



About this Service & The Rev. Absolom Jones

source: https://houseofdeputies.org/2018/01/30/new-biography-absalom-jones/

About this Day: The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania celebrates the Commemoration of the Blessed Absolom Jones every year in place of the occasion of the day (usually on the 2nd Sunday in February). The readings for the day are set in his honor.

About The Rev. Absolom Jones: Absalom Jones was America's first black priest. Born into slavery in Delaware at a time when slavery was being debated as immoral and undemocratic, he taught himself to read, using the New Testament as one of his resources. Writes Jones: "I, Absalom Jones was born in Sussex," DEL., "on the 6th of November, 1746. I was small, when my master took me from the field to wait and attend on him in the house; and being very fond of learning, I was careful to save the pennies that were given to me by the ladies and gentlemen from time to time. I soon bought myself a primer, and begged to be taught by any body that I found able and willing to give me the least instruction. Soon after this, I was able to purchase a spelling book; for as my money increased, I supplied myself with books, among others, a Testament. For, fondness for books, gave me little or no time for the amusements that took up the leisure hours of my companions. By this course I became singular, and escaped many evils, and also saved my money.

At the age of 16, Jones' mother, sister, and five brothers were sold, but he was brought to Philadelphia by his master, where he attended a night school for African-Americans operated by Quakers. He married his wife, who was also a slave, and with the assistance of his father-in-law and some Quaker friends, he was able to secure her freedom. Writes Jones, "This being fully accomplished, and having a little money in hand, I made application to my master, in the year 1778, to purchase my own freedom; but, this was not granted.... My desire for freedom increased, as I knew that while I was a slave, my house and lot might be taken as the property of my master. This induced me to make many applications to him for liberty to purchase my freedom; and on the first of October, 1784, [my master] generously gave me a manumission."

As a free man, he served as lay minister for the black membership at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church with his friend, Richard Allen. Together they established the Free African Society to aid in the emancipation of slaves and to offer sustenance and spiritual support to widows, orphans, and the poor. Jones and Allen so greatly increased black membership at St. George's, that in 1791 the vestry decided to segregate African Americans into an upstairs gallery without notice. When ushers attempted to remove the black congregants, they exited the church. The following year they established the "First African Church" in Philadelphia and applied to join the Protestant Episcopal Church. In their application, they asked for three things: the Church would be received as an already organized body; they would have control over its own affairs; and Jones would be licensed as lay-reader and if qualified, ordained as its minister. The church was renamed the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas and accepted into the Diocese of Pennsylvania. The following year Jones became a deacon. Seven years later, at 56 years old, he became the first black American priest. He continued to be a leader in his community, founding a day school (as African Americans were excluded from attending public school), the Female Benevolent Society, and an African Friendly Society. In 1800 he called upon Congress to abolish the slave trade and for gradual emancipation of existing slaves. Jones died in 1818.

What's Happening This Week:

Morning Prayer is held every weekday at 9:00 am on Facebook.

Winter Shelter for our unhoused guests, run by Bethesda Project, takes place every day in our Centennial Room.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, February 12	11:00 am	Holy Eucharist - The 6 th Sun after the Epiphany with propers for the Feast of Absolom Jones Church	
	12:30	Refreshments	Narthex
	12:30	Chorister Rehearsal	2 nd floor Parish House
	12:30	Formation/Education	Parish House
	4:30 pm	Open Hearts Cafe Meal/Clothing	Walnut St.
Monday, February 13 Absolom Jones, Priest, 1818	10:00-3:00	Church Open for Prayer	
Tuesday, February 14	10:00-3:00	Church Open for Prayer	
Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries, 869,885	4:30 pm	Open Hearts Cafe Meal/Clothing	Walnut St.
Wednesday, February 15	10:30 am	Staff Meeting	Parish House
Thomas Bray, Priest, 1730	10:00-2:00	Church Open for Prayer	
Thursday, February 16	10:00-2:00	Church Open for Prayer	
Sunday, February 19	11:00 am 12:30 12:30 12:30 4:30 pm	Holy Eucharist - The Last Sun after th Refreshments Chorister Rehearsal Formation/Education Open Hearts Cafe Meal/Clothing	he Epiphany Church Narthex 2 nd floor Parish House Parish House Walnut St.

Interested in knowing more or getting more involved?

Stop by the Welcome Table in the back of the church and let us know what you're interested in – we want to use YOUR gifts and the skills you want to share. For specifics see below!

if you have a flair for the dramatic, **read in church** – Jeannie jeanniewelsh7@gmail.com if you love to iron or polish silver, **join the altar guild**! Don <u>-mckenzie2101@aol.com</u> if you love baking **-bring a treat** after church – Nancy <u>nrasmussen2740@gmail.com</u> if you love being the center of attention, **acolyte** – Donald <u>dmeineke@htrit.org</u> if you love talking to people, help **greet and usher** – Nancy <u>nrasmussen2740@gmail.com</u> if you love all things techy – **help with the livestream/sound** – Daniel <u>dcooper@htrit.org</u> if you love throwing parties – join Congregational Life - Nancy <u>nrasmussen2740@gmail.com</u>

Welcome! We are so glad you are with us today!

A few reminders and information for your time with us today

Masks: Masks are welcomed, encouraged and optional at this time. If you need a mask, please let us know and we will be happy to get one for you.

Children are always welcome in our worship service and we love to hear their joyful sounds and see their wiggly ways! We have books for all ages and activity bags (you can even decorate your own) in the back near the service bulletins for those who wish to stay with their families during the service. Parents, if you want a little quiet time to yourself, your children can join Madison and Laura, our wonderful Child Care Team, in the Parish House for activities. They will meet you in the Narthex and show you where to go. All children will return to the church for communion during the Peace.

During **The Peace**, we invite you to connect with your neighbors by waving, showing the peace sign, or using fist/elbow bumps. Please be sure your neighbor is comfortable with physical contact before shaking hands.

Offering: You can give a financial gift to the church in three ways: by placing it in the plate that we pass in church today, by texting **CHT DONATE to 73256** or using the QR code to the right. You can also sign up to give weekly with REALM (<u>www.htrit.org/give</u>).



Communion Those who are baptized in any tradition are welcome to join us for communion. If you prefer a blessing, please let one of the clergy know. We will share the bread and wine at the altar rail at the front of the church. Gluten free wafers are available. If you are unable to come to the front, or prefer to stay in your pew and keep social distance, we will bring communion to you.

More Information? Please visit our website <u>www.htrit.org</u> for more information about services and activities at The Church of the Holy Trinity and to sign up for the weekly E-News. If you prefer a printed version, please fill out a slip in the Narthex.

We ask that you **turn off or silence your Cell Phone** during the service. Thank you!

Welcome & Parish Notices

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn 616

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein





Opening Acclamation

Presider	Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People	And blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever. Amen

Collect for Purity

Presider 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.

Gloria S-277





Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider 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**.

Please be seated for the readings.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Lesson: Isaiah 42:5-9

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah. 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

Beth Hollingshead

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 In convertendo

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
Epistle:	Ephesians 4:1-6

Greg Maughan

Reader A reading from the Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Reader The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able.

Sequence Hymn 440



The Gospel: John 15:12-15

CelebrantThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

'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.

CelebrantThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

At the conclusion of the Gospel procession, the people are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

After a period of silence, please stand for the Creed. The Nicene Creed

All 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.

Prayers of the People Form IV

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world; for the Rev.
Absolom Jones and the African Episcopal Church of St Thomas in our Diocese.

Sally Griffith

The people offer their prayers for the church. Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; for our neighbors who do not have a place to sleep and those living in deep poverty, and for those who have been affected by or live in fear of gun violence, especially in our city. That we may honor one another and serve the common good.

The people offer their prayers for the world, the city, and our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. The people offer their prayers for the earth and all of creation. Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. The people offer prayers for those they love.

Lord, in your mercy

- People Hear our prayer.
- Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, especially: Joan, Sarah, Claudette, Carolyn, Michael, David, Brian, M. Coty, Bill, Paul, Justin, Elaine, Alison, Christopher, Katherine, Rocky, Laura, the Ciao family, Willem, Brett, Illona, Aleen, Theodore P, Theodore S, Bill, and Raymond and bring them the joy of your salvation.

The people offer their prayers for those who are sick or in need. Lord, in your mercy

- People Hear our prayer.
- *Leader:* We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

The people offer their prayers for those who have died

Lord, in your mercy

- People Hear our prayer.
- *Presider* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All 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.

Absolution

Presider 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**.

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

You are invited to connect with your neighbors by waving, showing the peace sign, or using fist or elbow bumps. Following the Peace, the people are seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Presider Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

If you wish to offer a gift or pledge to the church, you are invited to do so during the Offertory Anthem. If you prefer to give electronically you can text CHT DONATE to 7325 or use the QR Code on page 3.

O For a Closer Walk with God

Charles V. Stanford

O for a closer walk with God,	Return, O holy dove, return,
A calm and heavenly frame;	Sweet messenger of rest;
A light to shine upon the road	I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
That leads me to the Lamb!	And drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God, Calm and serene my frame; So purer light shall mark the road That leads me to the Lamb.

At the invitation of the Celebrant, all stand. The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B



Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:

Sanctus S-125





Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

> On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father, We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory.

All

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

All

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

All 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



Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Please be seated.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion for those not taking communion or joining online today

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

Distribution of Communion

If you wish to receive communion, please follow the directions of the ushers to the rail at the front of the church. We will bring communion to those unable to come forward or who are more comfortable staying in their pew. If you need a gluten-free wafer or prefer a blessing, please let the priest know. Our healing team will be available to offer healing prayers during communion.

Communion Hymn 304



You are invited to remain seated.

Land of Rest

Blessing & Godspeed to Ellen Peters, choir member

Presider The Scriptures are filled with stories of people who have been called to move to new places: Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Joseph, Paul and Barnabas, Priscilla and Aquilla. Filled with uncertainty about what lay ahead, these people of God could not have found their moves easy. Yet they were also filled with excitement, trusting that God was calling them and guiding them to a new place. And now Ellen, our beloved member of our choir is preparing to leave go to a new place.

Ellen, as a part of this body of Christ over nearly 30 years, you have given of yourself in more ways than just singing. You have been a constant presence, even when everything else was changing. Thank you for all the ways you have given back to this community. You will be missed.

Presider Let us pray.

The Collect for Church Musicians:

Dir of Music O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servant, Ellen, who seeks through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to her even now glimpses of your beauty, and make her worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The Blessing

The choir is joins in laying on their hands as the blessing is said.

Presider Blessed are you, O God, for you have created the wide and wonderful world in which we live. We praise you for your constant care for those who have trusted you in ages past, who journeyed in faith to new lands of promise. We trust that now you will hold Ellen, securely in your hands as she, too, goes to a new place. May she take with her a heart filled with your love and grace. Bless her that she may be a blessing. Help her to continue to grow in grace, in Spirit, and in truth. Amen.

Please stand as able.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant	Let us pray.
All	Almighty and everliving God,
	we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
	of the most precious Body and Blood
	of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
	and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
	that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
	and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
	And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
	to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
	To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
	be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and mind in the knowledge and love of Christ, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal Hymn 490



Houston



The Dismissal

PresiderGo in peace to love and serve the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

PostludePrelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 532Johann Sebastian Bach

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TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

Thomas Lipscomb, Crucifer Connor Gardner & Robert Lipscomb, Torchbearers Beth Hollingshead & Greg Maughan, Lectors Sally Griffith, Intercessor Jeannie Welsh, Virtual Greeter

Church of the Holy Trinity, Staff Leadership

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, Rector The Rev. John Gardner, Rector Beth Hollingshead, Deacon-in-Training Donald R. Meineke, Director of Music Fatimah Lane, Director of Operations Ella Christy, Rentals Manager Meg Cooley, Communications Coordinator Dr. Benjamin Leiby, Associate Organist Demetrius Swinson, Assistant to the Dir of Operations Daniel Cooper, Media Coordinator Julie White, Receptionist & House Staff Dr. Stephen Framil, Musician-in-Residence Dr. John French, Organist/Choirmaster emeritus

The Choir of Holy Trinity

Gail Caruso, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Carl Ellinwood, Brian Felty, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Alyson Harvey, Kate Nicole Hoffman, Samual Keeler, Thomas Kneeland, John Miles, Titus Muzi, Mike O'Bryan, Ellen Peters, & Aimee Pilgermayer

Church of the Holy Trinity, Vestry Leadership

Oscar Gunther & Simson Hui, *Rectors' Cowardens* Michael Uftring & Greg Maughan, *Accounting Cowarden* Nancy Rasmussen, *Clerk*; Gail Caruso, Sally Griffith, Susan Leidy, Martha Lipscomb, & Emily Stromberg, *Vestry*

