



Episcopal Education – Juneteenth
From the National Museum of African American
History & Culture

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.

Publishers throughout the North responded to a demand for copies of Lincoln’s proclamation and produced numerous decorative versions, including the attached engraving by R. A. Dimmick in 1864.

The post-emancipation period known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation as a whole. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.

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. The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told.

Birthdays: Carl Gincley – June 18 & Raymond Green – June 27

FOR PASTORAL CONCERNS PLEASE CALL:

The Rev. Peter De Franco – 973-886-5104

Warden: Howard Whitmore – 908-577-6569 Warden: Marcel Vaughn Handy – 908 875-9462

Fr. Peter takes a day off on Friday.

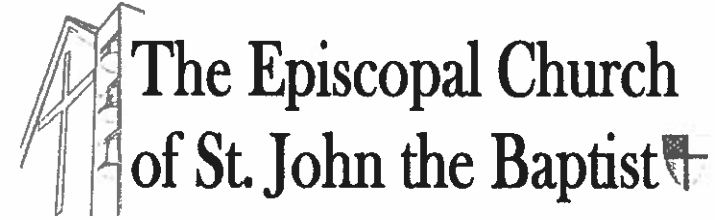
Sanctuary Lamp/Flowers: Please contact Parish Office at least two weeks before desired date.

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This Week –
June 18, 2023
Juneteenth Sunday



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professor Richard Alston begins as Director of Music at St. John the Baptist – June 25, 2023

Professor Richard Alston was hired as the Director of Music at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist. Professor Alston brings considerable skill and experience to his work. With a Bachelor and Master of Music from the Julliard School, he recently retired as tenured Professor of Music and Coordinator of the Performing Arts at Essex County College. He served as Minister of Music at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Plainfield. A renowned pianist with an extensive history of performances, he accompanied his celebrated series: Classically Black: Composers of African Descent.

James Splond Concludes Service as Choir Director – June 25, 2023

James Splond will conclude his service as Choir Director on June 25, 2023. We thank James for his creative work with the choir and for expanding the music we hear for anthems. We are grateful for the talented musicians whom James has invited to join our choir and enhanced the musical experience of the congregation.

Bible Study explores The Gospel According to Matthew

The Bible Study Group will explore the Gospel According to Matthew. We shall use *The Gospel According to Matthew: Volume 1* (New Collegeville Bible Commentary by Barbara E. Reid OP which sell for \$7.95 on Amazon. Do not buy her other commentary which is \$14.95.

Sunday Church Celebrations during June

- June 18 Juneteenth Holy Eucharist, Parish Picnic, Visit of Guests from St. Luke & All Saints, Union
- June 24 The Ordination & Consecration of The Rev. Dr. Sally French as the 13th Bishop of New Jersey
- June 25 The Patronal Feast of St. John the Baptist Holy Eucharist

Sunday Announcements to End

Since Fr. Peter will be on vacation during the month of July, we shall discontinue the Sunday Announcements. We shall post brief announcements on a redesigned Sunday Bulletin.

Search for a New Rector

Bishop Elect Sally French and the Rev. Canon Joanne Izzo met with the Wardens and Vestry for an initial consultation concerning the call of a New Rector. The Wardens will keep the parish informed on the steps in the process of calling the next priest to serve the church.

Search for Persons to Help the Church

Manage the Church’s Web Page and Facebook Page, Chalice Bearers, Acolytes
 Sunday Collection Counter

Calendar

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9-12

Call to confirm 908 925-1535

June 18

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Juneteenth Celebration & Picnic

10 AM Holy Eucharist

In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

June 22

7 PM Bible Study

Zoom

June 24

The Ordination, Consecration and

Enthronement of

the Rev. Dr. Sally French as

13th Bishop

of the Diocese of New Jersey

Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, N.J.

10 AM Holy Eucharist

In Person, Facebook

June 25

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

10 AM Holy Eucharist

In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

June 29

7 PM Bible Study

Zoom

July 2

5th Sunday after Pentecost

10 AM Morning Prayer &

Holy Communion

In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

July 16

6th Sunday after Pentecost

10 AM Holy Eucharist

In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

July 23

7th Sunday after Pentecost

10 AM Morning Prayer &

Holy Communion

In Person, Facebook, YouTube & Zoom

JUNE 18, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY

AFTER PENTECOST

taking†
faith
home

Sent out to do the work of Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Sunday | Matthew 9:35–10:23 | The sending of the twelve |
| Monday | Exodus 19:2-8a | Israelites go to Mt. Sinai |
| Tuesday | Romans 5:1-8 | How to be acceptable to God |
| Wednesday | Galatians 5:22–6:5 | Bear one another's burdens |
| Thursday | Deuteronomy 15:7-11 | How to treat the poor |
| Friday | Hebrews 13:1-8 | Service well-pleasing to God |
| Saturday | Psalms 100 | The Lord is good |
| Sunday | Matthew 10:24-39 | The call and cost of discipleship |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"As you [the twelve apostles] go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons." Matthew 10:7-8a (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, you have promised to do great things through us. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hands to do your will through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, we are the sheep of your pasture; we thank you for this food, a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 100)

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God be poured into your heart through the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5)



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JUNE 18, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Savior, like a Shepherd

Lead Us

taking†
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What do you do to help others, and what gets in the way of helping others?
- How is the care you offer to others doing the work of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 9:35–10:8.

Jesus asks his disciples (described here as “apostles,” that is, those sent) to go out and do what he does. They are to go out and announce the good news of the nearness of the kingdom of heaven, to heal sick people, raise the dead, and cast out demons. This is also the work that Jesus did (Matthew 4:17, 23-24). Casting out demons meant freeing people from all powers that prevented them from living full lives as those created by God. What Jesus did, we will do. However, there is no mistaking our own brokenness. Peter will deny Jesus three times, Judas Iscariot will betray him, Matthew the tax collector collaborated with the Roman government, and Simon the Cananaean was a “zealot” who worked against the Romans. The fact is that this motley crew is not so different from the church of any age and yet capable of doing Jesus’ work by the power of the kingdom of heaven that has also come near to us.

Discuss: When have you been surprised by the healing power given to you to bless other lives?

Pray: **Healing God, give us courage to face the challenges of daily life with love and hope that reaches out to others with the kingdom that has come near to us through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others to give them hope in their daily lives?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In many countries around the world today, the third Sunday in June, is Father’s Day. It is a special day to cherish the role of fathers and of those with whom we have had a paternal relationship. This day is set aside to honor fathers and provide an opportunity to celebrate fatherhood. Think or talk about the father(s) and other men in your life. Write a list of their names, read them aloud, and pray: **Dear God, thank you for the gift of fathers and all men who have made a difference in our lives. For the care they have given us and the guidance they have shared with us, we give you thanks. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org