

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
ORDER OF WORSHIP



**The Feast of Absalom Jones**  
A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

February 15, 2026

6:00 p.m.

900 Broadway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203  
[christcathedral.org](http://christcathedral.org)



**Absalom Jones, Priest, 1818**  
**Holy Eucharist: Rite II**

PRELUDE

In That Great Getting' Up Mornin'  
*St. Paul's Trio*

arr. Rick Jackson

Home in That Rock  
*Donna Stokes-Rogers, soloist*

arr. Greg Gilpin

My Maker's World

*Terra Beata* hymn tune with  
Swahili text, arr. Sheldon Curry

This is my Maker's world, and to my listening ears  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Maker's world: I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--  
God's hand the wonders wrought.

Swahili: *Asante sana Mungu. Bwana asifiwe!*  
(Trans: Many thanks, God. Praise the Lord!)

This is my Maker's world: the birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Maker's world: He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass.  
He speaks to me everywhere.

Swahili: *Tuimbe Hallelujah!*  
(Trans: Let's sing Hallelujah!)

This is my Maker's world: O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Maker's world: why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!  
God reigns; let earth be glad!

*Chamber Choir and St. Paul's Trio*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please stand as you are able for the procession.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

*Lauda Anima*

Blessed Absalom Jones



1. Born in bond-age, born in shack - les, born stripped of all dig - ni - ty,  
2. Seek - ing to ex - pand hor - i - zons, Bi - ble, pri - mer he did find;  
3. When in Phi - la - del - phia set - tled, he sought per - sons in great need,  
4. One fine morn-ing, while at wor - ship, wrest - ed from his knees in prayer;  
5. Found-ed he Saint Thom-as' church for Af - ric's sons and daught-ers blest;  
6. Bless - ed Abs'-lom Jones, first priest of Af - ric's stock with - in our fold;  
7. Praise to Christ the Lib - er - a - tor; praise Cre - a - tor ev - er blest;

1. Abs' - lom Jones was bound, de - ter - mined, that he would one day be free.  
2. To each word he was at - ten - tive, learn-ing lest he fall be - hind.  
3. Ded - i - ca - ted to em - pow'r-ment, his own peo - ple he did lead.  
4. He, his friends, were thus e - vic - ted: "You no more may praise God here."  
5. Full-fledged mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, they no long - er were op - pressed.  
6. May we, in - spired by your wit - ness, raise up priests with hearts of gold!  
7. Praise the Spi - rit, Source of com - fort, north to south, and east to west;

1. Bless-ed Abs'-lom leads us, guides us, in the bonds of u - ni - ty.  
2. Bless-ed Abs'-lom lib - er - ates us from the pri - son of the mind.  
3. Bless-ed Abs'-lom, pray that we from all in - diff'rence may be freed.  
4. Bless-ed Abs'-lom, pray that we may stand stead - fast and per - se - vere.  
5. Bless-ed Abs'-lom, pray that we may be the church at Christ's be - hest.  
6. Bless-ed Abs'-lom, pi - oneer, proph - et, may your stor - y long be told!  
7. Bless-ed Abs'-lom, priest, ex - emp - lar, in God's bos - om now at rest.

*Celebrant* From the rising of the sun to its setting  
*People* **My Name shall be among the nations,**  
*Celebrant* In every place incense shall be offered to my name  
*People* **And a pure offering for my Name shall be great among the nations says the Lord of hosts.** *Malachi 1:11*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

*Please be seated.*

#### SONG OF PRAISE

Ain-a That Good News      *Spiritual*, arr. Victor C. Johnson

I gotta crown up in that kingdom, ain-a that good news!  
I'm gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up my cross,  
Gonna take it home to my Jesus, ain-a that good news!

I got a harp up in that kingdom, ain-a that good news!  
I'm gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross  
Gonna take it home to my Jesus, ain-a that good news!

I got a song up in that kingdom, ain-a that good news!  
I'm gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross  
Gonna take it home to my Jesus, ain-a that good news!

I got a Savior in that kingdom, ain-a that good news!  
I gotta a crown up in that kingdom, ain-a that good news!  
I'm gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross  
Gonna take it home to my Jesus, ain-a that good news!

*Adult Choir of St. Paul's with Annette Phillips and Elizabeth Page, soloists*

*Please stand.*

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* 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.*

### THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Isaiah 42:5-9

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 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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 126

*Refrain introduced by Choir, then Congregation repeats.*



Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion \*  
then were we like those who dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy. **All sing Refrain**

Then they said among the nations \*  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”  
The Lord has done great things for us,\*  
and we are glad indeed. **All sing Refrain**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.  
Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.  
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. ***All sing Refrain***

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON – Galatians 5:1-5

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

#### SEQUENCE HYMN

*Please stand.*

In Christ there is no East or West

*McKee*

In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North,  
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be!  
Who served my Father as his child is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West, in him meet South and North,  
All Christly souls are one in him, throughout the whole wide earth.

#### THE GOSPEL LESSON – John 15:12-15

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory 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.”

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON – The Reverend Edward Smith II  
*A moment of silence and reflection follows the sermon.*

## THE NICENE CREED

*Please stand.*

**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.**

## A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR ABSALOM JONES

*Reader:* O God of freedom and justice: we celebrate this day your servant, Absalom Jones, the first person of African ancestry ordained in The Episcopal Church. Empower the Diocese of Tennessee and the entire church to build a world where righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne. Glory to God's power and goodness;

*Response:* **The nations of the earth praise you.**

*Reader:* O God of peace, let your Church continue the ministry of reconciliation. Help us grow Absalom Jones' ministry of racial justice. Glory to God's power and goodness;

*Response:* **The nations of the earth praise you.**

*Reader:* O God who hears and sees the tears of our forbearers, help the nations of the world hear their citizens' concerns by responding to injustice, war, and racial oppression with actions that lead to peace. Glory to God's power and goodness;

*Response:* **The nations of the earth praise you.**

*Reader:* O God of our Ancestors, endue our leaders with wisdom and vision to gain wisdom from the past with the purpose of moving forward. Glory to God's power and goodness;

*Response:* **The nations of the earth praise you.**

*Reader:* O God of compassion, you hear your people's cries and prayers in heaven: accept our intercessions and petitions as part of our worship of you. Help us remember that we stand on the prayers of our ancestors. We pray for current and future generations. Glory to God 's power and goodness;

*Response:* **The nations of the earth praise you.**

*Reader:* O God who creates, Blessed Absalom reminds us that sacrifices must be accompanied with action: guide our feet to run the race without growing weary. Keep us focused on the fight for equality. Glory to God's power and goodness;

*Response:* **The nations of the earth praise you.**

*Reader:* O God who heals, deliver those who call upon your name as we intercede for the sick, the unhoused, the hungry and those suffering for lack of justice. You inspire our hearts with hope as we offer prayers of thanksgiving for this earth. Glory to God's power and goodness;

*Response:* **The nations of the earth praise you.**

*Reader:* O God who delivers us from death, continue to grow from strength to strength those who know you more fully, as we pray for the departed. Glory to God's power and goodness;

*Response:* **The nations of the earth praise you.**

*Reader:* O God, move us to be always thankful for your mercies and to act as a people who owe so much for your goodness. We ask all these blessings and mercies, only in the Name of your beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

*Response:* **Amen.**

*Adapted from prayers written by the Reverend Jemonde Taylor and based on "A Thanksgiving Sermon" given by the Reverend Absalom Jones on January 1, 1808.*

## CONFSSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

*Celebrant* 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

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## The Holy Communion

*The Offering is designated to support the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of the Episcopal Church: St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees University in Denmark, South Carolina.*

### THE OFFERTORY



*Scan this QR code with your phone or tablet, under "Fund" choose "Absalom Jones-HBCUs" in the drop-down menu to leave your offering this evening. You may also leave your offering in the offering plates as they are passed.*

### ANTHEM

*Elijah Rock*

Spiritual

arr. Roger Emerson

Elijah rock, shout, shout!  
Elijah rock, comin' up Lord.

Satan's a liar and a conjurer too. If you don't watch out, he'll conjure you!  
If I could, I surely would stand on the rock where Moses stood.

Elijah was a righteous man. His name means "Yahweh" in the holy land.  
He built an altar unto the Lord, twelve rocks, twelve tribes, for the God he adored!

*The Adult Choir of St. Paul's*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints, who have been the chosen vessels of your grace, and the light of the world in their generations. 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:

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*The people may kneel or stand.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

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

**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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*Celebrant*      Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People*        **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## THE INVITATION

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.

*Please be seated.*

## THE SACRAMENT IS DISTRIBUTED

*All baptized Christians (including children) are invited to take the Bread and the Wine. Please fill the communion railing from the center to the outside. You may kneel or stand.*

*If you wish to receive the Sacrament by intinction please leave the Bread in your hand. The chalice bearer will dip the Bread in the Wine and return it to your hand. You may also receive a blessing from one of the priests instead of the Bread and Wine. Let us know if you need a low-gluten wafer when you are at the communion railing.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*The Adult Choir and Trio of St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

## INSTRUMENTAL VOLUNTARY

Give Me Jesus

*Spiritual*

arr. Randa Kirshbaum

## ANTHEM

Balm in Gilead

*Spiritual*

arr. William L. Dawson

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my works in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, and say he died for all.

*Josh Post, soloist*

## INSTRUMENTAL VOLUNTARIES

Balm in Gilead

arr. Scholz, Pell, and Burnside

Deep River      *Spiritual*, arr. Scholz, Pell, and Burnside

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey

## ANTHEM

Moses Hogan

### Hear My Prayer

Oh Lord, please hear my prayer in the morning when I rise.  
It's your servant bound for glory, Oh dear Lord, please hear my prayer

Oh Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within your arms.  
It's your servant bound for glory, Oh dear Lord, please hear my prayer

When my work on earth is done, and you come to take me home,  
Just to know I'm bound for glory, and to hear you say, "Well done."  
Done with sin and sorrow. Have mercy. Amen.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members of  
your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

May Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate this festival of Absalom Jones be now and evermore your guide and companion in the way. **Amen.**

May God, who has bound us together in the company of the elect, in this age and the age to come, attend to the prayers of his faithful servants on your behalf, as he hears your prayers for them. **Amen.**

May God, who has given us, in the lives of his saints, patterns of holy living and victorious dying, strengthen your faith and devotion, and enable you to bear witness to the truth against all adversity. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## HYMN

*Lift Every Voice*

Lift every voice and sing

1 Lift ev- ery voice and sing till earth and hea - ven ring, ring with the  
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, thou who hast

har - mon - ies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise  
 days when hope un - born had died; yet, with a stead - y beat,  
 brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might

high as the lis - tening skies; let it re - sound loud as the  
 have not our wea - ry feet come to the place for which our  
 led us in - to the light; keep us for ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has  
 par - ents sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been  
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we

taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has  
 wa - tered; we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the  
 met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for-

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Suite No. 1 for Organ

Florence Price  
(1887–1953)

IV. *Toccato*

*Membership of the Beloved Community Commission of the Diocese of Tennessee*

The Reverend Colin Ambrose, *St. George's, Nashville*  
 Dr. Billy Ballard, *Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville*  
 The Reverend Richard (Rick) Britton, *Retired*  
 Nancy Cason, *St. Bartholomew's, Nashville*  
 Chris Colane, *St. James, Sewanee*  
 Dr. Bill Gittens, *St. Anselm's, Nashville*  
 Kate Keese, *Church of the Advent, Nashville*  
 The Reverend Robert Lamborn, *The Church of St. Mark and St. Paul, Sewanee*  
 The Reverend Monna Mayhall, *St. Paul's, Franklin*  
 Dr. Merriel Bullock Neal, *Trinity Church, Clarksville*  
 Dr. Harold Nevels, *St. Anselm's, Nashville*  
 The Reverend Edward Smith II, *St. Bartholomew's, Nashville*  
 Johniene Thomas, *St. Anselm's, Nashville*

For more information about the ministry of the Beloved Community Commission and how to get involved, contact the Reverend Monna Mayhall [monna@stpaulsfranklin.com](mailto:monna@stpaulsfranklin.com), the Reverend Richard C. Britton, Jr.

[rick\\_britton@comcast.net](mailto:rick_britton@comcast.net) or Dr. William Gittens [bgittens@comcast.net](mailto:bgittens@comcast.net)

## The Reverend Edward Smith II



Ed is the assistant Rector at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Ed was born and raised in Coral Gables, Florida. He has a B.S in Political Science from Florida A&M University, a Juris Doctorate from St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami, and a Master of Divinity from the University of the South, Sewanee. Before relocating to Tennessee, Ed lived in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he worked for over ten years at Bank of America in their Global Wealth and Investment Management and Wells Fargo in their Institutional Retirement and Trust divisions. Ed, a cradle Episcopalian, felt a call to serve the church and moved to Sewanee for seminary. After seminary, he accepted a position in Nashville at St. Bartholomew's.

Ed is married to Kinya Smith, an eighth-grade English teacher at Nashville Collegiate Preparatory School. They have a 16-year-old son, Edward Smith III, a junior at St. Andrew's School Sewanee, where he competes in cross-country, basketball, and soccer. Ed loves to travel as a family and visit historical sites, watch movies, and read non-fiction books, in the areas of history and biography. He and his family live in Forest Hills.

## **The Reverend Absalom Jones, 1746-1818**

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. 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. Upon his manumission in 1784, he served as lay minister for the black membership at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church with his friend, Richard Allen, and 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.

The active evangelism of Jones and Allen greatly increased black membership at St. George's. Alarmed by the rise in black attendance, in 1791 the vestry decided to segregate African Americans into an upstairs gallery without notice. When ushers attempted to remove the black congregants, the resentful group exited the church.

In 1792 Jones and Allen, with the assistance of local Quakers and Episcopalian, established the "First African Church" in Philadelphia. Shortly after the establishment that same year, the African Church applied to join the Protestant Episcopal Church, laying before the diocese three requirements: the Church must be received as an already organized body; it must have control over its own affairs; and Jones must be licensed as lay-reader and if qualified, ordained as its minister.

Upon acceptance into the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the church was renamed the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. The following year Jones became a deacon but was not ordained a priest until 1802, 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 to provide for gradual emancipation of existing slaves. Jones died in 1818.

*The famous image on the cover of Absalom Jones was rendered by Philadelphia artist Raphaelle Peale in 1810.*



CELEBRANT

The Right Reverend John C. Bauerschmidt, *Bishop*  
*The Episcopal Dioceses of Tennessee*

PREACHER

The Reverend Edward Smith II  
*St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Nashville*

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Very Reverend Serena Sides, *Dean and Rector*  
*Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville*  
The Reverend Canon Madeleine Rebouché,  
*Canon and Associate Rector for Outreach and Formation*  
*Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville*  
The Reverend Richard C. Britton, Jr.  
*Member, The Beloved Community Commission*

LITANIST

The Reverend Monna Mayhall,  
*St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Franklin*

MUSICIANS

Donna Stokes-Rogers, *Minister of Music*  
St. Paul's Trio: Holli Scholz, *Piano*, Derek Pell, *Violin*, and Kent Burnside, *Guitar*  
The Adult Choir of St. Paul's and The Chamber Choir of St. Paul's  
*St. Paul's Episcopal Church Musicians, Franklin*

ORGANIST

Dr. Peter Rogahn, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*  
*Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville*

LECTORS

Dr. William Gittens  
*St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, Nashville*  
Chris Colane,  
*St. James, Sewanee*

ACOLYTE

Cheryl Williams  
*Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville*

SACRISTAN

Matthew Kenny  
*Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville*

CHALICE BEARERS

Charlie Cook, John Whitaker  
*Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville*

USHERS

Colin Ambrose  
*St. George's Episcopal Church, Nashville*  
John Bridges, Pam Claybrook, Sheri Sellmeyer  
*Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville*

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