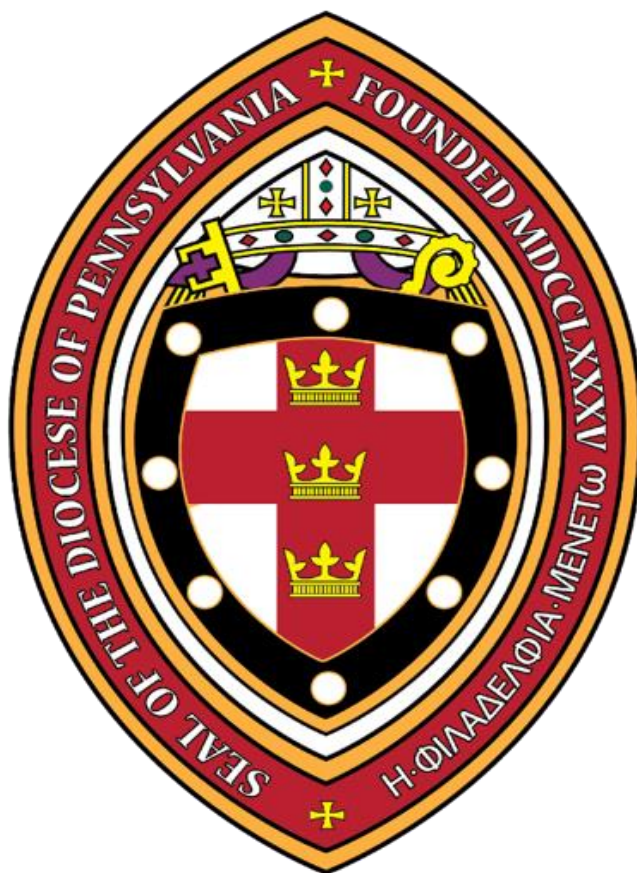


Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania



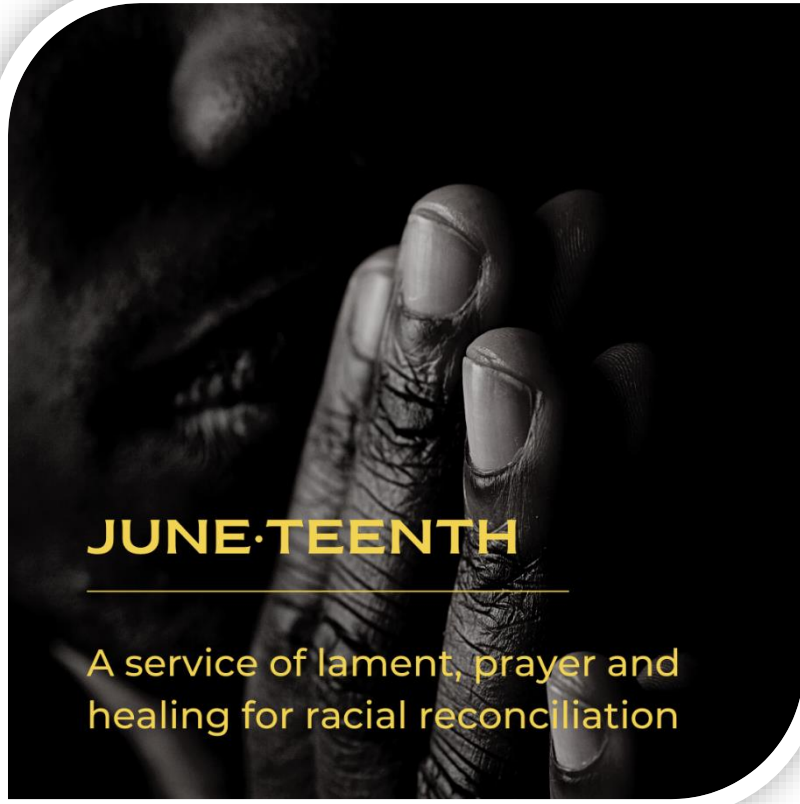
**A Diocesan Service of Lament, Prayer,
and Healing for Racial Reconciliation**

Saturday, June 19, 2021

4:00 p.m.



**Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral
19 South 38th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104**



Juneteenth (a portmanteau of June and nineteenth) – also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day – is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it is now celebrated annually on June 19 throughout the United States, with varying official recognition. It is commemorated on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865 announcement by Union Army general Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom from slavery in Texas.

President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had officially outlawed slavery in Texas

and the other states in rebellion against the Union almost two and a half years earlier. Enforcement of the Proclamation generally relied on the advance of Union troops. Texas being the most remote of the slave states had a low presence of Union troops as the American Civil War ended; thus enforcement there had been slow and inconsistent before Granger's announcement. Although Juneteenth generally celebrates the end of slavery in the United States, it was still legal and practiced in two Union border states (Delaware and Kentucky) until later that year when ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution abolished chattel slavery nationwide in December.

Celebrations date to 1866, at first involving church-centered community gatherings in Texas. It spread across the South and became more commercialized in the 1920s and 1930s, often centering on a food festival. During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, it was eclipsed by the struggle for postwar civil rights, but grew in popularity again in the 1970s with a focus on African American freedom and arts. (Source- Wikipedia)



**A Diocesan Service of Lament, Prayer, and Healing
for Racial Reconciliation**

Opening Hymn

Hold Back the Night

Rev. Charles H. Nicks, Jr.

The Gospel Choir of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Mr. Waltier Blocker, Director

Hold back the night.
Give me strength to fight.
I'll do Your will
If You just say to my storm
"Peace be still."
Oh Lord, I love Your name.
Every day You're just the same.
I'll be all right
If You just hold back the night.

Solo: The storm is raging
All around.
Satan keeps tryin'
To pull me down.
But Lord, You told me
In Your word I could abide.
So stretch forth Your mighty

Opening Sentence

Presider Lord, hear our prayer.

People **And let our cry come to you.**

The Officiant continues

We gather this evening to commemorate the day when news of the Emancipation Proclamation was finally shared in Galveston, Texas, that all enslaved persons were free. As we give thanks and celebrate the achievements of African Americans since that event, we also remember the costs of freedom delayed and denied for them in our country. Those of white ancestry bear special responsibility to examine the privileges and benefits derived from racist systems and institutions that have inflicted suffering, pain, and sometimes, death on persons of other racial backgrounds. In this light and in the name of Jesus Christ, we in the Diocese of Pennsylvania will all recommit ourselves to renouncing the evil powers of this world as they manifest in racism, to striving for justice and peace among all people, and to respecting the dignity of every human being.

Let us pray.

O God, help us to make that promise of freedom and equal opportunity a reality by strengthening us to right injustices and to dismantle systems of ongoing oppression. Give us wise and discerning hearts to acknowledge, repent, and remove the barriers and privileges that prevent us from loving and sharing in the abundance of life that you intend for all your children, through the mercies of Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

(From *The Book of Common Prayer*)



Emancipation Day Celebration - June 19, 1900
Public Domain from the University of North Texas Library

Musical Reflection

"Press On" (Endurance)

Ruth Naomi Floyd

The speech, "What The Black Man Wants" by Frederick Douglass, before the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society at Boston. This speech was printed in Equal Rights Pamphlets in 1865.

*Lyrics compiled by Ruth Naomi Floyd
Music composed by Ruth Naomi Floyd*

People are now in tears
There is mourning in the streets We feel

Tears are falling by the fires We see blood flowing
all around

Far reaching
Over whelming
Judgements are terrible
But we need to fight for righteousness

We cannot fail Press on

*Ruth Naomi Floyd, soloist
Dr. Jay Fluellen, piano*



*Emancipation Day Celebration in Richmond, Virginia ca. 1905
Public Domain from the University of North Texas Library*

Litany of Repentance

Dear people of God, our history is marred by oppression, by the enslavement of those who differ from us, and by the forces of racism that attack human dignity. The sin of racism is woven into our lives and our cultures, in small and great ways, in things done and things left undone.

As followers of Christ, we reject racism and the oppression of other human beings. In building Christ's beloved community, we must strive to love all people, respect all people, and work for the good of all people. We must stand alongside God's children of every race, language, and culture, and work together as agents of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

Silence is then kept for a time.

God the Father, you freed your people from slavery in Egypt, yet the legacy of slavery deforms our lives today.

Have mercy on us.

God the Son, you prayed that all would be united in your love and service, yet the divisions among us rend your body.

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, you inspire us to live peaceably with all, yet the stain of genocide and internment mars our striving for justice.

Have mercy on us.

We have harmed one another and the earth through negligence, greed, and self-interest.

Have mercy on us.

We have failed to condemn discrimination that leads to unrest.

Have mercy on us.

We have decried violence, while overlooking inequity and frustration from which it rises.

Have mercy on us.

We have practiced injustice for economic gain and have oppressed others to make a false peace.

Have mercy on us.

We have sought comfort in advantage for ourselves at the cost of injustice for others.

Have mercy on us.

We have welcomed solace over conflict and ignored the cries of those harmed by our comfort.

Have mercy on us.

We have grasped for this world's goods, and been arrogant toward those who have little.

Have mercy on us.

We have not shared the good things we have been given, and blamed the poor for their poverty.
Have mercy on us.

We have been fearful and distrustful of those who are different from us.
Have mercy on us.

We have divided ourselves from others, and refused to listen to or believe their experience.
Have mercy on us.

We have been indifferent to the pain and suffering of our sisters and brothers.
Have mercy on us.

We have held in contempt those who need our help, and not loved them with our whole hearts.
Have mercy on us.

We have been self-satisfied in our privilege, and denied our oppression of others.
Have mercy on us.

We have preferred order over justice, and isolation over the struggle for peace.
Have mercy on us.

We have quietly held good intentions, and kept silent the message of reconciliation.
Have mercy on us.

We have failed to act with courage for the sake of love.
Have mercy on us.

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love others who are unlike us. May God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, make us compassionate in our actions and courageous in our works, that we may see Christ's Beloved Community in our own day. **Amen.**

(Adapted from the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church)

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I have known their sufferings, and I have come to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey . . . The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt. But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt? God said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." (*Exodus 3:7-12*)



Psalm 46

*LaTreice Branson, psalmist and drummer
The Saint James School*

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The God of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy dwelling of the Most High.

- 6 God is in the midst of the city;
it shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help it at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and states are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The God of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of God, *
who has done astounding things on earth.
- 10 It is God who makes war to cease in all the world; *
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."
- 12 The God of hosts is with us; *
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

(From *The St. Helena Psalter*)

A Reading from the Gospel of John

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. (*John 9:1-7*)

Homily

The Reverend Jordan F. Casson
Canon for Peace and Reconciliation
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
Rector, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Yeadon, PA

The Gospel Choir of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

Mr. Waltier Blocker, Director

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills,
Knowing my help is coming from You,
Your peace You give me in time of the storm.

You are the source of my strength,
You are the strength of my life,
I lift my hands in total praise to You.

You are the source of my strength,
You are the strength of my life,
I lift my hands in total praise to You.

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen,
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

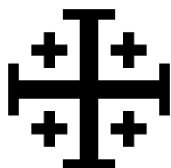
You are the source of my strength,
You are the strength of my life,
I lift my hands in total praise to You.

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen,
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.



*An excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King's speech on the Mall,
Washington, D.C., 1963*

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood (and sisterhood). With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.



Concluding Prayer and Final Blessing

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see everything has become new. All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. (*2 Corinthians 5:17-18*) May we who share in this blessed gift hold fast to the hope of racial reconciliation and justice that you set before us to become Christ's Beloved Community. Empower us to be agents of your healing love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **AMEN.**

The Gospel Choir of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

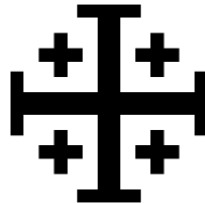
Mr. Waltier Blocker, Director

Mine eyes have seen the glory
Of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage
Where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning
Of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Chorus

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

Text-Julia Ward Howe



Ministers of the Liturgy

Officiant

The Right Reverend Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Dean of the Cathedral

The Very Reverend Judith A. Sullivan

Homilist

The Reverend Jordan F. Casson
Canon for Peace and Reconciliation
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
Rector, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Yeadon, PA

Ministers of Music

Choir

The Gospel Choir of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
Mr. Waltier Blocker, *Director*

Psalmist & Drummer

LaTreice Branson
The Saint James School

Soloist

Ruth Naomi Floyd

Pianist

Dr. Jay Fluellen
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

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The Very Reverend Judith A. Sullivan, *President*

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The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw

Ms. Nokomis Wood

**Deceased*



At Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, we gather in the name of Jesus Christ to give thanks and praise to God and to serve the community around us. We are a unique urban center whose doors are open to feed the hungry, to pray, to be inspired by the arts, and to learn as we come closer to God's creative, healing spirit.

For upcoming events at the Cathedral, please visit our website.

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The Reverend Al Holland, Assisting Clergy
The Reverend Charles Lattimore Howard, Ph.D., Assisting Clergy
The Venerable Dr. Pamela Nesbit, Archdeacon Emerita
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