



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost,
Juneteenth Sunday, 8th Anniversary, and
Father's Day**

June 21, 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

208

We've Come This Far by Faith

Refrain
§

We've come this far — by — faith, Lean-ing on the

Lord; — Trust-ing in His ho - ly word,

He's nev-er failed — me yet. O —

Fine

— can't turn a - round. — We've come this far — by — faith. —

1. Don't be dis-cour-aged — when trou-ble's — in your life. He'll bear your

D.S.

bur - dens and move — all mis - er - y and strife. That's why we've

2. Just the other day I heard someone say
 He 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 we've (Refrain)

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People ***Glory to God for ever and ever.***

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.

Presider 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.

Leader 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.

Presider 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.

Leader 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.

Presider 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.

Leader 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.

Presider 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.

Leader 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.

Presider 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 "Glory to God" (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 COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Presider Almighty and eternal God, in every generation you kindle in the hearts of your people the flame of freedom and the light of liberty. We remember before you those who, on this day, received the glad tidings of emancipation and those who were messengers of freedom. Grant us grace,

in our own time, to contend fearlessly with the evils of slavery and to make no peace with oppression; that we may use our liberties for the cause of justice and peace among the nations; through Jesus Christ our liberating Savior. **Amen.**

Creator God, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and 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 GENESIS 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

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

People

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 86: 1-10, 16-17

1 Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me, *

for I am poor and in misery.

2 Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; *

save your servant who puts his trust in you.

3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; *

I call upon you all the day long.

4 Gladden the soul of your servant, *

for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, *

and great is your love toward all who call upon you.

6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, *

and attend to the voice of my supplications.

7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, *

for you will answer me.

8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, *

nor anything like your works.

9 All nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord, *

and glorify your Name.

10 For you are great;

*you do wondrous things; **

and you alone are God.

16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *

give your strength to your servant;

and save the child of your handmaid.

17 Show me a sign of your favor,

*so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; **

because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 6:1B-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death,

so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN

Baptized in Water

790

Unison C Am Dm G A m8 F G C

1 Bap-tized in wa-ter, sealed by the Spir-it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa-ter, sealed by the Spir-it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa-ter, sealed by the Spir-it, marked with the

Em Am Em Gsus G C Am F

blood of Christ, our King; heirs of sal-va-tion,
 tomb with Christ, our King; one with his ris-ing,
 sign of Christ, our King; born of one Fa-ther,

C Am G C G Am G7 C

-trust-ing his prom-ise, faith-ful-ly now God's praise we sing.
 freed and for-giv-en, thank-ful-ly now God's praise we sing.
 we are his chil-dren, joy-ful-ly now God's praise we sing.

Words: Michael Seward, 1981, © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Company
 Music (BUNESSAN 5.5.8 D): Gaelic; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012), 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10: 24-39

Deacon Beloved, God is with you.

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

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

People ***Glory to you, O Christ.***

The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

THE SERMON

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner

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.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(The Prayers of the People incorporate traditional African American Spirituals and images from the African diaspora.)

Deacon

Abba, you bind the baptized as one people, formed in Christ the cornerstone, and freed for the work of justice and peace; in your mercy abide with us as we together pray, that built upon the foundation of the saints we may ask what you desire and live what you command.

Worship Leader

Come, Holy Spirit, come from the four winds O Breath of God, and fill your people gathered here. Lift every voice and sing the praises of our God, who has led us through the places watered with the blood and tears of our ancestors. Come Holy Spirit.

Heal us and make us whole.

Come, Holy Spirit, lead your church to unity and peace, that together, with Sean our Presiding Bishop, Deon our Bishop, Renee our Priest and Valerie our Deacon, inspired by Christ, we may see more clearly a vision of God's reign of love. On Christ the solid rock we stand, help us to stand together, to pray together, to love together, to be the people you call us to be. Come Holy Spirit.

Heal us and make us whole.

Come, Holy Spirit, come rekindle, refresh and renew your people. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on your people here at All Saints and Ascension. Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us to tell the Good News of salvation to every village and hamlet, every city and town. Come Holy Spirit.

Heal us and make us whole.

Come, Holy Spirit, strengthen us as you have strengthened our ancestors in ages past. Revive us again, fill each heart with your love, that following the examples of Absalom Jones, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., Pauli Murray, Thurgood Marshall, Barbara Harris, Nathan B. Young, Jr., and Margaret Bush Wilson, we may be pioneers of your reign. Come Holy Spirit.

Heal us and make us whole.

Come, Holy Spirit, come with healing in your wings for the broken, the hurting and the lost. O Lord our God, when we in awesome wonder consider your love in sending Christ to be our

healer and guide, grant us to be messengers of wholeness and healing to everyone on our prayer lists and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. *(PAUSE)* Come Holy Spirit.
Heal us and make us whole.

Come, Holy Spirit, receive the souls of your faithful people, who now find rest in the regions of light. Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease and we will join the glorious band of saints in light. Yes, we will gather at the river with all those who have died at the river that flows by the throne of God. Come Holy Spirit.
Heal us and make us whole.

Presider

Living God, whose Spirit enlivens the whole creation, hear the prayers of your people as we cry to you. Forgive us of our sins. And send us the gift of your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your marvelous works as revealed in Jesus Christ your Son; who is alive and reigns with you, One God, now and for ever. ***Amen and Ashe.***

THE PEACE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY HYMN

98

Praise Him

§

1.4. Praise Him! Praise Him!
 2. Glo - ry! Glo - ry! In
 3. Ooh Ooh

1.4. Praise Him! Praise Him! Je - sus, Bless - ed
 2. all things give Him glo - ry. Je - sus, Bless - ed
 3. Ooh Ooh Je - sus, Bless - ed

Fine

1.4. Sav - ior, He's wor - thy to be praised. From the
 2. Sav - ior, He's wor - thy to be praised. For
 3. Sav - ior, He's wor - thy to be praised. From the

1. ris - ing of the sun un - til the
 2. God is our rock, hope of sal -
 3. ris - ing of the sun un - til the

1. go - ing down of the same;
 2. va - tion;
 3. go - ing down of the same;

He's wor - thy, Je - sus is
 A strong - de - li - ver -
 He's wor - thy, Je - sus is

D.S.

1. wor - thy, He's wor - thy to be praised.
 2. er, In Him I will al - ways trust.
 3. wor - thy, He's wor thy to be praised.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I (*Enriching Our Worship*)

Presider God be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give thanks and praise.***

Presider You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Presider 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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

The Presider continues

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [_____ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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 LORD'S PRAYER (*spoken*)

Presider 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

Presider We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People ***We, who are many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.***

Presider Behold what you are.

People ***May we become what we receive.***

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider 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

154

Taste and See

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

of the Lord. O Taste and see. Taste and

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. **Fine**

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

Words: Psalm 34

1. — His praise _____ shall al - ways be on my
 2. — To - geth - er _____ let us all _____ praise His
 3. — You'll _____ want for noth - ing _____ if you

1. lips; _____ my soul _____ shall
 2. name. _____ I called _____ the
 3. ask. _____ Taste _____ and

1. glo - ry _____ in the Lord; _____ for
 2. Lord _____ and He ans - swered me; _____ from
 3. see _____ that God is good; _____ in

1. He _____ has been _____ so good to me. _____
 2. all _____ my trou - bles _____ He set me free. _____
 3. Him _____ we need _____ put all our trust. _____

D.C.

MEDITATION HYMN "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing"

1. Lift ev-'ry voice and sing, till earth and heav - en
 2. Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning
 died; yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies, let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we

taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the
 wa - tered. We have come, tread - ing our path through the
 met thee; lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the

pres - ent has brought us; fac - ing the ris - ing
 blood of the slaugh - tered, out from the gloom - y
 world, we for - get thee; shad - owed be - neath thy

sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 past, till now we stand at - last where the bright
 hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Presider and 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 Savior. Amen and Ashe.

THE BLESSING

Presider And now, may God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may continue to work for justice, freedom and peace. **Amen.**

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. **Amen.**

May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this work, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the One who creates, Redeems and Sanctifies, be upon you and all you love, this day, and forever more. **Amen.**



PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Keep Me Every Day

173

1. Lord, I want to live__ for thee, Ev - 'ry day__ and hour;
2. In my weak-ness be__ my strength; In my tri - als all,
3. Leave me not to walk_ a - lone, Lest I droop_ and die;

1. Let thy spi - rit be__ with me, In its sav - ing pow'r!
2. Be thou near me all__ the day, Hear my ev - 'ry call!
3. Let thy spir - it go__ with me, And at - tend__ my cry!

Keep my heart, and keep my hand, Keep my soul, I pray!

Keep my tongue to speak_ thy praise, Keep me all__ the way!

THE SENDING

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

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

THE 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!***

**Portions of today's liturgy are also taken from Bishop Deon K. Johnson's
"Juneteenth Freedom Day Propers and Prayers"*

TODAY'S LITURGICAL LEADERS

Presider

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Rector

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Dn. Valerie E. Patton

Worship Leader

Betty Brown

Reader

Walter Fox

Acolyte

Laura Mabry

Ushers

*Allen Dukes
Charles Henderson*

Minister of Music

Terrell Thompson

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)
Junior Warden-Betty Brown

Vestry Clerk
Margarett Williams

Treasurer
Rickey Mabry

Class of 2027
Adrienne Dillon
Sondra Harrell

Class of 2028
Michael Griffin
Stanley Merridith

Class of 2029
Betty Brown

Convention Delegates
Adrienne Dillon (2027)
Caroline Moore (2027)

Alternate Delegate
Donna Black (2027)



LIFTING UP OUR VOICES

“Juneteenth has never been a celebration of victory or an acceptance of the way things are. Instead, it’s a celebration of progress.”

— *Barack Obama*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LISTS

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

Delphine Booker
Linette Cayetano
Jacky Dew
Michael Griffin
Stella Hughes
Erika Jones
Dr. Mary Korte
Johnetta Martin
Betty Patton
Everett Quinn
Florence Ross
Antoinette Williams

Canon Desiree Brattin
Bessie Clemmons
Rick Earley
Renee Griffin
Jan R. Jenkins
Greg Kelley
Winifred Lemmie
Diana Oliver
Michelle Pendelton
Marion Robinson
Lisa Shelley
James Williams, Sr.

Harold Briggs
Jennifer Dawson
Ashley Gordon
Ronald Hawkins
Verna Johnson
Amber King
Regina Lewis
Helen Owens
Gwen Perry
Rick Rollins
Patricia Thomas
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. We pray for our companion churches of St. Stephen's and the Vine (Ferguson) and St. Peter's (Ladue). 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!

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Please note that during the summer months our Wednesday Evening Prayer and Thursday Morning Bible Study groups will be on hiatus until the Fall. We'll see you then!

STRATEGIC PLAN

Senior Warden, Gaylard Williams, introduced our strategic plan for 2026 and beyond. If you did not receive a booklet, please pick one up as you leave today.

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 19 and 22. Let us 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)."

CAMP FIREBIRD 2026

Registration for Camp Firebird 2026 is now open and filling quickly for both campers and counselors. Camp dates are July 26–31. Scholarships are available through the Diocese (please indicate need on the registration form). Co-directors Erin Pickersgill and Katrina Moore are available to give more information and answer questions. Please go to the Diocese of Missouri website or reach out at mocampfirebird@gmail.com.

SEEKING NEW MEDIA LEADER(S)

By the end of 2026, I will be stepping down from my roles managing the ASA website, weekly email blast, and outdoor sign display. We are now seeking one or more individuals to take the lead in managing these communication ministries—whether all three areas or just one. If you feel called to work in this ministry to ASSURE THAT THESE SERVICES ARE NOT DISCONTINUED AT ASA, please [contact me](#). *Sanford Hamilton*

ASA AND NORMANDY SCHOOL COLLABORATIVE TUTORING INITIATIVE **2026**

As a follow-up to the announcement made on Sunday, June 7th, and after meeting with the interim superintendent of the Normandy School Collaborative, we are seeking volunteers to work with first- and third-graders on reading, vocabulary, and flashcards. Here is a bit more detail: there are **4** elementary schools; the time commitment is **30-60** minutes twice a week, beginning the week after Labor Day, for the entire semester (September-December); all Episcopalians must have completed safe church training; and 1-2 students will be assigned to 1 volunteer. We would like to have 8 volunteers (2 per school). There will be a meeting before the start of the school year for volunteers to tour the building and meet the principal and key staff. **Consistency is KEY!** Please do not commit unless you are fully committed! Thank you for your consideration! Please do not hesitate to contact Deacon Valerie or Donna Black with questions. Peace and blessings!

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. *Deacon Valerie*

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.

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 Sunday Eucharist. Thank you to those who have sponsored a Coffee Hour so far this year! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you find yourself unable to host by yourself, please think about signing up with another parishioner to provide treats. 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 Sunday morning service. 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."

A WORD REGARDING JUNETEENTH

"Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day. Although it has long celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains largely unknown to most Americans.

On "Freedom's Eve," or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes all across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the

more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas."

From the National Museum of African American History & Culture:
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>



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