



Diocese *of* Newark  
The Episcopal Church  
in Northern New Jersey

# JUNETEENTH CHORAL EVENSONG

HONORING THE PAST. SERVING THE PRESENT.  
INSPIRING THE FUTURE.



JUNE 14, 2026 AT 5:00PM

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# PRELUDE

*Please stand as you are able and join in singing.*

**HYMN 226** (*Lift Every Voice & Sing*) Words: Julia W. Howe Music: *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, William Steffe

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord

1. Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the  
2. I have seen Him in the watch - fires of a  
3. He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall  
4. In the beau - ty of the lil - ies, Christ was

1. com - ing of the Lord; He is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the  
2. hund - red cir - cling camps, They have build - ed Him an al - tar in the  
3. nev - er sound re - treat, He is sift - ing out the hearts of men be -  
4. born a - cross the sea, With a glo - ry in His bos - om that trans -

1. grapes of wrath are stored; He has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of His  
2. eve - ning dews and damps; I can read His right - eous sent - ence by the  
3. fore His judge - ment seat; O be swift, my soul, to an - swer Him! Be  
4. fig - ures you and me; As He died to make men ho - ly, let us

1. ter - ri - ble swift sword, His truth is march - ing on.  
2. dim and flar - ing lamps, His day is march - ing on.  
3. ju - bi - lant, my feet! Our God is march - ing on.  
4. live to make all free, While God is march - ing on.

Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!

Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

## NOTES ON THE SERVICE OF EVENSONG

Evensong is the sung Anglican office of Evening Prayer, which combines the Latin offices of Vespers and Compline, a liturgy more than 400 years old and one of the Church of England's unique contributions to Western civilization.

Evidence of the genius of Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) – Archbishop of Canterbury – the words of this liturgy have been set to music by some of the Church's greatest composers. Although Evensong is a choral office intended to be sung by the choir, the congregation participates actively.

# THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Please stand and join in singing.

## PRECES *(Afro-Centric Liturgical Music Words & Music: Carl MaultsBy)*

*Cantor* *Congregation*

O God, make speed to save us. O

Lord, make haste to help us. Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, \_

and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit: as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and

will be for ev - er. A - men. \_\_\_\_\_

## PHOS HILARON *(Afro-Centric Liturgical Music Words & Music: Carl MaultsBy)*

O Gracious Light

1. O gra-cious Light, the bright-ness pure of the e-ter-nal  
 2. Our eyes now, as the sun-set comes, be-hold the ves-per  
 3. Lord, you are wor-thy at all times of joy-ful voi-ces'

One, O Je - sus Christ, ho - ly and blessed, the  
 light; We sing your prais - es Fa - ther, Son, and  
 praise, O Son of God, Giv - er of life, through

*Fine* *D.C. al Fine*

Fa - ther's on - ly Son!  
 Spi - rit as is right.  
 end - less worlds and days.

*“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.  
Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”  
—Galatians 5:1*

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

*Officiant* Dear friends in Christ, we gather today as an act of remembrance, repentance, and reparation as we celebrate Juneteenth Freedom Day. We hope to honor the past, serve the present and inspire the future. We remember the millions of African Americans who were stolen from their homelands, enslaved in bitter bondage, and who yearned always to breathe free. We repent of the ways in which we and those who have gone before us have been complicit in continuing systems of suppression, subjugation, and supremacy. We seek to repair the legacy of brokenness, brutality, and betrayal that perpetuates injustice and oppression in our own day. We gather today with the echoes of the past in our ears and hope for the future on our lips.

Therefore, in the silence let us call to mind the need of remembrance, repentance and reparation to which we have been called in Christ Jesus our Savior.

*Silence is kept.*

Let us pray.

Emancipating God, you delivered your people from captivity, and brought them to the land of promise; deliver us from the bondage of injustice, from the yoke of oppression and the burden of division and set us free. As you have shown us compassion, help us to be compassionate. As you have liberated us, help us stand up against injustice everywhere. As you have delivered us, help us fight for freedom for all still enslaved. Remember us, hear us, and be with us always; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

*All*

**Amen.**

*The appointed Psalm will be chanted by the Choir.*

**PSALM 100** (Chant: Carl Maults)

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

1. Optional Ending

May all lands be joyful before | you, O God, \*  
serve you with gladness  
and come before your | presence with a song.

For we know that | you are God; \*  
you yourself have made us, and we are yours;  
we are your people and the | sheep of your pasture.

We shall enter your gates | with thanksgiving,  
go into your courts with praise, \*  
give thanks to you and | call upon your Name.

For | you are good;

Your mercy is everlasting, \*  
and your faithfulness en | dures from age to age.

# THE LESSONS

## THE FIRST LESSON

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (58:6-9a)

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**



A He has cast down the mighty | from their thrones,  
 B and has | lifted up the lowly.

A He has filled the hungry | with good things,  
 B and the rich he | has sent away empty.

A He has come to the help of his | servant Israel,  
 B for he has remembered his | promise of mercy,

A The promise he made | to our fathers,  
 B to Abraham and his | children for ever.

*The choir sings the refrain, then all repeat.*

A Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,  
 B and | to the Holy Spirit:

A As it was in the be | ginning, is now,  
 B and will | be forever. Amen.

*The choir sings the refrain, then all repeat.*

## THE SECOND LESSON

A reading from the Epistle to the Galatians (3:23-29)

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

# NUNC DIMITTIS *(Afro-Centric Liturgical Music Words & Music: Carl MaulsBy)*

The song of Simeon

Lord, now let your ser - vant de-part in peace  
ac-cord-ing to your ho - ly word. For my own  
eyes have seen the Sa - vior whom you pre - pare for  
all the peo - ple. To be a light re-veal - ing  
you to all the na - tions for your peo - ple Is - ra -  
el. *f* Glo-ry to God, Cre-a-tor, Son, and Spir - it, as in the be-  
gin - ning, is now and will be for ev - er. A - men.

## **THE GOSPEL LESSON**

A reading from John's Gospel (8:31-36)

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free?'"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**        *The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes*

Please stand as you are able and join in singing.

**HYMN 227** (*Lift Every Voice & Sing* Words: Traditional Music: Negrot Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood)

We shall overcome

We shall o - ver - come, \_\_\_\_\_ We shall o - ver - come, \_\_\_\_\_

We shall o - ver - come some - day; \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, \_\_\_\_\_

deep in my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ I do be - lieve, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Oh) \_\_\_\_\_

We shall o - ver - come some - day. \_\_\_\_\_ day.

We shall o - ver - come some - day. \_\_\_\_\_ day.

We shall o - ver - come some - day. \_\_\_\_\_ day.

- 1.-4. We'll walk hand in hand, today.  
3. God is on our side, today.
4. We are not afraid, today.  
5. We shall live in peace, someday.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**THE APOSTLES' CREED** *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 96)*

*Officiant* Standing together with Christians throughout the centuries and throughout the world today, and let us affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**  
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**  
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**  
**He descended to the dead.**  
**On the third day he rose again.**  
**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant* Let us pray.

# THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Caribbean Transcribed by Edith W. Ming)*

*Choir* *All* *Choir*



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, Hal-low-ed be your Name, — your

*All*



king dom come, your will be done, — Hal-low-ed be your Name, —

*Choir* *All*



on earth — as in heav-en. Hal-low-ed be your Name, —

*Choir, etc.*



Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. Hal-low-ed be your Name, —



For - give us our sins — Hal-low-ed be your Name, — as



we for-give those who sin a-against us. Hal-low-ed be your Name, —



Save us from the time of tri - al, Hal-low-ed be your Name, —



and de-liv - er us from e - vil. Hal-low-ed be your Name, — For the



king-dom, the power, and the glo-ry are yours, Hal-low-ed be your Name, —



now and for ev - er. A - men. — Hal-low-ed be your Name, —

A - men, - a - men. — Hal-low-ed be your Name, — A -

men, a - men, a - men, a - men, — Hal-low-ed be your Name. —

## THE SUFFRAGES

<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
Show us your mercy, O Lord;	And grant us your sal - va - tion.
<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
Clothe your ministers with right - eous - ness;	Let your people sing with joy.
<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;	For only in you can we live in safety.
<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
Lord, keep this nation under your care;	And guide us in the way of jus - tice and truth.
<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
Let your way be known up - on earth;	Your saving health a - mong all nations.
<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
Let not the needy, O Lord, be for - gotten;	Nor the hope of the poor be ta - ken a - way.
<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
Create in us clean hearts, O God;	And sustain us with your ho - ly Spirit.

## THE COLLECTS

*Collect For Juneteenth (from the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri)*

*Officiant* Almighty and eternal God, in every generation you kindle in the hearts of your people the flame of freedom and the light of liberty. We remember before you those who, on this day, received the glad tidings of emancipation and those who were messengers of freedom. Grant us grace, in our own time, to contend fearlessly with the evils of slavery and to make no peace with oppression; that we may use our liberties for the cause of justice and peace among the nations; through Jesus Christ our liberating Savior.

*All* **Amen.**

*Collect For Sundays (Book of Common Prayer, p. 123)*

*Officiant* Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*Collect For Peace (Book of Common Prayer, p. 123)*

*Officiant* Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior.

*All* **Amen.**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ANTHEM

My God Is A Rock - (Parker & Shaw), Johan Hartman soloist

My God is a Rock in a wearily land an' a shelter in a time of storm

Stop an' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter One, When de Lord God's work was jes' begun

Stop an' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Two, When de Lord God's written his bible through

Stop an' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Three, When de Lord God died on Calvary

*(Refrain)*

Stop an' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Four, When de Lord God visit 'mong de po'

Stop an' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Five, When de Lord God brought de dead alive

Stop an' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Six, He went in Jerusalem an' healed de sick.

*(Refrain)*

Stop an' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Sev'n, Died and ris'n an' went to Heav'n.

Stop an' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Eight, John seen Him standin' at de Golden Gate

Stop an' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Nine, Lord God turned de water to wine

Stop an' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Ten, John says He's comin' in de world again!

Oh my Jesus!

My God is a Rock in a wearily land an' a shelter in a time of storm. Amen.

## ANTHEM NOTES

*The partnership of Alice Parker (1925–2023) and Robert Shaw (1916–1999) was the cornerstone of the “Golden Age” of choral music. With Parker as the composer and Shaw as the arranger/ conductor, the pair collaborated on over 200 choral compositions that included carols, folk hymns, spirituals, love songs, and more. Arguably their greatest contribution was a revival of American folk songs. While these pieces were expertly composed, they were also made very accessible to wide audiences.*

*In this anthem, Parker and Shaw revisit the Afro-American spiritual. While the rhythms can be syncopated at times, the beat emphasis lands on beat two and four. This is because the hard labor in the fields of the agrarian south, pounding in fence posts, chopping wood, and the back-breaking work of picking cotton, required timing and coordination.*

*For African Americans between the 1660s and 1865, there were few refuges from the brutality of chattel slavery. These included faith, family, song, and the small glimmer of hope for future emancipation. On January 1st, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln went into effect, all but guaranteeing slavery's ultimate demise.*

*The anthem tells a parable in ten lessons that start from The Creation, through the teachings of Christ, to the Revelations of John. Parker and Shaw also make the unique choice of having a baritone solo throughout, giving the anthem a darker, more grounded feel.*

### GIVE THANKS BY GIVING BACK

*During the anthem, a collection is gathered as we look to give back to God in thanksgiving for all the blessings in our life. Please remain seated during the Offertory to enjoy the anthem. You are invited to take advantage of the following options for giving electronically: Scan the QR codes below to donate through Venmo, Zelle, or our church database. D*



**venmo**



**zelle**



**realm**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

*Officiant* As we enter this Juneteenth holiday celebration, we offer prayers for ourselves and the world.

*Intercessor* That those entrusted with authority in our nation may serve the common good and lead in a way that promotes healing in an authentic, responsible, and peaceful manner. *Silence.*

Liberating God, we pray to you.

*All* **Hear us, O God, as we accept the call to be bearers of peace.**

*Intercessor* That the fullness of justice and compassion may be extended to the victims and families who have been subjected to violence, abuse, discrimination, murder, or the threat of the same. *Silence.*

Liberating God, we pray to you.

*All* **Hear us, O God, as we accept the call to be bearers of peace.**

*Intercessor* That our communities and our schools may find ways to actively participate in efforts to eliminate violence, especially violence against Black and brown people, so that this country may take the lead in fostering conditions for healing racial division. *Silence.*

Liberating God, we pray to you.

*All* **Hear us, O God, as we accept the call to be bearers of peace.**

*Intercessor* That all who gather to mark Juneteenth be able to freely and peaceably, remember, reflect, and celebrate together. *Silence.*

Liberating God, we pray to you.

*All* **Hear us, O God, as we accept the call to be bearers of peace.**

*Intercessor* That we may be courageous in living out the Gospel. *Silence.*

Liberating God, we pray to you.

*All* **Hear us, O God, as we accept the call to be bearers of peace.**

*Officiant* We pray, O Lord, for change. Jesus, you revealed God through your wise words and loving deeds, and we encounter you still today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to the margins. Guide us, through the love you revealed, to establish the justice you proclaimed, that all peoples might dwell in harmony and peace, united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you. And most of all, Lord, change our routine worship and work into genuine encounter with you so that our lives will be changed for the good of all.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 125)*

*All*      **Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise;  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

### DISMISSAL



*Celebrant*      **Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can  
ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church,  
and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.**

*All*      **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able and join in singing.

**HYMN 1** (*Lift Every Voice & Sing* Words: James Weldon Johnson Music: J. Rosamond Johnson)

Lift ev'ry voice and sing

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en  
2. Sto - ny the road we trod, Bit - ter the chast - 'ning  
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

1. ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
2. rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had  
3. tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the

1. ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the list - 'ning  
2. died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wear - y  
3. way; Thou who hast by thy might, Led us in - to the

1. skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
2. feet Come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?  
3. light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

1. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 2. We have come o - ver a - way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 3. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we met thee;

1. Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has  
 2. We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the  
 3. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

1. brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new  
 2. slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we  
 3. get thee, Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for -

1. day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 2. stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 3. ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

## POSTLUDE

### MUSIC NOTES

The service music is from *Afro-Centric Liturgical Music: Settings for Morning and Evening Prayer and the Holy Eucharist* by Carl MaultsBy.

The processional, "Battle Hymn of the Republic," was written by Julia Howe. Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was first published on the front page of *The Atlantic Monthly* of February 1862, and the lyrics appear in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s sermons and speeches, most notably in his speech "How Long, Not Long" from the steps of the Alabama State Capitol building on March 25, 1965, after the successful Selma to Montgomery march, and in his final sermon "I've Been to the Mountaintop", delivered in Memphis, Tennessee, on the evening of April 3, 1968, the night before his assassination. The speech ends with the first lyrics of the "Battle Hymn": "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

"We Shall Overcome" is a gospel song that is associated heavily with the U.S. civil rights movement. The origins of the song are unclear; it was thought to have descended from "I'll Overcome Some Day," a hymn by Charles Albert Tindley, while the modern version of the song was first said to have been sung by tobacco workers led by Lucille Simmons during the 1945–1946 Charleston Cigar Factory strike in Charleston, South Carolina.

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" is a hymn with lyrics by James Weldon Johnson (1871–1938) and set to music by his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson (1873–1954). Written from the context of African Americans in the late 19th century, the hymn is a prayer of thanksgiving to God as well as a prayer for faithfulness and freedom, with imagery that evokes the biblical Exodus from slavery to the freedom of the "promised land".

Premiered in 1900, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was communally sung within Black American communities, while the NAACP began to promote the hymn as a "Negro national anthem" in 1917 (with the term "Black national anthem" similarly used in the present day). It has been featured in 49 different Christian hymnals, and it has also been performed by various African American singers and musicians. Its prominence has increased since 2020 following the George Floyd protests.

~ *Wikipedia, June 2025*

# WE OFFER THANKS TO TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

## OFFICIANT AND PREACHER

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes

## MODERATED DISCUSSION LEADER

Mecca K. Madyn, *Drew University's Faculty Director of Civically Engaged Teaching*

## READERS & EVENT ORGANIZERS

Michele Simon, *St. Paul's, Englewood*

The Rev. Danielle Baker, *St. Paul's, Morris Plains*

The Rev. George Dredde, *Christ Church, Short Hills*

## ST. LUKE'S SENIOR CHOIR

*Directed by Warren Carr*

*Organist: Scott Ziegler*

### ALTOS

Stephanie Borsi  
Sonja Cole  
Ruth Perry

### SOPRANOS

Charlene Dalton  
Kailey Diggs \*  
Betsy Ginsburg  
Victoria Menesses +  
Shevon Nelson  
Izzy Ortiz +

### TENORS

Ken Dalton  
Thomas Etts \*  
Peter Kim  
Karen Thompson

### BASSES

Johan Hartman \*  
Thomas Kane +  
Tim Mannion  
Robin Vitullo  
\* denotes section leader  
+ denotes guest singer

## VERGER

Godfrey Gregg

## BISHOP'S CHAPLAIN

Martha Thalheimer

## CRUCIFER

Jaime Silva

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

The Rev. John A. Mennell

## RECEPTION ORGANIZERS

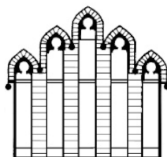
*Coordinated by Edith Gallimore*

Barbara Bell-Coleman, Diane Barreiro-Bundy, Joan Bradley-Mayo, Patricia Braxton, Angela Durham, Shahri Griffin, Patricia Haynes, Jean Innis, Melissa Johnson, Rhonda Layne, Shevon Nelson, Denise Price & Matthew Price, and Juliet Robinson

## THE HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. June 19, 1865, marks the date when Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, reached Galveston, Texas, with the announcement of the Civil War's end, the abolition of slavery in Texas, and the emancipation of enslaved African Americans throughout the Confederate South. This news reached the enslaved two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and over two months after the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at the Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution making slavery illegal in the United States would not be ratified until December 1865.

Juneteenth, also referred to as Freedom Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, has long been celebrated as a day of freedom in the African American community and marks our country's second independence day. In 2021, Juneteenth was commemorated as a federal holiday for the first time.



### ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

73 S. Fullerton Avenue | Montclair, NJ | 07042  
slechurch.org | 973.744.6220

#### WARDENS

Patrick Rodriguez & Angela Durham

#### VESTRY

*Class of 2027:*  
Stephanie Borsi  
Lauren Christie  
Peter Kim  
Justin Townsend

*Class of 2028:*  
Meaghan Crampton  
Shahri Griffin  
Nicola Lynch  
Robin Vitullo

*Class of 2029:*  
Chelle Carter-Wilson  
Venanzio Cortese  
Amrita Frederick  
Jack Newhouse