A Celebration of Juneteenth



June 20, 2026

5:00 PM

ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

100 Northeast Mizner Boulevard P.O. Box 1503
Boca Raton, Florida 33429-1503

THE PRELUDE *Timothy J. Brumfield, Organist*

All shall stand as able and sing together.

THE OPENING HYMN 1 ***LEVAS II*** *LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING* *JOHNSON*

THE WELCOME *The Reverend Andrew J. Sherman.*

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT

CELEBRANT The Lord be with you.
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***
CELEBRANT Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us who resisted the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among peopleand nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***AMEN.***

All are seated for

FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM:
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS TO THE AMERICAN DREAM

Cyndi Bloom, reader.

Two Hundred-Fifty Years ago in July of 1776, the United States was formed by a group of men who declared independence and freedom from a tyrannical King of England. Today, it is called the American Dream. But not all were included in that dream. For another 89 years, enslaved Africans were held in bondage gaining nothing from the fruits of their labor. The last of the enslaved were freed from that bondage in 1865 but they continued on to fight for their civil rights as American citizens, and their right to vote in every election. We hear little about the contributions they have made throughout America's History, and their contributions were and are many.

African Americans contributed to:

The founding of Memorial Day
The success of NASA for our first manned space flight
First winner of the National Spelling Bee in 1908
The Integration of major league baseball
JP Morgan's librarian and art curator
Black owned businesses from fashion design to car manufacturing
The founding of the first Black Episcopal congregation

And there are so many more. We have included a short biography of some of these Americans in our handout. Today is a day to celebrate freedom and to honor those people whose hard work and mental toughness helped to create a better world for all of us.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah *[61:1-3]*

Jean McDonald, Lector.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion--to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

LECTOR The Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE ***Thanks be to God.***

All stand for a reading from

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Luke *[4:14-21]*

PEOPLE ***Glory to you Lord Christ.***

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

GOSPELLER The Gospel of the Lord.
PEOPLE ***Praise to you Lord Christ.***

All are seated for

A Reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (America's Vision of Freedom)

Genieve Brown Metzger, Reader.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take

increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863

The Lord's Prayer

CELEBRANT 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 Peace

CELEBRANT The peace of the Lord be always with you.
PEOPLE ***And also with you.***

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

A Sacred Concert

Featuring the Resurrection Steel Pan Drum Orchestra
Introduction by The Venerable Canon Michael Harris

The Blessing and Benediction

The Venerable Canon Michael Harris

During the intermission, children and families are welcomed in Harris Hall for a special children's program.

A social gathering to celebrate freedom will take place in Harris Hall after the concert.

The Resurrection Steel Pan Orchestra was founded in 1991 by Sherwin DeVerteuill and has performed countless concerts across many venues throughout Florida including the Miami Panorama Competition. Comprising mostly of local youth, Resurrection serves as a way for anyone wanting to learn how to play the steel pans or for those looking for a band in which to participate.

CONTRIBUTIONS of AFRICAN AMERICANS to THE AMERICAN DREAM

African Americans, from slavery to today, have contributed to the building of the American Dream. Today, we recognize a few of the thousands of Black people who have made a difference in the American way of life.

FROM SLAVERY

For nearly 250 years, enslaved African Americans performed backbreaking and dangerous work that fueled the prosperity of American plantations, farms and industries. They got no remuneration.

Harriet Tubman *(1822-1913) As an escaped slave, Tubman saved 70 enslaved people, helped to create the Underground Railroad, and was a lifelong abolitionist and spy for the Union Army.*

Absalom Jones, Priest (1746-1818). *In1802, Jones was the first African American to be ordained in the Episcopal Church of the United States who founded the first Black Episcopal Congregation in 1794. His life began in slavery in Delaware.*

Augustus Tolton, Priest (1854-1897). *Born into slavery in Missouri, Fr. Tolton was the first Black Catholic Priest in the United States. He was ordained in Rome in 1886 and spearheaded the development and construction of St. Monica's Church as an African American "national parish" in Chicago. The Vatican is proceeding towards his beatification and canonization.*

BEYOND SLAVERY

Memorial Day. *The first Memorial Day Celebrations in the United States were held by newly freed enslaved men, women and children on May 1,1865 in Charleston, South Carolina. They, along with members of the U.S. Colored Troops organized a ceremony to bury Union troops. It was called Decoration Day.*

Marie C. Bolden (1894-1981) *won the national spelling bee as an individual champion in 1908 as a young 14 year-old African American. Her achievement was quickly eclipsed by racial prejudice, and her story was rarely told or recognized.*

W.E.B. DuBois (1868-1963) *was a renowned American sociologist, socialist, historian and civil rights activist.*

Katherine Johnson (1918-2020) *was one of NASA'S "human computers" who performed complex calculations that enabled humans to successfully achieve space flight. Her story is depicted in the 2016 film "Hidden Figures."*

Ann Lowe (1898-1981) *was considered one of America's most significant couture designers. She designed Jackie Kennedy's wedding dress in 1953.*

Justice Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) *was the first African American Justice of the Supreme Court and served for 24 years. Prior to serving as Justice, he was counsel to the NAACP and championed equality for African Americans.*

Jackie Robinson (1919-1972) *was a Hall of Fame baseball player who broke Major League Baseball's color barrier as its first Black athlete. He played for the Brooklyn Dodgers beginning on April 15, 1947.*

Mae Jemison (1956-present) *was the first Black female astronaut in space in 1992. Today, she continues as a scientist and public speaker.*

Barack Obama (1961-present) *was the first and only Black American to be elected to the U.S. Presidency and he continues to work for democracy, freedom, and the rights for all Americans.*

We could continue to add many, many more to the list and encourage you to create your own to share with your friends and family.



A History of Juneteenth

Also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day,
Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those
who had been enslaved in the United States.
It recalls how the states of Louisiana and Texas
heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln
had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.
Slavery continued in those two states for more than two years
after the proclamation was signed
because the word had yet to travel there.

Texas and Louisiana finally announced
to all people the news on June 19, 1865.
Former slaves broke out in spontaneous celebration.
These were dangerous times.
Even in the face of resistance and threat,
the formerly enslaved Africans found ways to give voice
to the wide range of thoughts and emotions
at the announcement of the end of legalized slavery
in the United States of America.



CLERGY AND STAFF

RECTOR *THE REVEREND ANDREW J. SHERMAN*
ASSISTANT RECTOR *THE VERY REVEREND DR. MARY ELLEN CASSINI*
PASTORAL COUNSELOR AND CLERGY ASSOCIATE *THE REVEREND ELIZABETH PANKEY-WARREN*
CLERGY ASSOCIATE *THE REVEREND JEAN BRUNO*
CLERGY ASSOCIATE *THE REVEREND DR. EMILIO ROSOLEN*
CLERGY ASSOCIATE EMERITUS *THE REVEREND DR. R. CRAIG BURLINGTON*
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FINANCIAL MANAGER *LEANDA ROBINSON*
OFFICE MANAGER *KAY HOLT*
FACILITIES MANAGER/SEXTON *STEVE DEMOREUILLE*

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:00 AM Choral Eucharist
9:45 AM Church School
6:00 PM Holy Eucharist, Evening Prayer, or Choral Evensong

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Morning Prayer, 9:00 AM (Tuesday and Wednesday, online and in-person;
Monday, Thursday and Friday, in-person.)
Holy Eucharist every Tuesday and Thursday at 12 noon

Transforming Hearts and Community through Jesus' Love



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