GRACE AND HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



The Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 19, 2025 • 5 p.m.

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

• If you are a visitor or new attendee, we invite you to fill out a welcome card, found in your pew, and place it in the offering plate or complete the form online. Use this QR code to access the form.



- If you need a hearing assistance device, please ask an usher. Instructions to connect via Bluetooth are on the back table.
- Gendered restrooms are available in Founders' Hall. A non-gendered, accessible restroom is available at west end (rear) of the Cathedral.

Service Notes

- Please rise, as able, for portions of the service marked with an asterisk (*).
- Donations may be placed in the offering, made through the Cathedral website: kccathedral.org, by scanning the QR code to the right or by texting "GIVEtoGHTC" to 73256. Thank you for your generosity.



Voluntary: Lento, Op. 105, No. 3

* Preces

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Richard Ayleward (1626-1669)

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us. Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Choir Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's Name be praised.

* HYMN: 31 "Most Holy God, the Lord of heaven"



Words: Latin; tr. Anne K. LeCroy (b. 1930). Music: Dunedin, Vernon Griffiths (b. 1894). Copyright: Words: © 1982 Anne LeCroy. Music: Reprinted from the New Catholic Hymnal by permission of the publishers, Faber Music Ltd., London. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-710278.

Psalm 114 (Coverdale translation) sung by the choir; chant after Tonus Peregrinus

When Israel came out of Egypt *
and the house of Jacob from among the strange people,
Judah was his sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

The sea saw that, and fled *
Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams *
and the little hills like young sheep.

What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest *
and thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?

Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams *
and ye little hills, like young sheep?

Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord *
at the presence of the God of Jacob;

Who turned the hard rock into a standing water *

and the flint-stone into a springing well.

Lesson: Genesis 7:1-10, 17-23 (KJV)

Lector

And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him. And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth. And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood. Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth, There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth. And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

My soul doth magnify the Lord,

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded

the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold from henceforth

all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me,

and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him

throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm;

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat,

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lesson: John 4:27-42 (KJV)

Lector

And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? Then they went out of the city, and came unto him. In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they be sought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

* Nunc Dimittis

Nunc dimittis in C minor

George Dyson (1883-1964)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,

according to thy word;

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

* APOSTLES' CREED chanted on a monotone

All

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you;

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

* LORD'S PRAYER chanted on a monotone

All

Our Father, which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and

forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. Amen.

* Responses

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the state.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

* COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that thy people, illumined by thy Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

* COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM: "O for a closer walk with God"

O for a closer walk with God,

A light to shine upon the road

A calm and heavenly frame;

That leads me to the Lamb!

Text: William Cowper
Return, O holy dove, return,
So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.

That leads me to the Lamb.

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

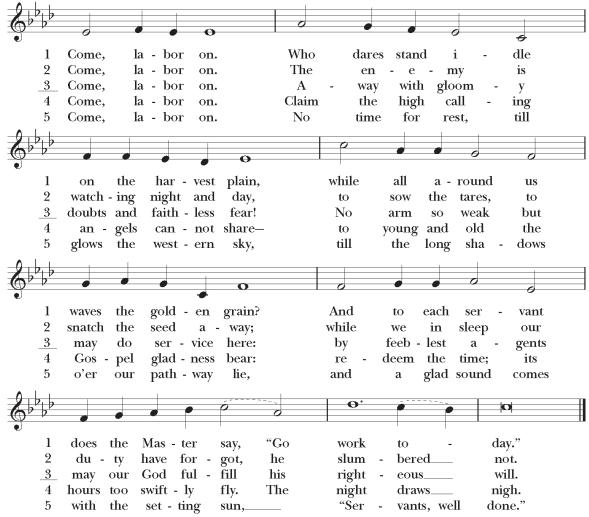
* THE PRAYERS

* Prayer of St. Chrysostom

All

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

* Hymn: 541 "Come, labor on"



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* The Grace

Voluntary: Allegro non troppo e pesante, Op. 101, No. 2

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Holy Eucharist will be offered in the chapel for those who would like to partake.

Reminder: Next week, Sunday, January 26, we all gather at 10:30 a.m. for worship followed by the Annual Meeting. There is no 5 p.m. service next week.

Serving Today	
Officiant	The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse
Lector	Janel Mosley
Greeter	Nigel Jones
Musicians	The Trinity Choir, Dr. Lucas Fletcher

Cathedral Prayer List

Pray for: David Barker; Sally Livengood; Phineas Gitta; Isaiah Fanning; Leesa Fanning; All families affected by gun violence; Charlotte Colburn; Joyce Morrow; Glen and Terri Wesner; Gail; Mary Sklar; Melanie Boyd; Lisa Helgenkamp; All those fighting cancer; Doyle White; Mike Barzee & Family; Sherry Mueller; Larry McMullen; Gloria Stocks; Jim Royer; Thaddeus Samuel Withers; Roger Kirby; Yvonne Meier; Eric Anderson; All those impacted by Fire in California; Those injured by gun violence in Queens, NY; Those injured in New Orleans; Darvin Weaver; Ann Ryder; Julianna Johnson; Diego Garcia; First Responders; Sandra Fuhrman

Comfort and Peace: the family and friends of all those lost in the California fires; the family and friends of Dennis Sharkey; the family and friends of Charlotte, Jeffrey and Zachary Hatcher; the family and friends of those lost and injured in the Wisconsin school shooting; the family and friends of Randy Mueller; the family and friends of Sandra Hornbeck; the family and friends of Barbara O'Hearne; the family and friends of Lynn Schneider; the family and friends of James Shaffer; the family and friends of Bonita White; the family and friends of Donald Bradley; the family and friends of Robert Boehm; the family and friends of The Rev. Tim Murphy; the Welch and Immenschuh families; all families affected by gun violence

Pray for the Departed: all those lost in the California fires; Charlotte, Jeffrey and Zachary Hatcher; Randy Mueller; those lost in the school shooting in Wisconsin; Sandra Hornbeck; Barbara O'Hearne; Lynn Schneider; Bonita White; James Shaffer; Donald Bradley; Gabriel Kney; Robert Boehm; The Rev. Tim Murphy; Joann Immenschuh; for all those lost in war; for all who have died from qun violence

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: St. John's Episcopal Church, Springfield — The Rev. Ron Keel, Interim Rector

The International Outreach Grant Committee & Diocesan Grant Writers

To place a person on this prayer list, please contact Deacon Barbara Wegener, **bwegener@kccathedral.org**.

Requests are held in prayer for 90 days. See the prayer list anytime: **kccathedral.org/prayers**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January 19

Jennifer Orton

January 22

Alexander Fortune Phaedra Fahnestock

January 20

Terri Curran Catherine Green Caroline John Fred Whitehead

January 23 Angela Michka David Patt

George Lagergren

January 21

Cecilia Pedroza John Braum Brian Marrs January 24

Jae McKeown

January 25

Cindy Richter

Please contact the Cathedral office if we have omitted your birthday or anniversary: jtoma@kccathedral.org or 816.474.8260.

Sponsor the Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are a great way to beautify the sanctuary and remind your fellow worshipers of the new life that Jesus brings. They are also a great way to commemorate an event near a specific date, or honor/remember someone close to your heart.

Donations toward the weekly flowers can be given by anyone and are accepted in any amount. You can mail a check to the Cathedral

office, put your donation in the offering or make a payment through our online payment site.

For more information:

kccathedral.org/flowers or contact Julie Toma, jtoma@kccathedral.org.



Cathedral Staff: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, Dean; The Rev. W. James Yazell, Associate Priest; The Rev. Barbara Wegener, Deacon; Dr. Lucas Fletcher, Director of Music; Clare Stern-Burbano, College, Youth & Children's Minister; Julie Toma, Cathedral Administrator; Holly Campbell, Events Coordinator; Steve Berman, Finance Coordinator; Dr. Joan Bergstrom, Sacristan & Volunteer Coordinator; Angie Graham, Facility Manager; Bianca Jackson, Assistant Facility Manager; The Very Rev. Peter J. DeVeau, Dean Emeritus; Canon John Schaefer, Canon Musician Emeritus

The Vestry: Steve Moore, Senior Warden, smoore@rdm.law; Valerie Johnson, Junior Warden, johnson_jb@hotmail.com; Chip Buckner, Treasurer; Blain Lagergren, Clerk; Julie Brogno; Sharon Cheers; Sara Copeland; Pat Decker; Nigel Jones; Paula Livingston-Lewis; Mathias Nichols; Charles Shipley; Michael Thomas

Weekly Calendar

Sunday

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9 a.m. Coffee Hour/Hospitality Time

9:15 a.m. Formation for Adults, Youth & Children

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist*
10:30 a.m. Cathedral Kids

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour/Hospitality Time

5 p.m. Order for Evening and Holy Eucharist

[Choral Evensong, 3rd Sundays]

6 p.m. Youth Group

Tuesday

7:30 a.m. GHTC's Virtual Cafe+12:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study+6:45 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study+

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Noonday Prayer*

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting in Multipurpose Room

12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Thursday • January 23

7 p.m. Rehearsal: Trinity Choir

*Streamed on YouTube @kccathedral

+On Zoom

Learn more about our weekly services and opportunities for study and fellowship: kccathedral.org

National Day of Racial Healing: Tuesday, January 21

The Cathedral Nave will be open for prayer from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prayer guides are available at the back of the Nave and on our website.

The National Day of Racial Healing is observed each year following the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday to allow us all to further draw upon the life lessons of the venerable civil rights leader.

Why do we want to observe the National Day of Racial Healing?

- Restores individuals and communities to wholeness.
- Facilitates trust & bridges divides.
- Repairs the damage caused by racism.
- Builds authentic relationships.

Racial healing is at the heart of racial equity — the people work that leads to community, organizational and systems transformation.



Prayer for the Transition of Our Next Bishop

Gracious and Loving God, we give thanks for the election of our next Bishop, Amy. Watch over Amy, her husband Jared, and their children Elise, Jacob, and Woodrow as they prepare to leave friends, colleagues, and neighbors to join us here in the Diocese of West Missouri. Open our hearts to receive your inspiration and wisdom so that we may joyfully welcome them into our life and ministry in You. This we ask in grateful thanksgiving. AMEN.



Formation for All Ages

Youth: Sundays

Youth Formation • 9:15 a.m.

Youth meet in the Haden Hall Youth Room for formation with a light breakfast.

Youth Confirmation

Sundays February 9-April 6 • 9:15 a.m. Youth Room
Contact Clare (cstern@kccathedral.org) to register.

10:30 a.m. • Worship

6 p.m. • Youth Group

Join us for dinner and fellowship in the Youth Room.

Adults: Sundays

The Path • 9:15 a.m. • Common Room

In our Adult Formation this year we will take a journey using Forward Movement's *The Path*, an excerpted version of the Bible that covers most of the major stories chronologically. Through *The Path*, we will become familiar with the grand overarching narrative of the entire Bible. We will learn the story of God's extraordinary and unrelenting love for us in its many dimensions. Copies of *The Path* are available in the Cathedral Bookstore if you would like to own a personal copy. Each chapter will be printed out weekly and made available so that everyone can follow along.

New attendees welcome at any time!

Children: Sundays

Formation Class • 9:15 a.m.

Join us for formation hour and wonder about God with your friends and teachers and hear sacred stores as told with the help of Godly Play resources!

Cathedral Kids • 10:30 a.m.

Cathedral Kids meets during the first half of the 10:30 a.m. worship service and during this time we weave together our sacred stories and our Episcopal identity with the Weaving God's Promises curriculum! Children attending Cathedral Kids will meet their parents or guardians inside the tower doors during the passing of the peace.

Adults: Tuesdays

GHTC's Virtual Cafe • 7:30 a.m. • Zoom

Please join us for our weekly conversation in GHTC's Virtual Cafe! Tuesday mornings from 7:30–9 a.m. For details, visit **kccathedral.org/other-activities**.

Women's Bible Study • 12:30 p.m. • Zoom

Conversation is lively, thought-provoking, and often irreverent. All are welcome. Visit the WBS page, **kccathedral.org/adultformation/wbs** for more information.

Lectionary Bible Study • 6:45 p.m. • Zoom

We study the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. Join the Lectionary Bible Study group in Realm or visit the LBS page, **kccathedral.org/adultformation/lbs** for more details.

Bridge Building Toward a Flourishing Life for All: Deepening Solidarity in the Quest for Social & Racial Justice

Wednesdays, Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12 • 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Led by Rev. Dr. Vernon Percy Howard, Jr., Pastor, St. Mark's Church

Does our faith in Jesus Christ have a role in the quest for social and racial justice? Can the church build bridges and deepen solidarity around crises such as poverty, violence, and equal rights for all? And if so, how do we do it? These questions are explored while examining the theological lenses and Biblical interpretive conclusions which shape our Christian witness and guide us in attempting to partner with God in creating a flourishing life for all.

Registration is required.
Use the coupon code **GRACE** to register for free.



Announcements



Join us June 1-7, 2025 for Episcopal Summer Mega Camp!

Mega Camp is a 1-week overnight summer camp experience for young people who have finished grades 3-12. There's boating, horseback riding, archery, climbing tower, hiking, arts & crafts, plus Episcopal worship and formation. The camp community is like nothing else: campers will feel accepted and loved for who they are and be able to build their faith with others their age.

Camp is not restricted to Episcopalians or regular churchgoers. All are welcome, so feel free to invite friends and family.

Contact Clare (cstern@kccathedral.org) for details about registration, cost and scholarship availability.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

In partnership with St. Paul's on Main, we have been invited to help organize and distribute food directly to clients food delivered to St. Paul's by Harvesters, a regional food bank, as part of TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program). We meet from about 9:30 a.m. to noon.

<u>Upcoming TEFAP dates:</u> February 15 March 15

To volunteer or for more information, contact Deacon Barbara 816.739.8032 or **bwegener@kccathedral.org**.

Pete's Garden

In the lower level of Founders' Hall, Pete's Garden is a food rescue committed to less food waste and more family meals. They collect unserved prepared food from caterers, restaurants and food service operations each day.

Volunteers work together to portion and package donated food so it can be redirected to social service agencies who get meals to families.

Sign up for a shift at **petesgarden.org/volunteer**.



Take home a 2025 calendar today.

Keep up to date with Cathedral events and service.

The calendar features the liturgical calendar on one side and major Cathedral events on the other side.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Vestry Nominations

We will elect four members of the congregation to the Vestry Class of 2028 at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26. If you are interested in being nominated or have someone you would like to nominate, please contact Dean Keyse, akeyse@kccathedral.org, no later than TODAY. Get more information at kccathedral.org/vestry.

Evensong: Tonight • 5 p.m.

Choral Evensong is a service offered by members of the Trinity Choir. This contemplative service lasts about 45 minutes and includes hymns, scripture readings, prayers, chanted Psalms, canticles and a choir anthem. With its origins in Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer (1549), Evensong is one of the most uniquely Anglican liturgies and is sung in cathedrals and parishes throughout the world. Following the service, all are welcome to take communion in the Chapel.

Diaper Drive for HappyBottoms: JanuaryNot having a clean diaper can really stink

- Diapers are not covered by government safety net programs like food stamps, Medicaid, and WIC.
- 1 in 2 families in KC can't afford diapers
- Families with young children experiencing diaper need report missing an average of 5.1 workdays per month because they did not have the required number of diapers for their child to attend daycare.

Bring diapers to the barrel in the cross hall or to the basket in the Tower or purchase diapers through HappyBottoms (use group name: Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral).



Office Closed: Monday, January 20

The Cathedral office will be closed Monday, January 20 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, contact Dean Andy at 256.762.5889, Father James at 816.739.2930 or Deacon Barbara at 816.739.8032.

Diocesan Ordination: Saturday, January 25

On Saturday, January 25 at 10 a.m., the Bishop and People of the Diocese of West Missouri joyfully invite you to the Ordination of Jennifer Lynn Blevins, Christopher James Duffie and Keith Nathaniel Johnson Jr. to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 26Only ONE Service at 10:30 a.m.

- We will gather as a parish family of all ages to celebrate Eucharist, then stay for the meeting.
- Be ready to celebrate some of our amazing ministries, as well as honoring outgoing and electing new Vestry members.
- Formation will still meet at 9:15 a.m.

Adult Confirmation/Inquirers Class Sundays beginning February 9 • 9:15 a.m. Multipurpose Room

Would you like to formally join the Cathedral and the Episcopal Church? Interested in exploring confirmation, reaffirmation or reception? If so, please prayerfully consider joining us Sunday, February 9 in the Multipurpose Room in Lower Founders' Hall between morning services for an introductory meeting to explore what this might mean for you. Bishop Diane will be with us to Confirm/Reaffirm/Receive at the Easter Vigil on April 19. If you are interested but not able to join us for the first meeting, please let Dean Andy know and then plan to join us as soon as you are able.

Absalom Jones Fundraiser LuncheonSaturday, February 15 • 11 a.m. • Founders' Hall

The Diocese of West Missouri invites you to join us for luncheon fundraiser and panel discussion in Founders' Hall. This luncheon fundraiser will assist the Diversity and Reconciliation's Juneteenth Trip to southern Missouri in June of this year. After the luncheon, a panel discussion will be held for the book *Black and Episcopalian, The Struggle for Inclusion* by the Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart, who will be attending the luncheon. Tickets are available for the luncheon fundraiser at \$40. Buy your tickets: diowestmo.org

Today's Focal St. John's Bible Illumination

Who is Jesus? (John 2:1-11)

[Utilizing "Call of the Disciples" Illumination (John 1:35-51)]

Providing a visio divina resource from Saint John's Bible capable of helping illumine today's lectionary reading proved to be exceedingly difficult. Not only was artwork specific to these texts lacking, but also efforts to isolate an appropriate theological theme as a basis for selecting parallel artwork was equally challenging (due to scholarly disagreements over how best to interpret today's Gospel text). In the end, adopting the view that John the Evangelist employs the concept of "signs" as a way to elucidate who Jesus is in relation to the Father (as he does with the wedding at Cana narrative), helped guide the writer back to the illumination associated with John 1:35–51 (regarding John the Baptist's declaration of Jesus' identity) as a useful visual entre to today's lectionary text.

What did those who responded to the emerging identity of Jesus as "the Lamb of God" understand him to be? While the narrative of the wedding at Cana suggests some persons were becoming aware that there was something unique about Jesus, it also seems clear that they did not quite know what to make of this. Only



gradually did those who chose to follow him grow to understand his true nature and mission and their posture in relation to this. That progressive process helps connect the invitation to discipleship (John 1:35-51) with the clarifying impact of the "signs" which followed (e.g., John 2:1-11).

Today's focal illumination portrays the crowds, the sense of purpose, and the excitement associated with following Jesus. Yet, the portrayal also captures the confusion many felt over what this meant. Jesus is at the center of this rendering, but he is hard to pick out from the many other figures in the panel. He is portrayed in white, thus linking him with the angels who are hovering about, but he also blends with the people surrounding him. It is also significant that he is the same color as the lamb in the bottom right corner. The Baptist announces him as the Lamb of God, a description found only in the Gospel of John and thereby packed with symbolic and interpretative significance for this text.

At the bottom of the panel are the words of John the Baptist's declaration regarding Jesus: "Look, here is the Lamb of God". Upon hearing this, two disciples immediately decide to follow him. Their understanding of what this meant was likely incomplete, but they sensed enough to recognize that their salvation somehow resided in this person, and they acted upon that early perception.

Hidden among the mix of images in this illumination are the Passover sacrifice, elements of the Eucharist, and liturgical cloth (a piece of which protrudes beyond the border of the panel). Note the many colors and how they are used in identifying Jesus' nature, identity, and mission in these early days of his public ministry.

From previous illuminations you might recollect the calling of Samuel, Isaiah, and Elijah. How is the call to follow Jesus which is portrayed here different from those? Do you see any ways in which they might be similar? In what ways has your own understanding of who Jesus is grown over the years? Can you identify a few things that facilitated that growth for you?