



THE LONG WAY HOME · A SEASON OF RECKONING

The Long Way Home: A Season of Reckoning, September 14 - November 2.

On Holy Cross Day (September 14), the Diocese of Southern Virginia enters a season of historical and spiritual reckoning with the Church's entanglement in slavery and its long aftermath. Convened by the Rev. Jan M. Brown, through SpiritWorks Foundation, the season is forty-nine days of lament, repentance, reconciliation, and healing, opening on Holy Cross Day and ending on All Souls Day (November 2). The season includes three upcoming events:

Learn about the full season in a virtual session with the Rev. Jan Brown and the Rev. Willis Foster on **September 16 from 6:00-8:00pm**. This is a historical and spiritual account of how the Church of England, the Episcopal Church, the (unified) Diocese of Virginia, and the Diocese of Southern Virginia were bound up with slavery and its long aftermath traced through named people, dated laws, and this diocese's own record. Come with your questions about the history of slavery and racism connected with the Church of England, the Episcopal Church, and the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Registration is required to receive the link. To register, email jan@spiritworksfoundation.org.

On **September 18 from 2:00-4:00pm** at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Nicole Brown, Historian at the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and PhD candidate at William & Mary, and Janice Canaday, African American Community Engagement Manager at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, descendant and interpreter, will give a presentation on The 1723 Petition - Black Education and Anglican Empire in Colonial Virginia. In 1723, a group of anonymous enslaved Black individuals, likely from tidewater Virginia, petitioned the Bishop of London for access to religious education and freedom. This talk explores that petition within the religious context in which it was written - how the Church of England was building both empire and its ideas about slavery at the same time.

The season culminates on **November 2 at 10:00am** with the Service of "Lament. Repent. Reconcile. Heal." at Bruton Parish Church, with the Most Reverend Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, and former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preaching all under the leadership of The Right Reverend Susan Haynes, Bishop Diocesan of Southern Virginia. The service is followed by the reinterment of enslaved ancestors at the Utopia Site, Kingsmill on the James.