



The Season of **Epiphany**

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

THE CONSECRATION OF BARBARA CLEMENTINE HARRIS

Wednesday 12 Feb 2025 9:30 AM

From [Lessor Feasts & Fasts](#)



Barbara Clementine Harris was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on June 12, 1930. She was active in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s and continued as a powerful advocate for the civil enfranchisement of all people in the United States. Ordained as a priest in 1980, her ministry was in both the parish and the public square. She continued to address issues of civil injustice while also offering a prophetic critique of the Episcopal Church for its homophobia, racism, and sexism.

Although General Convention included the provision for electing and consecrating women to be bishops in 1976, no woman became a bishop until Barbara Harris was elected as bishop suffragan for the Diocese of Massachusetts on September 24, 1988. Her election and subsequent consecration were not without controversy, including threats on her life by those opposed to the inclusion of women in the House of Bishops. Despite these threats, she was

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Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Acclamation:

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Gloria:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you
thanks,**

**we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the
Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of
the Father:**

receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Salutation:

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray

Collect of the Day: *(All, in unison)*

**God of the prophets, we give you thanks for calling Barbara
Clementine Harris to the office of bishop. Open our eyes to behold the
wondrous works you have prepared for your church in calling women
to share in the ministry of the episcopate. May we, inspired by their
example as faithful shepherds, wise teachers, courageous prophets, and
guardians of the faith, proclaim the Good News and carry out the works
of Jesus Christ in the world; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and
reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Word of God: *(please be seated)*

First Lesson: A reading from the book of Isaiah (58:6–12):

**Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?**

**Is it not to share your bread with the
hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into
your house;**

**when you see the naked, to cover
them,
and not to hide yourself from
your own kin?**

**Then your light shall break forth like
the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up
quickly;**

**your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be
your rearguard.**

**Then you shall call, and the Lord will
answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will
say, Here I am.**

**If you remove the yoke from among
you,
the pointing of the finger, the
speaking of evil,**

**if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the af-
flicted,**

**then your light shall rise in the dark-
ness
and your gloom be like the noon-
day.**

**The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched
places,
and make your bones strong;**

**and you shall be like a watered gar-
den,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.**

**Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations
of many generations;**

**you shall be called the repairer of the
breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.**

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: Psalm 33:18-22

**18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,**

**19 To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.**

**20 Our soul waits for the Lord; *
he is our help and our shield.**

**21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our trust.**

**22 Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.**

The Second Lesson: A reading from the book of Philippians (4:1-9):

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson: Luke (18:1-8):

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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?"

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Sermon

Nicene Creed *(Contemporary Version)* *All say together:*

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: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;

People: For our Bishops Sean, and Jennifer, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Leader: Pray for the Church. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for peace;

People: For goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Leader: Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit:

People: For the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Leader: Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who feel God's call in their hearts:

People: For all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Leader: Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for the departed

People: For those we love but see no more.

Leader: Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for *The Diocese of Lusaka – The Church of the Province of Central Africa.*

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for *St. Andrew's, in Tucson.*

People: May God bless and guide them.

Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tohono O'Odham peoples who call this area home.

People: For greater understanding and cooperation between us towards the common good for all.

Leader: Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

People: May we have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. Amen.

Confession of Sin:

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

All: Holy One, we encounter you in our lives and try to follow faithfully, but so often we get lost or turn away. We try to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we frequently fail. We take the wrong path and stray from the ways of your love. Forgive us, Lord, and guide us back to you. Amen.

Absolution:

Presider: God of Love, we return to you, and we accept your grace, we accept your pardon, we accept the gift of a new chance to follow in your pathways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Exchange of the Peace:

Presider: May the peace of Christ be always with you

All: And also with you.

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory:

Presider: Offer to God a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Offertory Hymn:

Doxology (Hymn #380 v. 3):

**All: ♪ 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 Holy Communion

EOW 2

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

Presider continues:

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Presider and People:: Sanctus

S#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 and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: *“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, 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 remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table:

O God of all creation, remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit (+) upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new Creation (+), the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN**

And now as Jesus 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.

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 in silence)*

Fraction: **ALL:**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. We have gluten free bread and real wine. To intinct/dip your bread into the wine, please go to the left altar rail. To sip wine from the cup please come to the right altar rail. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel and Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer:

Presider: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **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 into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (*Alleluia!*)

Continued from front:

consecrated bishop on February 11, 1989. Sixty bishops served as co-consecrators before a congregation of eight thousand people.

As a bishop, Harris shaped a generation of leaders through her powerful preaching as chief pastor at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston; her witnessing, preaching, and teaching in the Diocese of Massachusetts and beyond; her advocacy for, in her words, “the least, the last, and the lost”; and her joy in sharing her faith, especially through hymns. She said of her work as a bishop, “I certainly don’t want to be one of the boys. I want to offer my peculiar gifts as a black woman . . . a sensitivity and an awareness that comes out of more than a passing acquaintance with oppression.” Bishop Harris served the people of the Diocese of Massachusetts as their suffragan bishop for thirteen years, until her retirement in 2002. After her retirement, she served from 2003 to 2007 as an assisting bishop in the Diocese of Washington, D.C. and she continued to be in demand worldwide as a preacher until the end of her life.

The first woman ordained as a bishop in the Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion, Barbara Harris has been joined by more than fifty women in the episcopate. She died on March 13, 2020.

& From [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

[Barbara Clementine Harris](#) (June 12, 1930 – March 13, 2020) was an American bishop of the [Episcopal Church](#) in the United States. She was the first woman consecrated a bishop in the [Anglican Communion](#). She was elected [suffragan bishop](#) of the [Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts](#), on September 24, 1988, and was consecrated on February 11, 1989. Eight thousand people attended the service, which was held at the [Hynes Convention Center](#) in [Boston, Massachusetts](#). She served in the role of suffragan bishop for 13 years, retiring in 2003.

Personal life and education

Barbara Clementine Harris was born in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#), on June 12, 1930. She was the daughter of Walter Harris and Beatrice Waneidah Price. Harris attended the [Philadelphia High School for Girls](#) (class of 1948). There, she excelled in music and wrote a weekly column for the Philadelphia version of the [Pittsburgh Courier](#) called "High School Notes by Bobbi". The alumnae association of the school recognized her as an outstanding alumna for her professional work and she was installed in its court of honor.

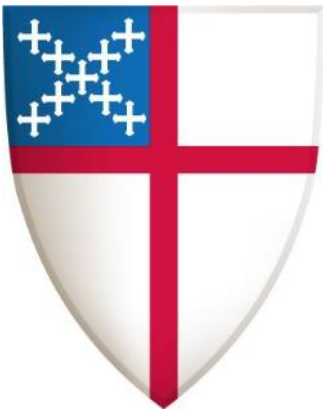
After graduation from high school, Harris attended the Charles Morris Price School of Advertising and Journalism in Philadelphia, where she earned a certificate in 1950. She later attended [Villanova University](#), the Urban Theology Unit in [Sheffield, England](#), and also graduated from the Pennsylvania Foundation for Pastoral Counseling.

Career

Prior to her ordination to the [priesthood](#), Harris served as head of public relations for the [Sun Oil Company](#).

Harris was long active in [civil rights](#) issues, participating in [Freedom Rides](#) and marches in the 1960s, including the [Selma to Montgomery marches](#) led by [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)^[1] She spent summer vacations registering black voters in [Greenville, Mississippi](#). She dismissed the risks she took, saying only, "Everyone was in danger."^[2]

Throughout her various careers, Harris was noted for her [liberal](#) views and her outspokenness.



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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