



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*May 3rd, 2026*

## **WELCOME! KARIBU!**

God brought you here!

Scattered into a world that does not always see our worth, we gather as God's beloved at The Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension. We gather to remember who we are and whose we are. We bring the fragments of our lives, our joys and our sorrows, our weariness and our hope, to be healed and made whole in Jesus Christ.

Rooted in the rich heritage of the Episcopal tradition and shaped by the beauty, brilliance, and resilience of our African American history, we come together as a people of praise. Here, the faith of the ancestors steadies us. Here, the songs of our foremothers and forefathers rise again on our lips. Here, the Spirit meets us in dance and in song, in prayer and in proclamation, in silence and in holy celebration.

We seek to be a place of healing, where wounded spirits find restoration and broken hearts find balm. We seek to be a place of empowerment, where gifts are named, voices are lifted, and leadership is nurtured. We seek to embody Black excellence, not as pride apart from God, but as the radiant reflection of the Divine image within us, cultivated through faith, discipline, creativity, and love.

In this sacred space, we support one another in mutual care and accountability. We testify to God's goodness in the midst of struggle. We proclaim a Gospel that liberates, restores, and sends us forth.

And when our worship ends, our work continues. Strengthened at the altar and stirred by the Spirit, we follow Jesus out into the world carrying with us the courage of the ancestors, the wisdom of those who have gone before, and the unshakable hope of the Resurrection.

God brought you here! Welcome home.

# GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG/MUSIC

## Bless The Lord, O My Soul

65

Bless the Lord, — O my soul: and all that is with —

in me, Bless His ho - ly — name. —

*Fine*

He has done great things, — He has done great —

things, — He has done great things, Bless His ho - ly name!

*D.C.*

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Bishop* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Bishop* In baptism, we have passed through the waters with Christ—buried with him in death and raised with him in newness of life. Together with the saints and ancestors who have long and hope, prayed and pleaded, who looked and longed for resurrection we come united as one in waters of Baptism.

*People* **We are baptized into Christ. We are raised to new life. Alleluia!**

## CALLING TO THE ANCESTORS WITH LIBATION

*A vessel of water is placed in view. The priest, deacon, or lay leader pours small libations into the font, a bowl or onto the earth at each direction.*

*All face East.*

*Bishop* From the East, where the sun rises and new life breaks forth, we remember the dawn of resurrection and the ancestors who believed in freedom before it came. Like the waters of creation, where the Spirit first moved, God brought life out of chaos and hope out of despair.

*Priest* We pour this water in thanksgiving for their faith and for the rising of new life among us.

*(Water is poured.)*

*People* **Ancestors of hope, rise with us.**

*All face South.*

*Bishop* From the South, where rivers run deep and tears have fallen, we remember those who passed through the waters of suffering, through rivers of sorrow and baptismal streams of grace. They sang, “Wade in the water,” trusting that God would trouble the waters and make a way.

*Priest* We pour this water in remembrance of their endurance and the Spirit who sustained them.

*(Water is poured.)*

*People* **Ancestors of courage, rise with us.**

*All face West.*

*Bishop* From the West, across the great waters, we remember the Middle Passage, waters that bore witness to pain and loss beyond words. Yet even there, the deep could not drown God’s presence. In Christ, the waters of death have become the waters of life.

*Priest* We pour this water trusting that nothing, not even the depths, can separate us from God’s love.

*(Water is poured.)*

*People* **Ancestors of faith, rise with us.**

*All face North.*

*Bishop* From the North, where people journeyed toward freedom, crossing rivers and boundaries into new life, we remember those who followed the waters to liberation. Through baptism, we too have crossed over, from death into life, from bondage into freedom.

*Priest* We pour this water in thanksgiving for their witness and for the new life we share in Christ.

*(Water is poured.)*

*People* **Ancestors of wisdom, rise with us.**

*All face the altar.*

*Bishop* Ancestors who have gone before us, cloud of witnesses, rejoice with us, for Christ is risen, and the waters of death have become the waters of life. **Amen and Ashe`.**

### SONG OF PRAISE: GLORIA (*SPOKEN*)

***Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Bishop* God is with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Bishop* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Deacon* May the Word of God always be heard in this place. May the experience of our spiritual ancestors be valued in this place. May the Good News of love be proclaimed in this place.  
*People* **May the mystery of Christ unfold before us, may the words of salvation revive us, and may the Spirit of Truth guide us. Let us hear once more the stories of our redemption.**  
*All are seated.*

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

*Reader*            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.  
*People*            ***Thanks be to God.***

## THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 31:1-15, 15-16

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
***deliver me in your righteousness.***
- 2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
***make haste to deliver me.***
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
***for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.***
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
***for you are my tower of strength.***
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
***for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.***
- 15 My times are in your hand; \*  
***rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.***
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
***and in your loving-kindness save me.***

## A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER 2:19-25

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

*Reader*            Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

1. I am weak but thou art strong; \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Through this world of toil and snares, \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee, \_\_\_\_\_

1. Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; — I'll be sat - is - fied as  
 2. If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? — Who with me my bur - den  
 3. Time for me will be no more; — Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly  
 Refrain: Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, — Dai - ly walk - ing close to

*D.C. for Refrain*

1. long — As I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
 2. shares? — None but thee, dear — Lord, none but thee.  
 3. o'er — To Thy king - dom — shore, to thy shore.  
 Refrain: thee, — Let it be, dear — Lord, let it be.

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

*Deacon* Beloved, God is with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Deacon* The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

*People* ***Glory to you Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson

## OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Deacon* Let us affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God.  
*Silence is kept for a time.*

*Deacon* We believe in one God, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

*People* ***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Creator, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Creator. Through him all things were made.***

*Deacon* 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 became truly human.

*People* ***In his life among us, he proclaimed good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, sight to the blind, and release to the oppressed.***

*Deacon* Jesus ate with outcasts, forgave sinners, challenged injustice, and embodied the boundless love of God.

*People* ***In word and deed, he revealed the reign of God drawing near.***

*Deacon* 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 Creator.

*People* ***He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.***

*Deacon* We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Creator and the Son. With the Creator and is worshiped and glorified. Who has spoken through the Prophets.

*People* ***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.***

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Suggested Sung Response:

*"Wade in the water, wade in the water, children; God's gonna trouble the water."*

*In the absence of the Deacon the Priest or lay leader may introduce the prayers.*

*Deacon* Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ and trusting in the God who brings us through every water, let us pray for the Church and the world.

For the Church, born in water and Spirit; that it may proclaim resurrection with boldness, and be a healing river for all people; let us pray to the Lord. *Silence is kept for a time.*

For this nation and all in authority; that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; let us pray to the Lord.

***Wade in the water...***

For the world, for oceans, rivers, and lands; for all places where waters bring life and where they bring destruction; that God would calm every storm and renew the face of the earth; let us pray to the Lord. *Silence is kept for a time.*

For this community; for all who seek safe passage through life's waters, for the young and the old, the hopeful and the weary, especially those on our prayer list; that we may be signs of resurrection hope; let us pray to the Lord.

***Wade in the water...***

For those overwhelmed by sorrow, illness, or fear; for those who feel as though they are drowning; that Christ, who walked upon the waters, would reach out his hand and lift them up; let us pray to the Lord. *Silence is kept for a time.*

For the departed and for all ancestors who have crossed the great waters into eternal life, especially Barbara Noble; that they may dwell where the river of life flows clear and bright; Let us pray to the Lord.

***Wade in the water...***

*Bishop* God of living water, you have carried us through every trial and raised us into new life. Hear our prayers, and keep us faithful in the journey; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Lead Me, Guide Me

Lead \_ me, guide \_ me, a - long the way,

For \_ if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, \_ let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

**Fine**

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features several triplet figures in both the right and left hands. The lyrics are: "Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, For if you lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each day with Thee. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me." The piece concludes with a double bar line and the word "Fine".

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to  
 2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my  
 3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

1. help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me  
 2. aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am  
 3. blind with - out thy light to see; Lord, just

1. through the dark - ness thy face to see,  
 2. put - ting all my trust in thee.  
 3. al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*D.C.*

1. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.  
 2. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.  
 3. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2

*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 thanks and praise.***

*Bishop* We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time, you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so, this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

*Bishop and People* "Holy, Holy, Holy" (spoken)

***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.***

*Bishop*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.  
To deliver us from the power of sin and death  
and to reveal the riches of your grace,  
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,  
that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.  
Living among us, Jesus loved us.  
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick,  
and proclaimed good news to the poor.  
He yearned to draw all the world to himself  
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.  
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross  
the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends.  
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them,  
and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:  
“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,  
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.  
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ  
given for the world you have made.  
In the fullness of time bring us, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints,  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen and Ashe.**

## THE GREAT AMEN (*sung*)

## THE LORD’S PRAYER (*spoken*)

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

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Bishop* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!***

## FRACTION ANTHEM *(spoken)*

*Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Bishop*            The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(All are invited to God's Table. You may come forward to receive the Body of Christ or to receive a blessing. Some may wish to remain in your seats. Please use this time to quietly sit and pray or join in the singing of the hymn.)*

*(Those at home may, if they wish, say this prayer:)*

*In union, O God, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

COMMUNION HYMN

817

Taste and See

PSALM 34

*Refrain* F C/F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F Gm C7

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the Lord. Oh,

F C/F B<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> F Gm7 C7 F *Fine*

taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

*Unison* F Am7 B<sup>b</sup>ma7 F/A

1 I will bless the Lord at all times †  
 2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me. To - †  
 3 Wor - ship the Lord, all you peo - ple. †

Gm7 F/A Gm7 C7

Praise shall al - ways be on my lips; my  
 geth - er let us all praise God's name. I  
 You'll want for noth - ing if you ask. 7

F A7 A/C# Dm

soul shall glo - ry in the Lord; for  
called the Lord, who an - swered me; from  
Taste and see that the Lord is good; in

B<sup>b</sup>9 F/A Gm7 C7 To Refrain

God has been so good to me.  
all my trou - bles I was set free.  
God we need put all our trust.

### THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Bishop* Eternal God, God of our weary years and silent tears, we thank you for feeding us with the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. At this table we have tasted freedom, we have touched the faith of our ancestors, we have been strengthened by the Spirit of Christ.

*People* **Send us now into the world, to walk in the strength of those who came before, to sing the songs they taught us, to labor for justice, to rejoice in hope, and to live as your beloved community, until your dream of freedom and wholeness is fulfilled for all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen and Ashe.**

### THE BLESSING

*Bishop* The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Savior Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### **Every Praise**

Every Praise Is To Our God  
Every praise is to our God.  
Every word of worship with one accord  
Every praise, every praise is to our God.  
Sing hallelujah to our God  
Glory hallelujah is due our God  
Every praise, every praise is to our God.

***Repeat two more times***

God, my Savior  
God, my Healer  
God, my Deliverer  
Yes, He is, yes, He is

***Repeat again or as music is played***

Yes, He is, yes, He is; Yes, He is, yes, He is,(repeated several times as music calls for)

Every praise is to our God.  
Every word of worship with one accord  
Every praise, every praise, every praise, every praise  
Every praise, every praise, every praise, every praise  
Every praise, every praise, every praise, every praise is to our God

***Repeat as many times as music leads***

## THE SENDING

*Deacon* We have been washed in the waters of baptism, renewed by the risen Christ, and strengthened by the witness of the ancestors. The waters that once threatened to overwhelm us have become streams of salvation. The waters of sorrow have given way to joy. The waters of death have become the waters of life.

*People* ***We will walk as people of the resurrection.***

*Deacon* Ancestors who sang by the rivers, who crossed through waters seen and unseen, rejoice with us now for Christ is risen, and we are not alone.

*People* ***We go forth in hope and in power. Alleluia!***

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Go forth into the world, remembering your baptism, trusting the waters that carry you, and singing the song of the risen Christ. Walk through every river unafraid, for God goes with you, the Spirit surrounds you, and the ancestors rejoice beside you. Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

**We are grateful to the Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson who wrote this Easter Afrocentric liturgy for us, the beloved community of All Saints and Ascension. Thank you, Bishop!**

## TODAY'S LITURGICAL LEADERS

### **Celebrant**

*The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson*

### **Assistant Priest**

*The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Rector*

### **Deacon**

*The Rev. Dr. Dn. Valerie E. Patton*

### **Worship Leader**

Stanley Johnson

### **Reader**

Betty Brown

### **Acolyte**

Laura Mabry

### **Ushers**

*Allen Dukes*

*Charles Henderson*

### **Minister of Music**

Cheryl Walker

## Choir Members

*Adrienne Dillon, Walter Fox, Michael Griffin, Stanley Johnson, Barrie Jones,  
Helen Owens, and Machel West*

## OUR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

**Mission Statement:** We are a Christ-centered historic African American Episcopal congregation called to embody God’s love through inspiring worship, deep relationships, and faithful service. Rooted in the richness of our heritage and sustained by the Spirit, we foster a welcoming community where all are seen, valued, and connected. We commit ourselves to being Love in action: serving our neighbors, enriching one another, proclaiming the Good News with joy, justice, peace and hope.

**Vision Statement:** Rooted in heritage. Formed in love. Sent to serve.

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION VESTRY – 2026

Senior Warden-Gaylard Williams (2027)  
Co-Junior Wardens-Betty Brown  
Dawn Johnson

### Vestry Clerk

Margarett Williams

### Class of 2027

Adrienne Dillon  
Sondra Harrell

### Class of 2028

Michael Griffin  
Stanley Merridith

### Class of 2029

Betty Brown  
Dawn Johnson

### Treasurer

Rickey Mabry

### Convention Delegates

Adrienne Dillon (2027)  
Caroline Moore (2027)

### Alternate Delegate

Donna Black (2027)



## LIFTING UP OUR VOICES

**“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”**

**—Harriet Tubman**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYER LIST

We are always ready to pray for family members, friends, neighbors and all those in need of our prayers.

Delphine Booker	Canon Desiree Brattin	Ann Bradley
Lisa Bradley	Harold Briggs	Linette Cayetano
Bessie Clemmons	Jennifer Dawson	Jacky Dew
Rick Earley	Michael Griffin	Renee Griffin
Drue Harrod	Ronald Hawkins	Stella Hughes
Jan R. Jenkins	Erika Jones	Greg Kelley
Amber King	Winifred Lemmie	Regina Lewis
Johnetta Martin	Diana Oliver	Helen Owens
Betty Patton	Michelle Pendelton	Gwen Perry
Everett Quinn	Marion Robinson	Rick Rollins
Florence Ross	Lisa Shelley	Patricia Thomas
Antoinette Williams	James Williams, Sr.	Bill Young

We continue to pray for all those who are still affected by last year's tornado. We pray especially for our adopted family and so many others. Our prayers also continue for all veterans and those who are currently serving in the military, especially:

Sgt. Omar Fernandes (Brantley)-United States Air Force  
Captain Jovonny Carrion-United States Army  
Staff Sgt. Ashley Cole-United States Air Force  
Captain Steven C. Roberts, II – United States Air Force Reserve  
The Rev. Jamal Scarlett-Lieutenant Commander and Navy Chaplain  
Major Christopher Westfall-United States Air Force

We will keep the practice of keeping names on our prayer list for six weeks. If you would like to include someone on our prayer list, please fill out a 'Prayer Request Form' located at the Ushers' station. Thank you!

## REMEMBER OUR ADOPTED FAMILY

Please remember our adopted family in the new year! Our family consists of a single mother and her two daughters, ages 18 and 21. We can continue our monetary fund to help pay for repairs to their home. We can provide food and personal items, and gift cards to stores such as Schnuck's, Target, Walmart, Walgreens, Kohl's, and Aldi's. "Whatever you do to the least of them; you do unto me (Matthew 25:40)."

## LET'S CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES

It is almost time to recognize our graduates! Whether you are graduating from pre-school or receiving a doctorate- we want to celebrate YOU!!! Graduates, please submit a brief bio and remember to include the name of your school and type of diploma or degree you are receiving. Your documents are to be in a print-ready Microsoft Word format. Please email to: [allsaintsadminasst@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allsaintsadminasst@sbcglobal.net).

## **ASA FOOD MINISTRY – FEED THE NEED**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Thank you for your generosity in feeding our brothers and sisters in the beloved community who are food-insecure! The need is becoming increasingly significant as we continue to partner with the Urban League and as decisions are made in our national government. We want the following items to restock our food pantry:

### **Paper Products**

Paper Towels

### **Toiletries**

Toothpaste, Bar Soap, Deodorant

### **Canned Vegetables or Meal**

Chili, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Vegetables, Corn, Carrots, Peas, Baked Beans, Great Northern Beans, Chicken Noodle Soup, Vegetable Soup

### **Canned or Packet Meat or Protein**

Peanut Butter, Tuna, Chicken Breast, Vienna Sausage, Spam, Luncheon Loaf

### **Starches**

Mac and Cheese, Rice, Spaghetti

### **Breakfast**

Packaged cereal (oatmeal, grits, Cream of Wheat)

When purchasing canned items, please consider getting pull-tops, as many do not have can openers.

## **SIBLING SUPPORT NETWORK**

Do not forget that help is there for those dealing with the loss of a sibling due to violent crime. For more info and survey, please go to: [sibling-support-network.org](http://sibling-support-network.org) or contact Cheeraz Gormon for more information – [cgormon@gmail.com](mailto:cgormon@gmail.com).

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Please consider sponsoring the altar flowers for a Sunday Eucharist. Your sponsorship will allow us to make our worship space beautiful. You can make a dedication to your deceased loved ones or give recognition to living loved ones or in thanksgiving for God's blessings. Check out our website for a form or see an usher!

## **COFFEE HOUR/FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP**

Coffee Hour allows us time to fellowship with each other after Eucharist. Thank you to those who have sponsored a Coffee Hour thus far. Please think about signing up with another parishioner to provide treats for this fun event. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. Refreshments may consist of fruits, pastries/Danish, juice, coffee, tea, and other goodies. **Please note that hosts are also responsible for cleanup.**

## **COMPLETING OFFERING ENVELOPES**

**PLEASE HELP** make the Tellers' job a lot easier by doing the following:

- Write your name on each envelope.
- Write your number on the envelope if you are not using the one assigned to you.
- See Deborah Dukes or Betty Brown if you do not remember your number.
- If you are writing a check, include the check number in the top right corner.
- If you are paying with cash, please write "Cash" in the top right corner instead of a check number.

- Use one envelope for one donation.
- If your donation is for anything other than your pledge, PLEASE, include on the envelope what it is for, i.e., ECW Dues, Men's Club, etc.

### **INITIAL OFFERING**

All parishioners are asked to contribute at least \$5.00 to the "Initial Offering" Fund to help defray the cost of the new envelopes that were purchased for this year. Use the blue and white envelope that says "Initial Offering" or indicate it on your envelope. Thank you.

### **PAYPAL**

Did you forget to bring your pledge with you to church? Or perhaps you cannot attend one of the Eucharists on Sunday morning. Then you should consider using Pay Pal to send in your pledge/contribution. It's fast, easy, and a guaranteed safe way to contribute. Some of our parishioners are already taking advantage of this service. For more information, go to our website and click on the "Connect Tab" and then click on "Online Contributions."

### **ADDITIONAL WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **ASA EVENING PRAYER – EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 PM**

<contact the parish office for the Zoom login info>

### **ASA BIBLE STUDY**

Please join our weekly Bible Study group every Thursday at 10:00 am. We will be discussing Women of the Bible, so come ready to learn and share your insights. I believe that studying God's Word as a group will strengthen our Faith and will help us relate His Words to our lives in today's world. Joyce Crittenden, Leader.

<contact the parish office for the Zoom login info>

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