

**&
Holy Trinity**



The Feast of Absalom Jones
Virtual Evening Prayer
February 13, 2022
5pm

Absalom Jones (1746 – 1818)

Absalom Jones was born in slavery in 1746 in Delaware. He taught himself to read out of the New Testament, among other books. At sixteen, he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia. There he attended a night school for African Americans operated by Quakers. In 1770 he married Mary King, another enslaved person, and purchased her freedom with his earnings in 1778, so that their children would be free. Jones bought his own freedom in 1785. 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. During a Sunday service, when ushers attempted to remove them, the Black parishioners indignantly walked out in a body.

In 1787, Black Christians organized the Free African Society, the first organized African 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 17, 1794.

The African Church applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: that they be received as an organized body; that they have control over their local affairs; that Absalom Jones be licensed as lay reader, 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.

Father Absalom was the first Anglican priest of African descent and the founder of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia. He was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, and warned the oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves." To him, God was the Father, who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." But it was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his own flock and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones is an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument.

Welcome

Julia New-Landrum

Introduction to Absalom Jones

George Thompson

Officiant:

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not fall. *Psalm 16:7-8*

Confession of Sin

Deacon Christopher Haack

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant:

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

INVITATORY & PSALTER

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

*All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.*

Song: I Don't Feel No Ways Tired Curtis Burrell (1917-1988)
Aimee Bryant

Psalm 85: Prayer for the Restoration of God's Favor

Fred Mitchell

LORD, you were favorable to your land;
 you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
 you pardoned all their sin.
You withdrew all your wrath;
 you turned from your hot anger.
Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
 and put away your indignation toward us.

Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.
Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 42:5-9)

Marcia Hammelman

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Song: Blessed Absalom John Goss (1800-1880)
Aimee Bryant & Jordan Hedlund, *accompanist*

John 15:12-15 (NRSV)

Linda Garrett

“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.”

Homily:

The Rev. Julia Domenick

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Officiant: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.

Collect of the Day: Absalom Jones, Priest, 1818

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant

Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for the Presence of Christ

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

Song: We Have Come This Far by Faith Albert A. Goodson
Aimee Bryant

Prayer of Exultation Terry Danforth

(Excerpted from Absalom Jones' Thanksgiving Sermon at the meeting of the Vestry of St. Thomas African Episcopal Church, held on Wednesday, February 11, 1808, Philadelphia.)

Let not our expressions of gratitude to God or his late goodness and mercy to our countrymen and women be confined to this day, not to this house: let us carry grateful hearts with us to our places of abode, and to our daily occupations; and let praise and thanksgiving ascend daily to the throne of grace, in our families, and in our closets, for what God has done for our African brethren.

Congregation: Amen. Thank you, Good Lord.

Let us not forget to praise him for his mercies to such of our color as are inhabitants of this country: particularly, for disposing the hearts of the rulers of many of the states to pass laws for the abolition of slavery; for the number and zeal of the friends he has raised up to plead our cause; and for the privileges, we enjoy of worshiping God, agreeably to our consciences, in churches of our own. This comely building, erected chiefly by the generosity of our friends, is a monument of God's goodness to us, and calls for our gratitude with all the other blessings that have been mentioned.

***Congregation:* Amen. Thank you, Good Lord.**

Let us unite, with our thanksgiving prayer to Almighty God, for the completion of his begun goodness to our brethren in Africa. Let us beseech him to extend to all the nations in Europe, the same humane and just spirit towards them, which he has imparted to the British and American nations.

***Congregation:* Amen. Thank you, Good Lord.**

Let us, further, implore the influence of his divine and holy Spirit, to dispose the hearts of our legislatures to pass laws, to ameliorate the condition of our brethren who are still in bondage; also, to dispose their masters to treat them with kindness and humanity; and, above all things, to favor them with the means of acquiring such parts of human knowledge, as will enable them to read the holy scriptures, and understand the doctrines of the Christian religion, whereby they may become, even while they are the slaves of men, the freemen of the Lord.

***Congregation:* Amen. Thank you, Good Lord.**

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:20-21*

Closing Song: Lift Every Voice and Sing

Aimee Bryant & Jordan Hedlund, *accompanist*



Absalom Jones
Christopher Taylor
alphacmn.artstation.com

The Right Reverend Craig Loya, X Bishop, Episcopal Church in MN
The Reverend Christopher Allyn Haack, Deacon, Holy Trinity
The Reverend Julia Domenick, transitional deacon, ECMN
George Thompson, presenter, Holy Trinity
Julia New-Landrum, welcome, Holy Trinity
Linda Garrett, lay reader, Holy Trinity
Marcia Hammelman, lay reader, Holy Trinity
Fred Mitchell, lay reader, Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Vestry:

Julia New-Landrum, Senior Warden
Pamela Moore, Junior Warden
Gia Taylor, Clerk
David Taylor, Treasurer
Beverly Bryant
Terry Danforth
Mary Fields
Lori Roberson
Juliette Wilson

Bishop & Missioners:

The Right Reverend Craig Loya, Bishop
Karen Olson, Canon for Ministry
The Rev. Blair Pogue, Canon for Vitality & Innovation
Kelsey Schuster, Canon for Operations and Chief of Staff
Rachel Babbitt, Missioner for Community Engagement
Gretchen Beck, Program Administrator
Ellice Chelgren, Missioner for Administration
The Very Rev. Susan Daughtry, Dean of Formation
Jennifer Gamberg, Missioner for Finance
The Rev. Maggie Nancarrow, Interim Missioner for Children, Youth,
& Camp
Jessica Ricardo, Missioner for the Bishop
Emilia Seay Allen, Missioner for Communications
Sandra Stevenson, Missioner for Networking
The Rev. Canon Robert Two Bulls, Missioner for the Department of
Indian Work & Multicultural Ministries