

*Gift presented to
The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson
on July 21, 2020
from the
Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension*



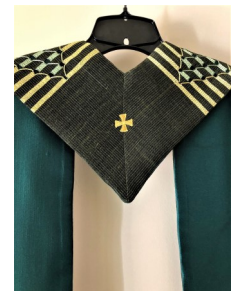
CHASUBLE
arms raised



CHASUBLE
arms relaxed



STOLE
frontview



STOLE
back neckline



CHASUBLE
LABEL

This Afrocentric set of vestments was designed and made, specifically for Bishop Johnson, by Nancy P. Hamilton. The main fabric, of both the chasuble and stole, is a hunter green colored, lightweight, wrinkle resistant, woven textured, polyester-linen. The front and back of the chasuble is adorned with bands of authentic Nigerian "Aso-Oke*", which are trimmed along the sides with gold piping. The neckline is also trimmed with gold piping.

The stole is adorned with the same Aso-Oke and lined with hunter green polyester satin. It is additionally decorated with gold braid and fringe on the ends, and a gold embroidered cross in the middle of the nape. To keep the stole from bunching at the neck and making contact with skin, a stole chain fashioned from a vintage gold-tone double link chain is attached with two vintage gold buttons.

The particular Aso-Oke fabric, or "prestige cloth", used in these vestments, is a weave of olive green colored cotton threads and shimmery gold metallic threads. It's decorated with an intricate open lace-like pattern of long loose gold and sage green colored dyed yarns floating diagonally from one hole to another, allowing the main hunter green fabric to peek through.

***Aso-Oke** (pronounced ah-SHAW-okay, meaning "top cloth" or cloth of high status) is a fabric, hand-woven on a narrow-strip loom, worn traditionally by chieftaincy or by other people of the Yoruba tribe on special occasions, such as festivals, weddings, naming ceremony and other important events. Traditionally, it would be sold only in 2" – 5" wide strips and the buyer would hire a tailor to join the strips together to complete the full width cloth. Today, full width cloth can also be purchased already pieced together. Slight imperfections are part of the allure of any hand-woven fabric and should not be considered defects.