



Season of Epiphany

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

THE FEAST OF JOSEPHINE MARGARET BAKHITA

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

From Wikipedia



Josephine Margaret Bakhita, F.D.C.C.

(ca. 1869 – 8 February 1947), was a [Sudanese-Italian Canossian religious sister](#) who lived in [Italy](#) for 45 years, after having been a [slave](#) in [Sudan](#). In 2000, she was declared a [saint](#), the first Black woman to receive the honor in the modern era.

Biography: Early life

She was born around 1869 in [Darfur](#) (now in western Sudan) in the village of [Olgossa](#), west of [Nyala](#) and close to [Mount Agilerei](#).^[2] She was one of the [Daju people](#),^{[3][4]} her respected and reasonably prosperous father was brother of the village chief. She was surrounded by a loving family of three brothers and three sisters; as she says in her autobiography: "I lived a very happy and carefree life, without knowing what suffering was".^[5]

Slavery

[Continued Pg11](#)

Wednesday, 8 Feb 2023 9:30am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

Salutation:

Leader: Blessed be our God.

People: For ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: Let us pray the Collect for Purity together:

All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria Canticle 13 Hymnal 1982 #S236

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *

you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *

on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; *

in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Presider: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray

Collect for the day:

O God of Love, who delivered your servant Josephine Margaret Bakhita from the bondage of slavery to the true freedom of your service; Grant to the wounded your healing grace in mind, body, and spirit and to your church the zeal to combat exploitation and slavery in all its forms; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Readings: *(Please be seated)*

First Reading: A reading from Colossians(1:24-29):

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91 *(Read aloud in unison)*

**1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, *
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.**

**2 He shall say to the Lord,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."**

**3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.**

**4 He shall cover you with his pinions,
and you shall find refuge under his wings; *
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.**

**5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;**

**6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.**

**7 A thousand shall fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, *
but it shall not come near you.**

**8 Your eyes have only to behold *
to see the reward of the wicked.**

**9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,**

- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near our dwelling.**
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.**
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.**
- 14 Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.**
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.**
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.**

Gospel Reading: Luke (18:1-8)

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Reader The Gospel of the Lord

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

SERMON/HOMILY

CONTEMPORARY NICENE CREED: *(please stand as you are able)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of the People:

Leader: Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers. God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation.

People: We praise and thank you, O Lord.

Leader: God the Son, you came that we might have life and have it more abundantly

People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Leader: God the Holy Spirit, you inhabit our bodies as a temple of your presence.

People: We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Leader: Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: Grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled that they may be made whole.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: Return to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin in our lives, in our nation, and in our world.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: Bless all who attend to the suffering and needy, granting them wisdom, skill, sympathy, and patience.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: Give to the dying peace and a holy death and uphold by your grace and consolation those who are bereaved.

People: Hear us Lord

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for *The Diocese of Peru – The Anglican Church of South America*

People: May God bless and keep them.

Leader: In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for *St. Francis-in-the-Valley, Green Valley.*

People: May God bless and keep them.

Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tahona Odum peoples who called this area home.

People: May God bless and keep them.

Presider: Lord our God, accept the sincere prayers of your people, in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help, for you are gracious O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

The Peace:

Presider: May the peace of the Lord be always with you!

People: **And Also with you.**

(The people exchange greetings of peace)

Presider Let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.

Offertory Hymn

Doxology #380 vs 3 *(Peoples' offerings are brought to the altar)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise him all creatures here below

Praise him, above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Lord's Supper: The Great Thanksgiving - EOW 3

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

Hymnal 1982 # S124

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

"Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured

out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us (+) and upon these gifts (+) of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you, our God and Creator, in voices of unending praise:

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

Presider: And now as Jesus has taught us, we pray:

CONTEMPORARY LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven, Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread: *(Presider breaks the consecrated bread)*

Fraction Anthem

#S171

[Ant] **Be Known to us Lord Jesus in the Breaking of the bread.** *[Ant]*

The bread which we break,, Alleluia,

Is the communion of the body of Christ *[Ant]*

One body are we alleluia

For though many we share one bread *[Ant]*

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: *This is not my table, this is not St. Stephen's church's table. This is Christ's Table. Jesus invites you to come forward and receive the bread and the wine in this place.*

Communion Hymn “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

#135

Please come forward to the rail and stand or kneel. Put out your hand to receive the bread, hold onto the bread if you also would like wine from the chalice. Please dip/intinct the bread into the wine and then consume it. If you do not wish to have the wine, you may eat your bread when you receive it. You may instead of receiving the bread and wine, receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. After receiving communion or blessing, return to your seat.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer:

Presider: *Let us pray:*

All: God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: *The Wisdom of God the Love of God and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. Amen.*

Dismissal:

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: Let us go forth in the power of God's Spirit, Alleluia, alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

In 1877, when she was 7–8 years old, she was seized by [Arab slave traders](#), who had abducted her elder sister two years earlier. She was forced to walk barefoot about 960 kilometres (600 mi) to [El-Obeid](#) and was sold and bought twice before she arrived there. Over the course of twelve years (1877–1889) she was sold three more times and then she was finally given her freedom.

'Bakhita' was not the name she received from her parents at birth. It is said that the trauma of her abduction caused her to forget her original name; she took one given to her by the slavers, *bakhīta* ([Arabic](#) بخيطة for 'lucky' or 'fortunate'.^{[6][7][8]} She was also [forcibly converted](#) to [Islam](#).^[9]

In El-Obeid, Bakhita was bought by a rich Arab who used her as a maid for his two daughters. They treated her relatively well, until after offending one of her owner's sons, wherein the son lashed and kicked her so severely that she spent more than a month unable to move from her straw bed. Her fourth owner was a Turkish general, and she had to serve his mother-in-law and his wife, who were cruel to their slaves. Bakhita says: "During all the years I stayed in that house, I do not recall a day that passed without some wound or other. When a wound from the whip began to heal, other blows would pour down on me."^[10]

She once said that the most terrifying of all of her memories there was when she (along with other slaves) was marked by a process resembling both [scarification](#) and [tattooing](#), which was a traditional practice throughout Sudan.^{[11][12]} As her mistress was watching her with a whip in her hand, a dish of white flour, a dish of salt and a razor were brought by a woman. She used the flour to draw patterns on her skin and then she cut deeply along the lines before filling the wounds with salt to ensure permanent scarring. A total of 114 intricate patterns were cut into her breasts, belly and into her right arm.^{[13][14]}

By the end of 1882, El-Obeid came under the threat of an attack of [Mahdist](#) revolutionaries.^[15] The Turkish general began making preparations to return to his homeland and sold his slaves. In 1883, Bakhita was bought in [Khartoum](#) by the Italian [Vice Consul](#) Callisto Legnani, who did not beat or punish her.^[16] Two years later, when Legnani himself had to return to Italy, Bakhita begged to go with him. At the end of 1884 they escaped from a besieged Khartoum with a friend, Augusto Michieli. They travelled a risky 650-kilometre (400 mi) trip on camelback to [Suakin](#), which was the largest port of Sudan. In March 1885 they left Suakin for Italy and arrived at the port of [Genoa](#) in April. They were met there by Augusto Michieli's wife, Maria Turina Michieli, to whom Legnani gave ownership of Bakhita. Her new owners took her to their family villa at Zianigo, near [Mirano](#), Veneto, about 25 km (16 mi) west of [Venice](#).^[11] She lived there for three years and became nanny to the Michieli's daughter Alice, known as 'Mimmina', born in February 1886. The Michielis brought Bakhita with them back to the Sudan where they stayed for nine months before returning to Italy.

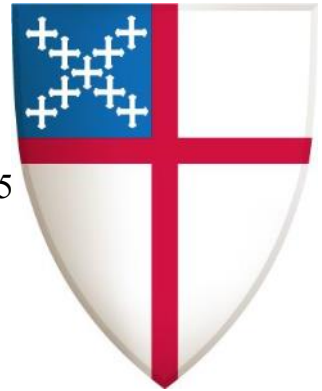
Conversion to Catholicism and freedom

[Suakin](#) on the [Red Sea](#) was besieged but remained in [Anglo-Egyptian](#) hands. Augusto Michieli acquired a large hotel there and decided to sell his property in Italy and to move his family to Sudan permanently. Selling his house and lands took longer than expected. By the end of 1888, Turina Michieli wanted to see her husband in Sudan even though land transactions were unfinished. Since the villa in Zianigo was already sold, Bakhita and Mimmina needed a temporary place to stay while Micheli went to Sudan without them. On the advice of their business agent Illuminato Cecchini, on 29 November 1888, Michieli left both in the care of the [Canossian Sisters](#) in Venice. There, cared for and instructed by the Sisters, Bakhita encountered Christianity

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Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

Name _____
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Adrs: _____ BrthDate _____

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