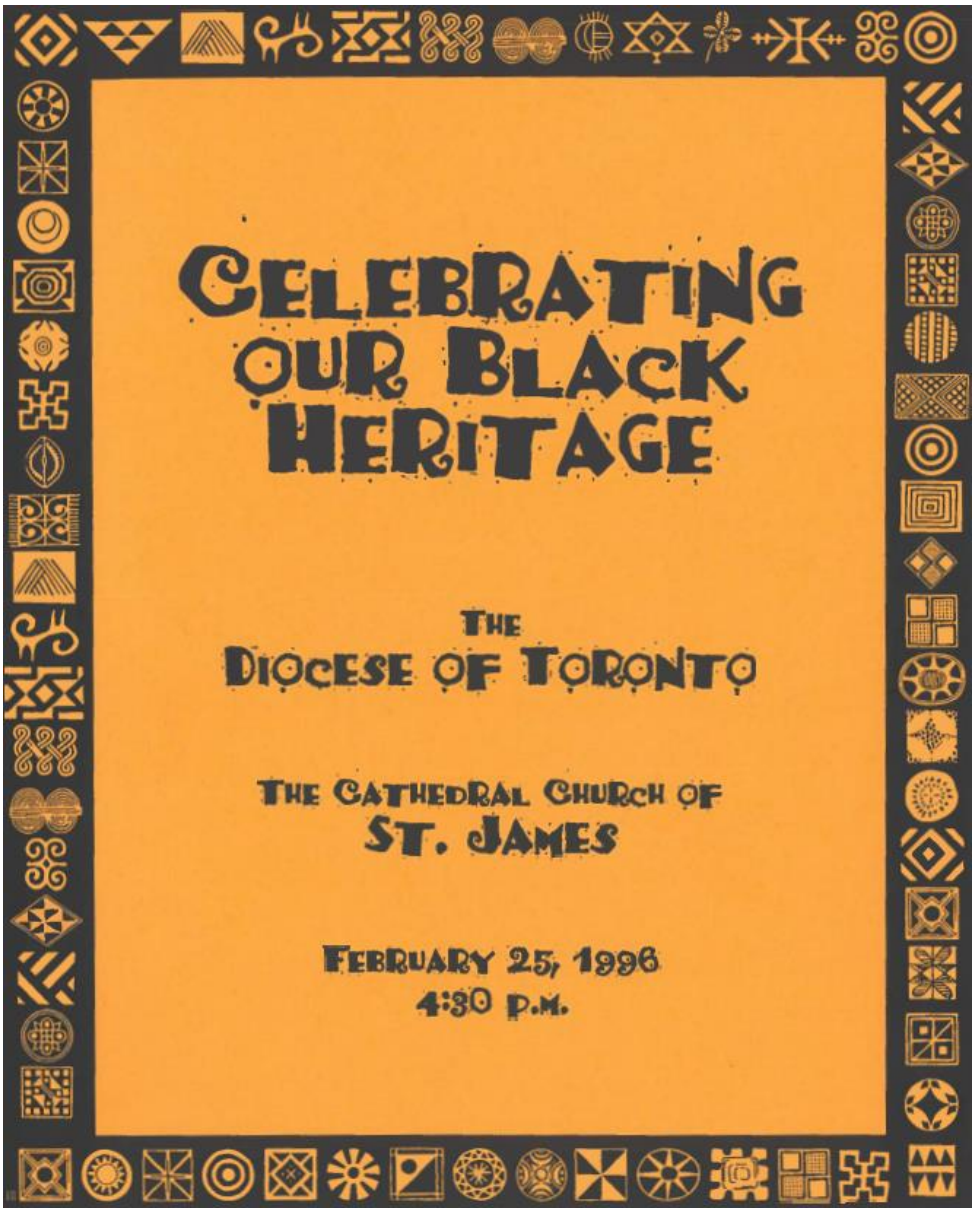

The 30th Anniversary of the Celebration of the First Black History Service in the Diocese of Toronto

Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 4:30pm

The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada

The Cathedral Church of St. James

65 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario M5C 2E9
Cathedral Centre: (416) 364-7865
info@stjamescathedral.ca • www.stjamescathedral.ca

Bishop of Toronto
The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil

Suffragan Bishops
The Right Reverend Riscylla Shaw
The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson

Rector of St. James Cathedral & Dean of Toronto
The Very Reverend Dr. Stephen Hance

Sub-Dean & Vicar
The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields

Assistant Curate
The Reverend Matthew Waterman

Vicar of St. Bartholomew, Regent Park
The Reverend Dr. Walter Hannam

Director of Music & Organist
Thomas Bell

Honorary Verger
Paul D. Seddon, ODT

Liturgical Note:
In the context of Christian Liturgy, Israel does not refer to the current political state, but either to the historic Hebrews of the ancient Near East or, in Christian theology, to all people who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.
For more information, visit our website by clicking the QR code on the right.

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Accessibility

A Wheelchair Accessible Washroom is located at the front of the Cathedral through the doors by the pulpit.
Assisted hearing devices are available from the sidespersons.

As this is a very public and open space, please be aware of your personal belongings. Do not leave them unattended in the Cathedral or in the Cathedral Centre.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Presider	*The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil*
Co-Celebrants	*The Right Reverend Peter Fenty* *The Venerable Cheryl Palmer* *The Reverend Canon Dr. Isaac Kawuki-Mukasa* *The Reverend Vernon LaFleur*
Homilist	*The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields*
Deacon	*The Reverend Canon Claudette Taylor*
Sub-Deacon	*David Grant*
Bishop's Chaplain	*Paul Seddon, ODT*
Land Acknowledgement	*Denise Byard*
Readers	*John Odell* *Carey DePass* *(Director of Corporate Governance and Procedures, Black Anglicans of Canada)*
Intercessor	*Canon Dr. Anita Gittens, ODT*
Communion Ministers	*The Reverend Matthew Waterman, Connie Kendall, ODT,* *Wairimu Nduati, Gail Smith*
Musicians	*Thomas Bell (Director of Music)* *Jean-Paul Feo (Organist)* *St. James' Cathedral Choir* *The Ghanaian Anglican Church Choir & Drummers* *John Odell & Wendy Jones, Drummers* *St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Steel Band*
Diocesan Dancers	*Zina Allder, Nicole DaCosta, Tammy Taylor,* *Angela Whyte, Aliya Whyte, Juanita Williams,* *Constance Kendall, ODT (Choreographer)*

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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Message from The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil

The Twelfth Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto

On behalf of the College of Bishops, it is my joy and delight to greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ on this incredible anniversary – thirty years of celebrating the Black community not only in the Church in our Diocese, but throughout our cities, the province and across Canada.

Since the very first celebration in this Cathedral in 1996, the Diocese has set aside this last Sunday in February each year to commemorate, remember, and celebrate the rich and inspiring history of the Black community – a story of courage, resilience, strength and faithfulness. Our Church has been blessed with Black leaders, saints, disciples, and voices for justice and change. Our Diocese boasts of our many Black members who bring vibrant gifts for ministry and enrich our common life together. To God be the glory!

Thirty years is a very long time – but not nearly as long as the history that we celebrate. As we begin this year of 2025, the first year following the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), let us not simply look back, or rest on past celebrations, but look forward. How can we continue to lift up Black voices, tell Black stories, and celebrate the culture and the contributions of the Black community – not just in February, but all year?

A creative spirit has always been a part of the Black History Celebration, and I want to make a special mention of today's preacher, the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields. Canon Fields has been a part of this celebration from its very inception in 1996, and now as our Vicar and Sub-Dean, he brings his gifts for inclusion and innovation to our Cathedral every day. We are very much looking forward to the upcoming "Marley Mass", using the music of Bob Marley, that he has composed for the service marking the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 16. Canon Fields, we are so grateful for your talented leadership and witness in our Diocese, and beyond.

Black History is a celebration for everyone. May God continue to bless the Black community in our Diocese, as the Black community continues to bless our Church.

Yours in Christ,

+ Andrew Toronto

The Right Reverend Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

A Message from The Reverend Wilson Akinwale

National Board Chair, Black Anglicans of Canada

Beloved in Christ, on behalf of the executive leadership team of Black Anglicans and our Lutheran siblings with whom we walk together in full communion, I am sending you all greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Resurrected One.

Since 2018, Black Anglicans of Canada started a mission to increase the participation, representation, empowerment and belongingness of Black People in lay and ordained leadership roles in the full life of the Anglican Church of Canada, and to develop partnerships with Black Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) and other oppressed peoples. We are now carrying out this mission with our siblings from the Lutheran church. And as we celebrate Black History in Canada, we embrace the truth that our communion is strengthened by every voice, every tradition, and every step forward together.

Today as you mark the 30th Anniversary of celebrating Black History Service at the Cathedral Church of St James, we recognize that our shared faith calls us to celebrate history, honor Black leadership, and build a future of justice and inclusion. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us — pastors, teachers, activists, and visionaries who built communities of faith in the face of adversity. Their legacy calls us to uplift new voices, empower future generations, and work together for a church that reflects the fullness of God's kingdom through the transformative power of the Gospel.

This 30th Anniversary service is indeed a milestone that calls for accolades and celebrate Black spirit of resilience, voice and identity in the church. May this celebration be filled with grace, wisdom, compassion, and inspiration. And may this service renew our collective hope and continue to guide the church towards God's future of justice, inclusion and full belongingness of all of God's people.

As a ministry led by Black Anglicans and Lutherans in Canada we are wishing you all a fruitful and joyful celebrations, renewed hope in this important work of God's mission that has been entrusted to us in Jesus' name.

With resurrection hope,

Rev. Wilson Akinwale,
National Board Chair and Executive Leadership Team
Black Anglicans of Canada (BLAC), **blackanglicans@gmail.com**

A Message from The Rev. Canon Dr. Professor Kortright Davis

Professor of Theology at Howard University School of Divinity
(the preacher at the first service in 1996)

It is with enormous delight and grateful privilege that I wish to convey my heartiest greetings to all who are assembled for the celebration of this year's Black History Month in the Anglican Church of Canada.

My mind immediately goes back to the many significant moments and movements in recent Anglican history towards the realization of our Transcultural Heritage as equal members of the Household of God, the Body of Christ, and the Fellowship of the Spirit. I continue to give thanks for the pioneering work of the late Dr. Romney Moseley, who did so much to remind Canadian Christians in general, and Anglicans in particular, that we are *NO LONGER STRANGERS* as followers of Christ.

The systematic work, first begun by the Black Anglicans Coordinating Committee (the organizers of the first service) and now continued by the Black Anglicans of Canada that has kept alive the fires of racial justice, social equality, and radical inclusion, has also generated new ways of religious imagination, liturgical expressions, and inter-cultural acceptance. Much has been accomplished with the seeds of transformation now germinating new patterns of growth in social justice, and optimum participation in patterns of leadership, and with increasing levels of mutual respect.

Accordingly, this special celebration of Black History Month in the Diocese of Toronto is to be a clarion call to remember where we have been, to rejoice at where we have reached, and to re-double our efforts towards a brighter future of where we are still being called to go. Long may the struggle continue, and may God Almighty continue to speed us on our way.

To God be the Glory!

Kortright Davis,
Kensington, Maryland, USA.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude *St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Steel Band*

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations - the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishnaabe, and the Métis peoples, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of New Credit. We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario. This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes. In the spirit of that Treaty we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.

Introit Nathaniel Dett

Choir "Come to me, Ye who are hard oppressed;
Lay your head gently upon my breast;
Come to me, And I will give you rest;
weary one, Hither come! God is your home!"

"Come to me!" Jehovah gently pleads;
"Come to me, I can supply all needs;
And my way, Unto green pasture leads;
Free from sin! Enter in! God is your home!"

Drumology *Choirs, Clergy and Bishop enter* *Ghanaian Drummers*

Dance: Enter into Jerusalem *Diocesan Dancers*

Bishop's Welcome

Black National Anthem Tune: Lift Every Voice and Sing

All Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,

out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

The Grace

Co-Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Co-Celebrant Holy God, we have assembled in your Name and in fellowship with one another to celebrate your goodness to us and the Black Heritage of our church which is founded on your Son, Jesus Christ.

People **Enable us to offer this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; to proclaim and respond to your holy word and to pray for your world and your Church. Grant that we, that we may worthily offer to you our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice and eat and drink of your spiritual food in this Holy Sacrament, and then, as followers of Jesus Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, may we go to serve the world that you love and for which Jesus died. Amen.**

Choir: O Praise Ye The Lord *Noel Dexter*

Choir O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
ye heavens adore him by whom ye were made,
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along:
for love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!
(Amen, amen.)

The Collect

Co-Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, Creator of all, we give thanks for the first Black History Service in our Diocese, and for those who proclaimed the dignity and gifts of the Black community. Strengthen us to work for justice and inclusion, breaking down barriers of exclusion and building a Church where all are welcomed, affirmed, and reconciled. By your Spirit, empower us to live as a people of hope and compassion, that your reign of justice and peace may be made known among us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

The First Reading *Exodus 3:7-12*

Reader Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

Reader The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn African American spiritual; arranger: Drew Rutz

All When Israel was in Egypt's land,
let my people go!
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go!

Refrain:
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharoah let my people go!

The Lord told Moses what to do:
let my people go!
to lead the Hebrew people through,
let my people go! [*Refrain*]

They journeyed on at God's command
let my people go!
They came at last to Canaan's land
let my people go! [*Refrain*]

Lord, help us all from bondage flee,
let my people go!
and let us all in Christ be free,
let my people go! [*Refrain*]

The Second Reading *Galatians 3:26-29*

Reader 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.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation with drums *Alleluia*

All **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel *Luke 4:16-21*

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Deacon 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 favour.' 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.'

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Affirmation of Faith *Please stand.*

Co-Celebrant Let us declare our faith in God.

All **We believe in God, the Source of all life and love.**
We believe in God, who lives in us through faith and fills our hearts with love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in God, who strengthens us with power to offer loving service.
We believe in one God: the Creator who loves us, the Christ who liberates us, and Comforter who leads us into all truth. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *Please adopt a posture of prayer.*

Co-Celebrant Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all those in need, mindful of the struggles, triumphs, and faith of Black communities throughout history, saying, "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer".

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Gracious God, we thank you for the diversity of your Church and for the witness of Black theologians, leaders, and martyrs who have enriched our faith. Help us to be a people who reflect your reign of unity, justice, and love. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God of justice, we pray for all nations, especially those scarred by the legacy of slavery, racism, and oppression. Guide leaders and all who work for reconciliation, equity, and peace. Inspire us to dismantle systems and structures of injustice in our time. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Loving God, we remember those who continue to experience discrimination and inequality. Empower those who struggle under the weight of injustice, inequality, and inequity. Comfort those who feel unseen or unheard, and give them hope in you and in the promise that you came to give life in all its fulness. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God of wisdom, bless those who teach and remind us of the rich contribution of Black civilization to world civilization. May we work to ensure that our past and present stories of resilience, creativity, and faith are never forgotten and are used to build a better future. Lord, in Your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We give thanks for those who have gone before us, especially Romney Moseley, Olga and Carlos Clarke, Carl Collymore, Winston Holder, Joan Howard, Winston Coombes, and other Black leaders, and ancestors, and saints, who paved the way for justice and equality in our church and society. May their legacy inspire us to live courageously in faith and service. Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Co-Celebrant God of love and liberation, we lift all these prayers to you, trusting in your grace and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Co-Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence

Most merciful God,

All **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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 neighbours as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Presider God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Please stand.

Presider Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

People **Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.**

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We offer each other a sign of peace.

An offering will now be taken to support the life and ministry of the Cathedral.

Donate to St. James Cathedral
by scanning or tapping
the QR code or visit
st-james-cathedral | CharityProfile | Donate Online (canadahelps.org)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory – Ghanaian Traditional Choruses

Prayer over the Gifts

Co-Celebrant God of all creation, you have blessed us with gifts to share and a call to build your kingdom. We give thanks for the richness of diversity in your family and the enduring contributions of the Black community to your Church. Sanctify these gifts and us, that they may be instruments of justice, inclusion, and reconciliation, and may they serve the work of your Spirit in transforming the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Co-Celebrant God is here.

People **God will never forsake us.**

Co-Celebrant We lift our hearts.

People **With soul and strength we lift them to the Lord.**

Co-Celebrant God's goodness never ends.

People **And thanksgiving will never cease.**

Co-Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, because through your goodness you have made all creation good. Time and again we have disfigured the beauty of your creation; and we have brought pain and hurt into our world, and towards one another.

You lead your people out of bondage, you sent your prophets to the widow in Zarephath and her son, and to the leper, Naaman the Syrian. In our time, with faithful servants, saints and martyrs, you have delivered your people from the tyrannies of slavery, holocaust, apartheid, and degradation. Your empowering and liberating presence will continue to enrich and sustain us who wrestle and struggle against the evils of oppression, exploitation, discrimination and exclusion.

Therefore, with all your servants, saints, and martyrs, and all the heavenly host of witnesses, we acclaim your glorious and matchless Name, as we say:

Sanctus & Benedictus *Land of Rest*

All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Please adopt a posture of prayer.

Co-Celebrant Sovereign Lord God, you revealed your eternal love for all your creatures in the gift of Your Son, Jesus, whom you sent to reconcile creation and make it new. With acts of love and compassion, he gave hope to those who were filled with despair. The enemies of justice and mercy pursued him to death.

On the night before his death, after eating the Passover with his friends, Jesus did something new. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this always in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave you thanks, and said "Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the New Covenant which is poured out for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the re-living of my life."

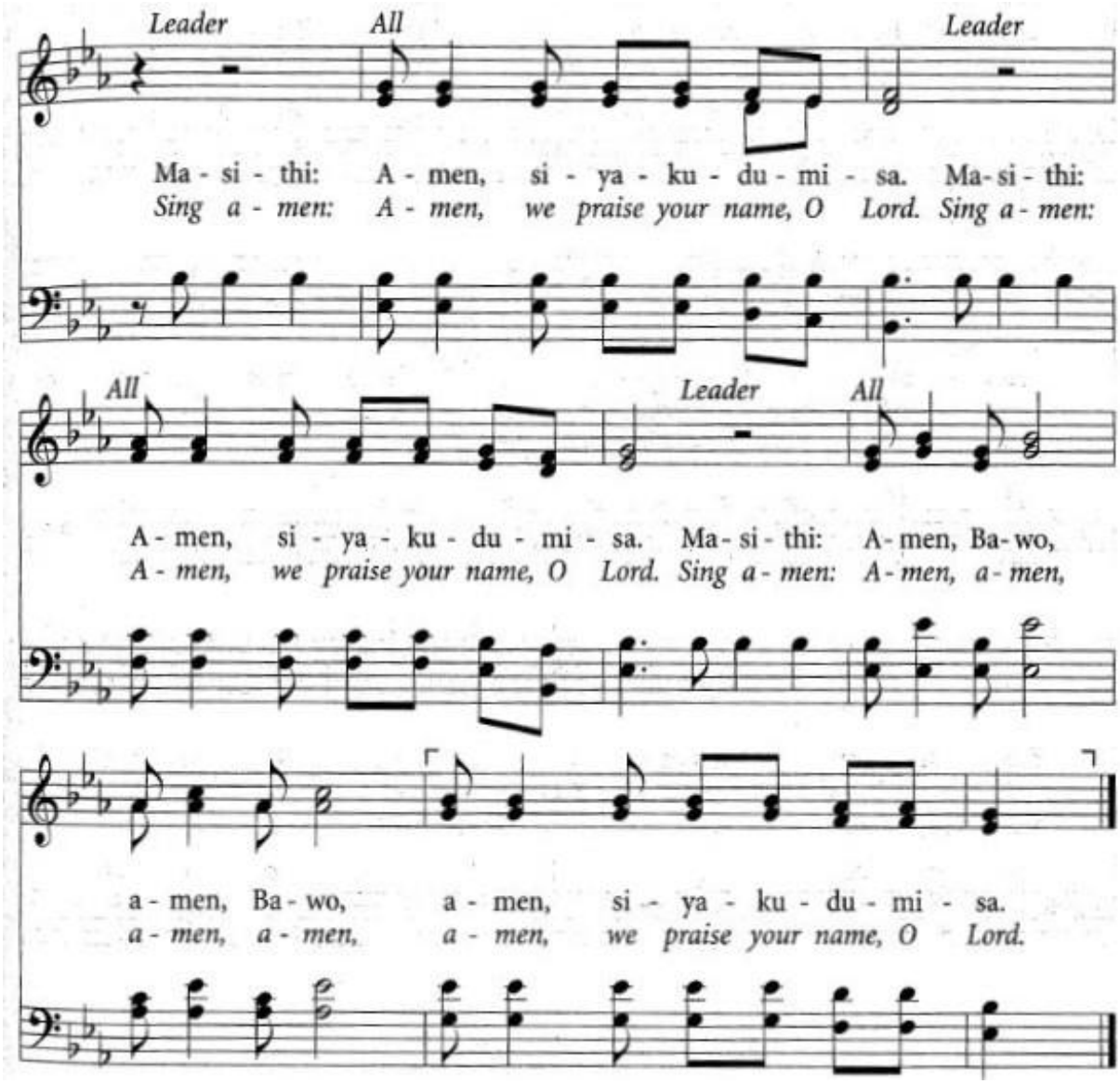
And so, Loving God, as we gather around this table, joyfully responding to his commandment, and as we share the bread and cup of Christ's liberating love, we renew our faith as we proclaim:

People **The enemies of evil, sin and death will be defeated, and we will share in the victory of our redemption in God's reign in all the world.**

Presider We therefore pray you to breathe your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts that we lift up to you: this bread, this cup. Make them, with us, visible signs and symbols of your abiding love and presence among all your people, as we strive to respond to your mission in the world. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory, praise and power is yours, Creator of all, from generation to generation.

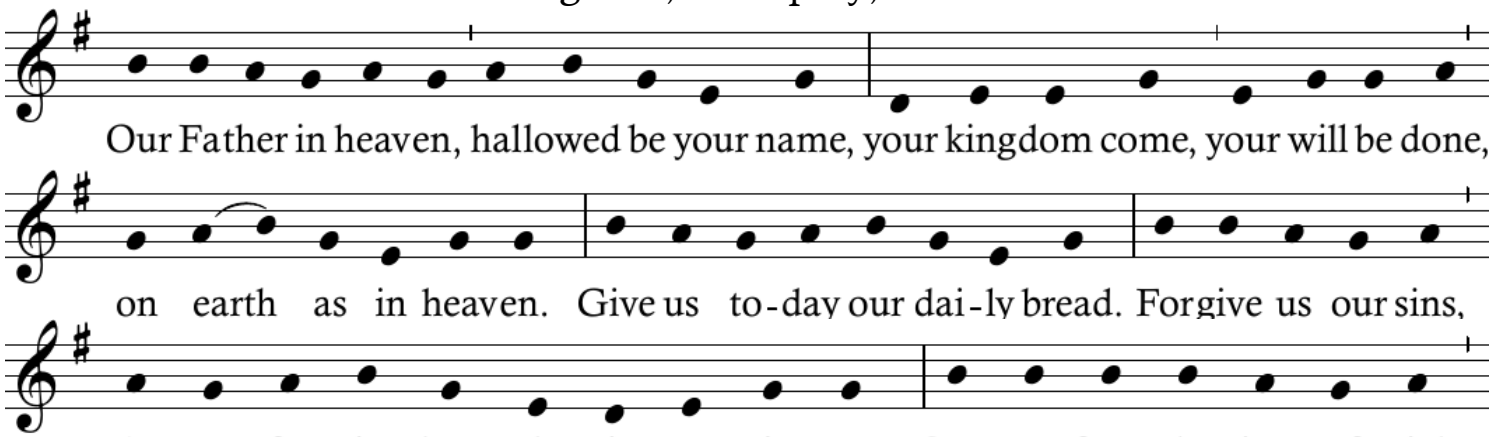
Written by The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields

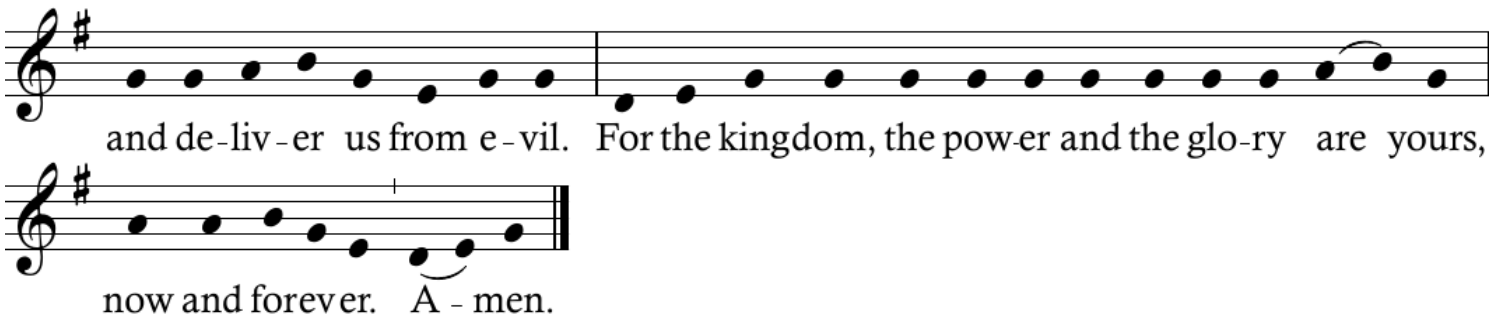
People



The Lord's Prayer *McNeil Robinson*

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,





Silence

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider We, though many, are one body in Christ

All **For we all share in the one bread, one cup, one faith, one hope.**

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or a blessing at one of the chapel altars or at the standing stations at the chancel steps. ***Only the choir and clergy in the chancel will receive at the main altar.*** *Gluten-free hosts are available upon request at the Lady Chapel. It is not permitted to dip the bread in the wine for health reasons. If you choose not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your hands over your chest to indicate this to the priest.* ***Please follow the directions of the sidespersons. Thank you.***

Communion Hymn African Traditional Spiritual

All I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing,
I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing,
I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray,
I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray,
I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan,
I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan,
I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout,
I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout,
I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

Communion Hymn Bill & Gloria Gaither

All There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Refrain
Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe;
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

If you say He saved you from your sin,
Now you're weak, you're bound and cannot enter in,
You can make it right if you will yield,
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel.

Communion Hymn Tune: Goodness Is Stronger

Choir Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours, victory is ours
through him who loved us.

Text: Archbishop Desmond Tutu; Music: John L. Bell; Tune: Goodness Is Stronger
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Motet **We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace** Moses Hogan

Choir We shall walk through the valley in peace;
We shall walk through the valley in peace;
For Jesus Himself will be our Leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

We will meet our loved ones there;
We will meet our loved ones there.
For Jesus Himself will be our Leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no more trials there;
There will be no more trials there.
For Jesus Himself will be our Leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

Prayer after Communion *Please stand.*

Co-Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, a sign of your boundless love for all people. Strengthen us to be witnesses of justice and reconciliation. By your Spirit, make us instruments of your peace, that your kingdom may come and your will be done, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.

People **Amen.**

Co-Celebrant Glory to God,

People **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. Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider May God raise you up above everything. Spread out like water of a lake. Be abundance that never ends, that never changes. Be like a mountain. Be like a camel. Be like a cloud, a cloud that brings rain always. And God promised that it would be so; and the blessing of God, Source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

A blessing from Samburu, Kenya

People **Amen.**

Hymn Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic

All Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

Refrain:
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on. [*Refrain*]

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of all before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. [*Refrain*]

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make us holy, let us die that all be free!
While God is marching on. [*Refrain*]

Author: Julia Ward Howe (1862)

Dismissal

Deacon Followers of Jesus Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world that God loves and for which Jesus died.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Steel Band*

Diocesan Events in 2025

March

Supporting Parish Leaders Workshops – *Zoom (attend one)*
- Monday, March 3 – evening
- Wednesday, March 19 – evening
- Saturday, March 22 - morning

Volunteer Conference – Saturday, March 8 *(Nottawasaga Inn)*

Season of Spiritual Renewal – Worship Gathering 1 – Saturday, March 22 (*St. James Cathedral)*

Season of Spiritual Renewal – Worship Gathering 2 – Saturday, March 29 (*Trinity, Streetsville*)

Clergy Theology Day with the Diocese of Brasilia – Tuesday, March 25 (*10 am – 12 pm – Zoom)*

April

Community of Deacons Retreat – Saturday, April 5 (*St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole)*

Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Ordination Vows – Tuesday, April 15 – 10:30am (*St James Cathedral*)

Diocesan ACW Annual General Meeting – Saturday, April 26 – *Zoom*

Diocesan Confirmation Service – Sunday, April 27 – 4:30pm (*St. James Cathedral*)

May

Ordination of Transitional Deacons - Sunday, May 4 – 4:30pm (*St. James Cathedral*)

Diocesan Clergy Conference – Monday, May 26 – Wednesday, May 28 (*Trent University)*

Lay Anointers Training Day – Saturday, May 31 (*Grace Church, Markham)*

Season of Spiritual Renewal – Worship Gathering 3 – Saturday, May 31 (*All Saints, Whitby*)

September

ReCharge – Diocesan Youth Retreat – Friday, September 26–Sunday, September 28 (*Muskoka Woods Camp)*

Season of Spiritual Renewal – Worship Gathering 4 – Saturday, September 27 (*St James, Orillia)*

October

Pre-Synod Meeting – Saturday, October 4 – *Zoom*

The Bishop's Company Dinner – Friday, October 17
(Sheraton Parkway Toronto North)

Outreach Conference - Saturday, October 18 – *Online*

Season of Spiritual Renewal – Worship Gathering 5 – Saturday, October 25 (*St. Paul's, Bloor Street)*

November

Children's Ministry Conference – Saturday, November 1
(*Bayview Glen Alliance Church, Toronto)*

163rd Regular Session of Synod – Friday, November 7 – Saturday, November 8 (*Sheraton Parkway Toronto North)*

Other dates for 2025, and further details on the above events, will be announced as they are determined.

St. James Cathedral

observes

The International Day
for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination

at the inaugural celebration of

"The Marley Mass"

(a service featuring the music of Bob Marley)
written by The Rev Dr. Canon Stephen Fields

with

MOKA, Caribbean Fusion Band

March 16, 2025 @4:30pm

St. James Cathedral

(@ King and Church Streets)

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
MARCH 21

Coming in from the Cold • ***War*** • ***Exodus***

Redemption Song

Could you be loved • ***Three Little Birds*** • ***Get Up, Stand Up***

Dear Friends

February 25, 1996

Greetings and welcome to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Beginning in June of 1994 a group of black Anglican clergy had a few informal gatherings to determine whether or not a caucus of Black Anglicans was needed in this Diocese to enhance our shared ministry. The diocesan multicultural initiative, No Longer Strangers, is a great boost to this group, and after its Visioning Conference last April, it became evident that a caucus of Black Anglicans was indeed necessary in this diocese.

One of the calls by black people at this conference was the need for more relevant worship. So taking that challenge, some of the clergy, now joined by a few lay people, concentrated their efforts on worship. Being also aware that there were few religious events during Black History Month, we planned this celebration and a diocesan consultation for clergy and lay workers. Giving ourselves a name, Black Anglicans Coordinating Committee (Bl.A.C.C.), we set out on our first project which is this event. "Celebrating Our Black Heritage" is an Anglican eucharistic liturgy, so we hope that many of you will take elements from this celebration to implement in your parishes.

The planning group wishes to thank a great number of people who have helped make this celebration possible. The Right Rev'd Terence Finlay has been supportive of the work of this group since its inception in June of 1994 and we are grateful for his ministry to us. The Very Rev'd Douglas Stoute, Dean of Toronto, has welcomed us to the cathedral on many occasions, and we thank him for his offer again today. He and the staff of St. James have certainly made us feel that the cathedral is a place for the whole Anglican communion in this diocese. Mr. Giles Bryant, Organist and Choirmaster of the Cathedral, has been supportive and gracious in not only offering the place of organist today to a young musician from the black community, but also in joining the choir and sharing his expertise. A warm welcome and thanks to The Rev'd Dr. Kortright Davis who enthusiastically accepted our invitation to preach at this historic event.

The Community Ministries Board of the Diocese of Toronto has been invaluable in the persons of Ms Ann Keating and Dr. Hazel Campayne. They have encouraged us with their offers of time and financial support.

We appealed to parishes across the diocese for their support, and the response has been phenomenal. The music and dance you experience today is primarily the efforts of volunteers. The Caribbean Chorale, and members of a variety of Anglican Churches make up our choir this evening; and The St. Stephen's Liturgical Dance Group are providing their colourful and exciting interpretation of two hymns. And what black event would be complete without drummers and steel pan? We are grateful that Ballet Créole and The Panatics are here with us today. Heartfelt thanks to the organist, Mr. John Bryan, and choral director, Ms Eulalie Walling Sampson, who gave of their time and talent to this endeavour. Music is vital in black worship and these two people are making it happen today.

The servers, ushers, readers, and intercessors have been crucial to the flow of the liturgy and we thank them for their quick response when asked to participate. They are from seventeen parishes in our diocese.

Parishes have also made financial contributions to this worship service, and we acknowledge them with our thanks: St. James Cathedral; St. John's, Norway; St. Michael and All Angels; St. Michael the Archangel, Scarborough; St. Stephen's, Downsview; Church of the Nativity, Scarborough; and St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea.

What a great day is this! Thanks to all of you for coming, and we hope you will join us after the liturgy for light refreshments, prepared by women from several parishes. We also ask your support for an annual occurrence of "Celebrating Our Black Heritage."

MANY BLESSINGS FROM THE BLACK ANGLICANS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Ms Elrita Sealy
Ms Linda Gray
Ms Constance Kendall
Mr. Winston Holder
The Rev'd Stephen Fields
The Rev'd Cheryl C. Palmer
The Rev'd Donald Butler
The Rev'd Leonard Abbah, OHC
Mr. Carl Thompson