



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

God did not send his Son
into the world
to condemn the world,
but to save the world
through him.
Light has come into the world,
but people loved darkness
instead of light
because their deeds
were evil.

John 3:17, 3:19

Jesus, The Light of the World

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 21, 2021
10:00 AM

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9AM-4PM.

Please be advised that with social distancing still in effect:

1. No more than three (3) persons can visit the office at a time.
2. You must be masked to enter the building and must practice social distancing while present.
3. You must sanitize your hands upon entering the door.
4. Only entry to the entire property will be ONE DOOR, the Absalom Jones House ramp door.

IN-PERSON CHURCH SERVICE RE-ENTRY:

It is presently uncertain when we will return to worship in the church however planning is underway to assure that we are all able to safely worship upon our return. The Rector has appointed the following Committee to discern/guide the process and make recommendations to him and the Vestry. The Co-Chairs are Richard Jones, Rector's Warden, and Deborah Camp-Frye, Accounting Warden.

WE WELCOME:

Thomas Rolland to our church family. His shepherd is Jonathan Muse.

**ST. THOMAS
CIRCLE
OF
PRAYER MINISTRY**

**PLEASE JOIN
US WEEKLY FOR
MONDAY MORNING
PRAYER CALL**

AT 6:30 AM

**THE TELECONFERENCE NUMBER IS:
(605) 313-6361 CODE: 268 105**

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND
AN INTERCESSORY PRAYER
REQUEST TO:**

CIRCLEOFPRAYER@AECST.ORG

**PHYLLIS B. CATER * DAPHNE GILSTRAP
FACILITATORS**

**THE VERY REV. CANON MARTINI SHAW
RECTOR**



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 215.473.3065

THE CIRCLE OF PRAYER MINISTRY

Thank you Fr. Shaw, Verger Lisa New, Cynthia Muse, Susan Ben, Carolyn Summers, the members and all others who continue participated and support our weekly Circle of Prayer call. We look forward to our next prayer session on **Monday, March 22, 2021. We start at 6:30 am.**

You are encouraged to reach out to us at circleofprayer@aecst.org to submit prayer request or if you are interested in leading the Intercessory Prayer, the Prayers for the People, or a Meditation in Song.

The teleconference call number is 605-313-6361: access code is 268105

EASTER FLOWERS

Your gift of Easter Lilies and Altar arrangements will help beautify the church for the Easter Holiday, or be a beautiful tribute to someone you love, a token of Thanksgiving for a blessing received. To order flowers, please return the form with payment to **Clara Mae Daniels**. Mail the form below and checks payable to Altar Guild to: AECST (Attention Altar Guild), 6361 Lancaster Ave., Phila. PA 19151

Place Your Order

Easter Lilies Deadline: **Monday, March 29, 2021**

PLEASE PRINT

I would like an Easter Lily @\$20.00 each (5 names per plant)
In Memory of _____ In Thanksgiving for _____ Given by _____
Envelope # _____ Amount \$ _____

FROM THE RECTOR:

There is still time for you to prayerfully submit your 2021 Faithful Giving Card. You may do so by several methods: mail, drop off in the office, on our website online: (aecst.org or Facebook)

If you have questions, please contact the Fiscal Administrator, Jeanette Jeffrey in the Fiscal Office from 10am-1pm Monday-Thursday.

Thanking you in advance for the many ways that you share your Time, Talents and Treasures toward the ministries of St. Thomas Church.

CHOSEN 300

“Have a Heart for the Homeless / Hungry” Fundraiser

Our 2021 Fundraiser for Chosen 300 will continue in February, Heart month. In 2021, we will provide meals to be served at the Chosen 300 Spring Garden Street site and at the Lancaster Avenue site. Because of our steadfast support the challenges of COVID -19 did not deter is on 2020.

We continued service at both sites!

Checks for donations should be made payable to:

AECST Chosen 300 - with Chosen 300 on the memo line

Mail checks to: St. Thomas Church, 6361 Lancaster Avenue,
Phila. PA 19151. Attention: Chosen 300

Use the Givi app, Donate online at www.aecst.org/donations
Questions?: contact scmci@aol.com

Please Be Advised:

The St. Thomas Thrift Shop is NOT taking donations at this time.

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Recovering At Home:

Linda Holmes, Waltier Blocker, Rosalind Roberts Smalls, Kenneth Dow, Carl Dean, Verger Stephen Hannum, Suzanne Closson, Carl Dean, Joan Hall, Georgia Sawyer, Adinah Edwards, Tyrone Keller, William Edmonds, Isedora "Gwen" Francis, Francina Norris, Shirley Winkfield, Joseph Stevenson, William Edmonds.

Rehab Facility:

Robert Brown, Lisa Woodley - Magee Rehab

We Pray For:

Those who are Incarcerated and their families/loved ones, as well as those affected by their actions.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

Brandon, Rahsanda, Charlie and Lillian Stiff on the death of Brandon's father, **Dr. Leroy Stiff**. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory. Please keep the family in prayer.

Viewing Service for:

Bernice Ambrose

Saturday, March 27th, 10am-11am

Wood Funeral Home

5537 W. Girard Avenue, Phila, PA 19131

Interment following the viewing

Cheltenham Hills Cemetery

1701 Washington Lane, Phila. PA 19138

A box lunch will be provided for those going to the cemetery.

DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21st

First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Palm: 51: 1-13

Second Reading: Hebrews 5: 5-10

The Holy Gospel: John 12: 20-33

Week of 3/22/2021

Monday - Mark 9: 30-41

Tuesday - Mark 9: 42-50

Wednesday - Mark 10: 1-16

Thursday - Mark 10: 17-31

Friday - Mark 10: 32-45

Saturday - Mark 10: 46-52

Readings For:

March 28th

Sunday of the Passion - Palm Sunday

The Liturgy of the Palms

The Holy Gospel: Mark 11: 1-11

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Psalm 31: 9-16

Second Reading: Philippians 2: 5-11

The Holy Gospel: Mark 14: 1-15: 47

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY
Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)
March 28th

Following the early morning Virtual Worship on our Facebook, Website or YouTube channels, come to receive your Palms during our Outside Liturgy of the Palms and Procession, 11:00 AM-Noon

If weather is inclement, palms will be distributed via Drive-Thru.

GOOD FRIDAY
April 2nd, Noon

Service will be viewed virtually only.
(website, Facebook or YouTube)

EASTER SUNDAY, (RESURRECTION SUNDAY)
April 4th

Following the early morning Virtual Worship on our Facebook, Website or YouTube channels, come 11:00 AM – Noon to receive both Holy Communion and a special Easter Blessing at the altar of our Lord.

Parishioners and friends will enter the church at the direction of the Greeters.

TUESDAY ZOOM BIBLE CLASSES

with Fr. Jay will resume on
April 6, 2021 at 7pm.

Please send your email to:
Fr. Collins at JayCollins@comcast.net or
267-634-6185 to be added to the list.



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

*You're
Inwifed!*

A Lenten Journey With The Rector
2021

THE RECTOR INVITES YOU
TO JOURNEY WITH HIM DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON
"Healthy Living During a Pandemic"

- ~INCREASE YOUR DAILY SCRIPTURE READING~
- ~INCREASE YOUR DAILY PRAYER~
- ~INCREASE YOUR CONSUMPTION OF:
RAW VEGETABLES, FRESH FRUITS, AND WATER~
- ~INCREASE YOUR DAILY PHYSICAL EXERCISE~
- ~INCREASE YOUR DAILY PERIODS OF REST AND SLEEP~
- ~INCREASE YOUR DAILY EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE~
- ~INCREASE YOUR FREQUENCY OF WEARING A MASK~
- ~INCREASE YOUR FREQUENCY OF WASHING HANDS~
- ~INCREASE YOUR PRACTICE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING~

DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON, PLEASE END YOUR DAY WITH SPECIAL PRAYERS (COMPLINE) BEING OFFERED EACH NIGHT AT 9PM ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.

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THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is now being scheduled. If you are someone or know of someone who wishes to be baptized, please go to our website www.aecst.org, go to “About The AECST” drop down and click on Holy Baptism. All the information about baptism and the online application form can be found there.

A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP:

Our theme for this year’s Stewardship - “Our Doors Are Open”

2021 St. Thomas Offering Envelopes are now ready for pick up in Anderson Hall. You may pick them up during Parish Office Hours (M-F 9:00 AM - 4:00PM) by entering through the A.J. House entrance with the ramp.

Please don’t forget your mask. If by chance you live in the same neighborhood of a church member who is unable to pick theirs up, perhaps you can pick theirs up and put it in their mail slot or between their doors.

If you have changed your address, home/cell phone number or email address, please send your changed contact information to Judy Tillman at: tillman_72@msn.com or the church email: 1792@aecst.org so that we can update the church records.

Thank you. “To whom much is given, much is required.” Luke 12: 48

WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

- 1) Mail in your check or money order to the church.
Please use the following address:
The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas
c/o Fiscal Administrator
6361 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19151

- 2) Use the **Givi app**. If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain.
Please click the links below for the type of device you own to download the **givi app (givi iOS App)** for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or **(givi Android App)** for your Android device.

If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.

- 3) Bring your check directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours (Monday - Thursday 9am-4pm). After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.

- 4) Church website <http://www.aecst.org/donations.htm>
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, Church School, Chosen 300, Easter, etc.

NOTE: Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St. Thomas, when filling out your online giving information.

A CHART TO ASSIST US WITH OUR FAITHFUL GIVING

**Holy Scripture commends a minimum tithe of
(10% of our earnings)**

**Where are you on your spiritual journey?
Annual Faithful Giving**

| Yearly Income | 2% | 5% | 10% |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| \$10,000.00 | \$200.00 | \$500.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| \$15,000.00 | \$300.00 | \$750.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| \$20,000.00 | \$400.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| \$25,000.00 | \$500.00 | \$1,250.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| \$30,000.00 | \$600.00 | \$1,500.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| \$40,000.00 | \$800.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$4,000.00 |
| \$50,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$2,500.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| \$60,000.00 | \$1,200.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$6,000.00 |
| \$70,000.00 | \$1,400.00 | \$3,500.00 | \$7,000.00 |
| \$80,000.00 | \$1,600.00 | \$4,000.00 | \$8,000.00 |
| \$90,000.00 | \$1,800.00 | \$4,500.00 | \$9,000.00 |
| \$100,000.00 | \$2,000.00 | \$5,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| \$110,000.00 | \$2,200.00 | \$5,500.00 | \$11,000.00 |
| \$120,000.00 | \$2,400.00 | \$6,000.00 | \$12,000.00 |
| \$150,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | \$7,000.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| \$175,000.00 | \$3,500.00 | \$8,750.00 | \$17,500.00 |
| \$200,000.00 | \$4,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$20,000.00 |



AECST
FOUNDED 1792

The African Episcopal Church
of
St. Thomas
Church School

Calling ALL AECST
Students K-12, Parents
and Teachers

JOIN US
FOR OUR
VIRTUAL CLASSES
EVERY
SUNDAY @ 12:00 NOON

KNOW JESUS.
CHANGE THE WORLD!

Registration required via email
To RSVP contact Supt. Dottie Archey
(215) 837-6941 or email at churchschool@aecst.org

Interested in becoming a Church School Teacher?
Contact Dottie Archey to learn more.

The Very Reverend Canon Fr. Martini Shaw, Rector

"Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old, they will not turn from it"

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)



THE ALTAR GUILD

is selling 2021 Liturgical Calendars for \$6.00 each.
You may purchase and arrange for pick up by calling
Clara Mae Daniels at 215-327-6168 or
Freda Brockman at 609-841-4799 (after 3pm)

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund.
Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial
gift of \$40 per month.

Please use the envelope from your packet or place
Building Fund in the Memo section of your check.

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails,
please visit <http://eepurl.com/djyGiD> to subscribe.
Your information will NEVER be shared or sold and you
can unsubscribe at anytime by following the instructions
provided at the bottom of every email message.

Please join us for service on the St. Thomas Website
www.aecst.org or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aecst1792> every Sunday morning at 10am.

MINISTRY STAFF

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bishop | The Rt Rev Daniel G P Gutierrez | |
| Rector | The Very Rev Canon Martini Shaw | rector@aecst.org |
| Assistant to the Rector | | |
| Associate Priest | The Rev Fr Gerald Collins | |
| Associate Minister | The Rev Dr Thomas G Snowden | |
| Associate Minister | The Rev Dr Paul Bach | |
| Parish Vergers | Stephen Hannum | |
| | Lisa Steward-New | |
| | Karen Ragland | |
| Executive Assistant to the Rector | Gladyce DuBrey | 1792@aecst.org |
| Fiscal Assistant to the Rector | Deadra Cannon | |
| Investments Advisor to the Rector | Albert S. Dandridge, III, Esq | |
| Fiscal Administrator | Jeannette Jeffrey | fiscal@aecst.org |
| Sexton | LaDon Elliott | |
| Asst Sexton | James Brown | |
| Rector's General Counsel | Joe Tucker, Esq | 215.875.0609 |
| Chancel Choir Master | Jay Fluellen, D.M.A. | drjfluellen@gmail.com |
| Gospel Choir Master | Waltier Blocker | |
| Jazz Ensemble Director | Joe Stevenson | |
| Church School Superintendent | Dottie Archey | 215..474..2815 |
| Memorial Flowers | Alfreda Brockman | |
| Baptism Co-Chairs | Gail H Harris | 215..450..9312 |
| | Patricia Walker-Ellison | 215..643..7223 |
| Ed Muse Photography Ministry | William Edmonds | 302..502..6375 |
| | Dale Williams | |
| Social Media Manager | Gregory J Allen, PhD | 215..477..2672 |
| Scout Pack 133 | Arlene Gray | bsapack0133@gmail.com |
| Sound Ministry | Joe Stevenson | |
| Transportation Ministry | J Reggie Kimble | 610..585..8053 |
| William Burke Ushers Ministry | Brenda Johnson Best | |
| Parish Webmaster | Gail H Harris | webmanager@aecst.org |
| Property Chair | Deborah Harrison | 215-473-3065 |

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard C. Jones
Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye
Clerk of the Vestry - Johanna W. Daye
Treasurer - Kevin Johnson

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Alister Allman | Albert S. Dandridge | Jonathan Muse |
| Patricia Bantom | Deborah Harrison | Darryl (Bobby) Tillman |
| Ronnie Collins | D. Lynn Joell | Judith Tillman |
| | Brenda Johnson Best | |

The African Episcopal Church of Saint Thomas is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determination, self-respect, and freedom.

St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is taught, lived and spread.
