2), published by Sims Publishing Group. Leslie is the oldest and only female of nine siblings.

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hosted by the Diocese of Newark Chapter
"From the Wilderness into the Light"
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Scholarship Luncheon June 24, 2023

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November 18, 2023

Bella Italia

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**The Celebration of Absalom Jones
February 11, 2024, 3pm
Trinity and St. Philips Cathedral
608 Broad Street, Newark NJ**

