



A Service of Rememberance for Blessed Absalom Jones

Saturday, February 19, 2022

10:00 AM

St. Augustine's Chapel

Raleigh, NC

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.

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

3 When in Philadelphia settled,
 He sought persons in great need,
 Dedicated to empow'ement,
 His own people did he lead.

Blessed Abs'lom, pray that we from
 All indiff'rence may be freed.

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.

Blessed Absalom (LEVAS 44)

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.

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.

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

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

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Song of Praise

1. Glory, glory hallelujah
 Since I laid my burden down
 Glory, glory hallelujah
 Since I laid my burden down

2. I feel better, so much better
 Since I laid my burden down
 I feel better, so much better
 Since I laid my burden down

3. Feel like shouting "Hallelujah"
 Since I laid my burden down
 Feel like shouting "Hallelujah"
 Since I laid my burden down

4. I am climbing Jacob's ladder
 Since I laid my burden down
 I am climbing Jacob's ladder
 Since I laid my burden down

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 for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 42:5-9

Read by a member of St. Michael and All Angels

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126*Read by a member of St. Titus*

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 Second Lesson: Galatians 5:1-5*Read by a member of St. Luke's*

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.****Sequence Hymn**

Spirit Song (LEVAS 118)

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you
 with his Spirit and his love;
 Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul
 Oh, let him have the things that hold you,
 and his Spirit, like a dove,
 Will descend upon your life and make you whole

Refrain:
 Jesus, oh, Jesus
 come and fill your lambs.
 Jesus oh Jesus
 Come and fill your lambs

Oh, come and sing the song with gladness
 as your hearts are filled with joy
 Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name
 Oh, give him all your tears and sadness,
 give him all your years of pain,
 And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name

The Gospel: John 15:12-15

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ!**

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father."

Este es Mi mandamiento: que se amen los unos a los otros, así como Yo los he amado. Nadie tiene un amor mayor que este: que uno dé su vida por sus amigos. Ustedes son Mis amigos si hacen lo que Yo les mando. Ya no los llamo siervos, porque el siervo no sabe lo que hace su señor; pero los he llamado amigos, porque les he dado a conocer todo lo que he oído de Mi Padre.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Very Rev. Kim Coleman, President of the Union of Black Episcopalians

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A Litany of Thanksgiving for Absalom Jones *Read by a student from St. Augustine's Chapel*

Written by The Rev. Jemond Taylor, based on "A Thanksgiving Sermon" delivered by Rev. Absalom Jones on January 1, 1808

Bishop: O God of freedom and justice: we celebrate this day your servant, Absalom Jones, the first person of African ancestry ordained in the Episcopal Church.

Empower us to build a world where righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne as we pray: Glory to you, O God, for your precious record of power and goodness; let all the nations of the earth praise you.

Let your church continue the ministry of reconciliation and peace. Help us grow Absalom Jones's ministry of racial justice. Glory to you, O God, for your precious record of power and goodness;

Let all the nations of the earth praise you.

God who hears, you put the tears of our forebearers into your bottle, recording them in your book: help the nations of the world here their citizens concerns by responding to injustice, war and slavery with actions that lead to peace. Glory to you, O God, for your precious record of power and goodness;

Let all the nations of the earth praise you.

God of our ancestors, Blessed Absalom reminded us that just as your chosen people acknowledged a Syrian, ready to perish, was their ancestor, we too must acknowledge that an enslaved African, ready to perish, was our ancestor: endue our elders and leaders with wisdom and vision to reach back with the purpose of moving forward. Glory to you, O God, for your precious record of power and goodness;

Let all the nations of the earth praise you.

God of compassion, you hear your peoples cries and prayers in heaven: accept our intercession and petitions as part of our worship of you. Help us remember that we stand on the prayers of our ancestors. As they prayed for current and future generations, so must we pray for our sisters and brothers today and for those to come. Glory to you, O God, for your precious record of power and goodness;

Let all the nations of the earth praise you.

God who creates, Blessed Absalom reminded us that sacrifices must be accompanied with action: guide our feet to run the race without getting weary. Keep us focused on the fight for equality. Glory to you, O God, for your precious record of power and goodness;

Let all the nations of the earth praise you.

Healing God, delivered those who call upon your name, as we intercede for__. You inspire our hearts with hope as we offer prayers of thanksgiving for__. Continue to grow from strength to strength those who know you more fully, as we pray for the departed, especially__. Glory to you, O God, for your precious record of power and goodness;

Let all the nations of the earth praise you.

The Presider adds the following collect:

Oh Lord, move us, who are assembled in your presence, to be always thankful for your mercies, and to act as is becoming of people who owe so much to your goodness. We ask all these blessings and mercies, only in the name of your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Bishop: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Today's offerings are being donated to support the two remaining Episcopal-affiliated Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs): St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina and Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina . Additionally, a donation will be offered directly to the Chapel at St. Augustine's.

Text-to-give

Text *episdioc* to [\(888\) 554-8664](tel:8885548664).

Offetory Sentence

Bishop: If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Presentation Hymn

1 Alleluia! sing to Jesus!
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone;
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.

2 Alleluia! not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

3 Alleluia! Bread of Heaven,
thou on earth our food, our stay!
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia Sing to Jesus (Hymnal 460)

4 Alleluia! King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own:
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest:
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! sing to Jesus!
his the scepter his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone;
Hark! the songs of holy Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.

The Great Thanksgiving: Prayer A

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints, who have been the chosen vessels of your grace, and the lights of the world in their generations. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Bishop and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

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

<p>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.</p>	<p>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. 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.</p>
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Bishop: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Bishop: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you in this life or in the life to come. Amen.

Communion Hymn**I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me (LEVAS 105)**

1 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me
 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me
 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me
 singing glory Hallelujah Jesus lifted me.

3 When I was in sin Jesus lifted me
 When I was in sin Jesus lifted me
 When I was in sin Jesus lifted me
 singing glory Hallelujah Jesus lifted me.

2 Satan had me bound Jesus lifted me
 Satan had me bound Jesus lifted me
 Satan had me bound Jesus lifted me
 singing glory Hallelujah Jesus lifted me

Post-Communion Prayer

Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing
 Till earth and heaven ring
 Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
 Let our rejoicing rise
 High as the listening 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.

Stony the road we trod
 Bitter the chastening 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 a way 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.

God of our weary years
 God of our silent tears
 Thou who has brought us thus far on the way
 Thou who has 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.

The Blessing

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Communion Hymn.

We'll Understand It Better By and By (LEVAS 207)

1 We are often tossed and driv'n
 on the restless sea of time,
 Somber skies and howling tempest
 oft succeed a bright sunshine;
 In that land of perfect day,
 when the mists have rolled away,
 We will understand it better
 by and by, by and by.

Refrain:

By and by when the morning comes,
 When the saints of God are gathered home,
 We'll tell the story how we're overcome;
 For we'll understand it better
 by and by, by and by.

2 We are often destitute
 of the things that life demands,
 Want of food and want of shelter,
 thirsty hills and barren lands;
 We are trusting in the Lord,
 and according to His word,
 We will understand it better
 by and by, by and by. [Refrain]

3 Trials dark on ev'ry hand,
 and we cannot understand,
 All the ways that God would lead us
 to that blessed promised land;
 But He guides us with His eye
 and we'll follow till we die.
 For we'll understand it better
 by and by, by and by. [Refrain]

4 Temptations, hidden snares
 often take us unawares,
 And our hearts are made to bleed
 for many a thoughtless word or deed;
 And we wonder why the test
 when we try to do our best,
 But we'll understand it better
 by and by, by and by. [Refrain]

Serving in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant of the Table

The Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman

XII Bishop Diocesan of North Carolina

Celebrant of the Word

The Rev. Kathleen Walker

Missioner for Black Ministries

Preacher

The Very Rev. Kim Coleman

President of the Union of Black Episcopalians

The Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple

VI Bishop Suffragan of North Carolina

The Rev. Hershey Mallette-Stephens

Chaplain, St. Augustine's Chapel

Deacon of the Word

The Rev. Sallie Simpson

Deacon of the Table

The Rev. Pamela Haynes

Lectors

Mr. Connie Sessoms

Ms. Robyn Furges

Mr. Winfield Crews

Music Direction

Mr. Ramon Holloway

St. Titus Episcopal Church

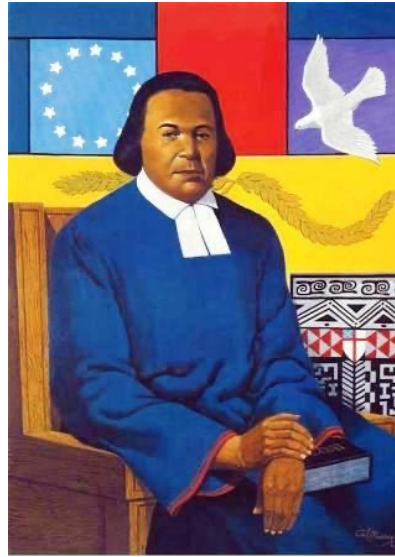
All Are Invited To Join Us For A Virtual Luncheon

The Very Reverend Kim L. Coleman



The Very Reverend Kim L. Coleman, National President of the Union of Black Episcopalians, represents UBE's six regions, over 40 chapters, and 1200 plus individual and diocesan members dedicated to eradicating racism within the Church and beyond. Since November 2002, she has served as Senior Pastor and Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Arlington, Virginia where she oversees Trinity's dynamic outreach and justice ministries including the Columbia Pike Thrift Shop, Trinity School of Early Learning, Trinity's international Mothers' Union affiliate, and TNT for Racial Justice, an ecumenical racial reconciliation partnership between Trinity and Nova Catholic Community. A May 2001 cum laude graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), Mother Kim's involvements with the wider Church have included serving as Diocesan Standing Committee and Executive Board member, Deputy to General Convention, VTS Alumnae Association Vice President, and VTS Adjunct Professor. She currently also serves as Chaplain to DOV Episcopal Church Women, Diocesan Archdean, and Dean of the Arlington Region. Mother Kim is passionate about Christian discipleship, spiritual transformation, and preaching. She employs her experience as a culture change agent to pursue a Revelation 7:9 vision of the kingdom of God where every nation, tribe, language and people of all ages joyfully live out the Episcopal vow to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

Blessed Absalom Jones



Absalom Jones was born on November 6, 1746, into slavery in Sussex County, Delaware. He taught himself to read out of the New Testament, among other books. When sixteen, Absalom was taken to Philadelphia by his slave master, after selling his mother and siblings. 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 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 vestry 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 as 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 communication with similar black groups in other cities. In 1792, the Society began to build a church, which was dedicated on July 17th, 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; 3. that Absalom Jones be licensed as layreader, and, if qualified, be ordained as minister. In October 1794 it was admitted as St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Bishop 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 own flock and by the community. St. Thomas Church, Philadelphia, 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. Jones died on February 13th, 1818, in Philadelphia.

