

**St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church**  
**Black History Month**  
**Jazz Vespers**



**Featuring the Singing of**

**Lisa Lockhart, Soprano**

**Lloyd Reshard, Jr., Bass-Baritone**

**Ebony Lennox, Mezzo Soprano**

**Kathleen Vande Berg, Accompanist**

**Dr. Dorothy Headley Israel, Speaker**

# Black History Month Jazz Vespers

## Choral Prelude

"Deep River"

*arr. H. T. Burleigh*

"I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray"

*arr. Hall Johnson*

*Officiant*      Breath of God,  
breath of life,  
breath of deepest yearning,  
*People*            **COME, HOLY SPIRIT.**

*Officiant*      Comforter,  
Disturber,  
Interpreter,  
Enthusier,  
*People*            **COME, HOLY SPIRIT.**

*Officiant*      Heavenly Friend,  
Lamplighter,  
Revealer of truth,  
Midwife of change,  
*People*            **COME, HOLY SPIRIT.**

*Officiant*      The Lord is here  
*People*            **COME, HOLY SPIRIT.**

## Choral Interlude

"Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child"

*arr. Moses Hogan*

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

*arr. Lisa Lockhart*

## The Collect for Absalom Jones

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Collect for Frederick Douglass**

Almighty God, we bless your Name for the witness of Frederick Douglass, whose impassioned and reasonable speech moved the hearts of people to a deeper obedience to Christ: Strengthen us also to speak on behalf of those in captivity and tribulation, continuing in the way of Jesus Christ our Liberator; who with you and the Holy Spirit dwells in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer for the Women of Fort Mose**

*Written by Dr. Israel*

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we thank you for the Women of Fort Mose, who have shown their bravery and resilience in the face of oppression and pain...

We ask you dear Lord, to always bless them and support their efforts to spread their life of love, kindness and faith thru writings and reenactments to members of this community and throughout out the world. **Amen.**

## **First Lesson**

**Isaiah 61:1-3**

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.

*Reader*            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People*            **Amen. Amen.**

**Dr. Dorothy H. Israel—Speaker**

## Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
**then were we like those who dream.**

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
**and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, \*  
**“The Lord has done great things for them.”**

The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
**and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
**like the watercourses of the Negev.**

Those who sowed with tears \*  
**will reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
**will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## Second Lesson

John 15:12-15

Jesus said, <sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. "

*Reader*            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People*            **Amen. Amen.**

## Choral Interlude

**"Make Them Hear You"**

**Dr. Dorothy H. Israel—Speaker**

## Choral Interlude

**"At the River"**

## The Prayers

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.

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

*Officiant*      Let us pray.

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the  
world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*From the New Zealand Prayer Book*

*Officiant*      That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful.

*People*          **We pray to you, O Lord.**

*Officiant*      That your holy angels may lead us in paths of  
peace and goodwill.

*People*          **We pray to you, O Lord.**

*Officiant*      That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins  
and offenses,

*People*          **We pray to you, O Lord.**

*Officiant*        That there may be peace to your Church and to  
                         the whole world,  
*People*            **We pray to you, O Lord.**

## **Collect for Social Justice**

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our community and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Choral Interlude**

**"I Too, Sing America"**

## **A Poem for the Women of Fort Mose**

*by Dr. Israel*

We prayed to Allah before we knew  
That Christ love had come in to view

Their new faith in God was clearly shown  
With love and gratitude without a frown

The Women travelled for many miles  
To gain freedom the colonial style

They shared their kindness and faith to all  
Resulting in their thrust to stand tall

They showed the world that hardship always exists  
But women's courage and faith will always persist

They also brought an understanding of God's persistent love  
Which came to all of us from above.

May their writings and reenactments continue  
And be used in all the country's venues.  
Amen

## Choral Interlude

“This Little Light of Mine”

## “The Day I Met the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr”

*A poem written and read by Dr. James H. Lockhart, III  
from his book “Delightful!”*

## Closing Prayers

*Officiant*      Let us pray

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. **Amen.**

*Officiant*      Let us bless the Lord.

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

## Choral Postlude

“We Shall Overcome”



## **Absalom Jones Day - February 13** **(Episcopal Church Calendar of Saints)**

Absalom Jones was America's first black priest. Born into slavery in Delaware at a time when slavery was being debated as immoral and undemocratic, he taught himself to read, using the New Testament as one of his resources. At the age of 16, Jones' mother, sister, and five brothers were sold, but he was brought to Philadelphia by his master, where he attended a night school for African-Americans operated by Quakers.

Upon his manumission in 1784, he served as lay minister for the black membership at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church with his friend, Richard Allen, and together they established the Free African Society to aid in the emancipation of slaves and to offer sustenance and spiritual support to widows, orphans, and the poor.

The active evangelism of Jones and Allen greatly increased black membership at St. George's. Alarmed by the rise in black attendance, in 1791 the vestry decided to segregate African Americans into an upstairs gallery without notice. When ushers attempted to remove the black congregants, the resentful group exited the church.

In 1792 Jones and Allen, with the assistance of local Quakers and Episcopalians, established the "First African Church" in Philadelphia. Shortly after the establishment that same year, the African Church applied to join the Protestant Episcopal Church, laying before the diocese three requirements: the Church must be received as an already organized body; it must have control over its own affairs; and Jones must be licensed as lay-reader and if qualified, ordained as its minister.

Upon acceptance into the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the church was renamed the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. The following year Jones became a deacon but was not ordained a priest until 1802, seven years later. At 56 years old, he became the first black American priest. He continued to be a leader in his community, founding a day school (as African Americans were excluded from attending public school), the Female Benevolent Society, and an African Friendly Society. In 1800 he called upon Congress to abolish the slave trade and to provide for gradual emancipation of existing slaves. Jones died in 1818.



## **Frederick Douglass Day - February 20** **(Episcopal Church Calendar of Saints)**

Born a slave in February 1818, Frederick Douglass was separated from his mother at the age of eight and given by his new owner, Thomas Auld, to his brother and sister-in-law, Hugh and Sophia Auld. Sophia attempted to teach Frederick to read, along with her son, but her husband put a stop to this, claiming that "it would forever unfit him to be a slave."

Frederick learned to read in secret, earning small amounts of money when he could and paying neighbors to teach him. In 1838, Frederick Bailey (as he was then known) escaped and changed his name to Frederick Douglass.

At the age of 14, he had experienced a conversion to Christ in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and his recollection of that tradition's spiritual music sustained him in his struggle for freedom: "Those songs still follow me, to deepen my hatred of slavery, and quicken my sympathies for my brethren in bonds." An outstanding orator, Douglass was sent on speaking tours in the Northern States sponsored by the American Anti-Slavery Society.

The more renowned he became, the more he had to worry about recapture. In 1845, he went to England on a speaking tour. His friends in America raised enough money to buy out his master's legal claim to him, so that he could return to the United States in safety. Douglass eventually moved to New York and edited the pro-abolition journal *North Star*, named for the fleeing slave's nighttime guide. Douglass was highly critical of churches that did not disassociate themselves from slavery. Challenging those churches, he quoted Jesus' denunciation of the Pharisees: "They bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers" (Matthew 23:4). A strong advocate of racial integration, Douglass disavowed Black separatism and wanted to be counted as equal among his white peers. When he met Abraham Lincoln in the White House, he noted that the President treated him as a kindred spirit without one trace of condescension. Douglass died in 1895.

## Fort Mose

More than 300 years ago, courageous Africans escaped from enslavement in British colonies. They fled southward on foot to Spanish St. Augustine, crossing swamps and dense tropical forests. Along the way, they sought assistance from Natives, thus creating the first 'underground railroad'.

Not all survived. Those who reached St. Augustine were granted asylum by the Spanish government. It was a unique offer—freedom, in exchange for conversion to Catholicism and, for men, a term of military service.

The first freedom seekers arrived in 1687. This group included eight men, two women and a three-year-old nursing child.

By 1738, more than 100 freedom seekers had achieved asylum. In that year, a fortified town named Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose was constructed on St. Augustine's northernmost border. Fort Mose became the site of the first free black community in what is now the United States.

A formerly enslaved African led the free black militia of Fort Mose. His name was Captain Francisco Menéndez. For years, the warriors valiantly protected St. Augustine. However, when Spain ceded all of La Florida to England in 1763, the citizens of Fort Mose once again faced enslavement. They abandoned the fort and sought safety in Spanish Cuba.

Over the years, the Fort Mose site was swallowed by marsh, and the important legacy of its community was largely forgotten.

Late in the twentieth century, a highly dedicated team of archaeologists, historians, government leaders and committed citizens helped restore Fort Mose to its rightful place of honor. Today, Fort Mose is recognized as a significant local, national and international historic landmark.

## **About Dr. Dorothy "Deeh" Israel-Our Speaker**

Dorothy Headley Israel moved to St. Augustine after retiring from Stony Brook University of New York, with her husband Rudolph "Rudy" in 1994. Her college teaching career included Columbia University, New York University and Stony Brook University of New York. She holds the rank of Emerita Professor at Stony Brook's School of Social Welfare.

Rudy, who passed in 2006, was originally from St. Augustine. He introduced her to his hometown and she fell in love with her new home. Deeh is now well-known in St. Augustine through St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, civic organizations, her writing for pleasure and for purpose, mentoring youth, and working for equality.

She was instrumental in getting the Good Samaritan Health Clinic established on St. Cyprian's church property to bring medical care to those without insurance or the means to pay for needed services. It later moved to West Augustine, became Wildflower Clinic and expanded its services to include dental care. In retirement she has found a passion for writing and is a member of the "Sea Quills" writing group. She has published a book on growing up in Harlem, "From Harlem to the Sea - A Life Well Lived." The Sea Quills also publish an annual book of their work.

Some of her most recent volunteer work has been in bringing attention to the many aspects of African-American history in St. Augustine. She is motivated by the need to get out the "the untold story of black history." She works to bring this vision to life through her writing and work with the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center and the vision committee of the Fort Mose Historical Society. She wants our trains to go beyond Lincolnville's fringe, so the historically black community once known as "Africa" will be more appreciated by the city at large and its visitors. This worthy goal is on its way to fruition.

## Welcome

### St. Cyprian's Mission Statement

St. Cyprian's is a diverse and inclusive Christian community; welcoming all into our life and worship, as we creatively grow in faith and service to each other, the world around us and a loving God. If you would like to know more about St. Cyprian's please fill out one of the blue cards found at the back of the church or speak to Fr. Jim Dannals.

## Upcoming Events

**March 17– St. Patrick's Day Vespers, 5:30pm**  
**First Coast Highlander Bagpipers**

**April 21 - 5:30pm**  
**Program TBA**

**If you would like to support our music ministries, you may use one of the following methods:**

Cash, Check, Text Message or our Online Giving Page

Check- Payable to St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church

Text- Send an amount to 904-747-3737 (e.g. \$50) and then follow the reply prompts

Online- visit: <https://stcyprians.breezechms.com/give/online>

## **St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church**

**37 Lovett St.**

**St. Augustine, FL 32084**

**904-829-8828**

**StCypriansStAug@gmail.com**

**[www.StCypriansEpiscopalChurch.org](http://www.StCypriansEpiscopalChurch.org)**

**The Rev. Jim Dannals Interim Vicar**