



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

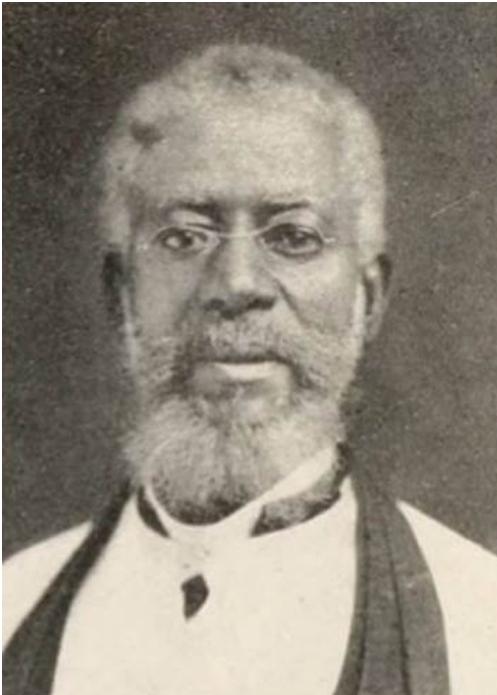
Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

FEAST OF ALEXANDER CRUMMELL

9:30 am Wednesday, 10 Sep 2025

MORNING PRAYER

[From Lessor Feasts & Fasts](#)



Born March 3, 1819, in New York City, Alexander Crummell struggled against racism all his life. As a young man of color, he was driven out of an academy in New Hampshire, dismissed as a candidate for Holy Orders in New York, and rejected for admittance to General Seminary. Ordained in 1844 as a priest in the Diocese of Massachusetts, he left for England after being excluded from participating in diocesan convention.

After receiving a degree from Cambridge University, he went as a missionary to Liberia, where a model Christian republic seemed possible. The vision embraced by Crummell included European education and technology, traditional African communal culture, and a national Episcopal Church headed by a Black bishop. He traveled extensively in the United States, urging Black people to emigrate to Liberia and to support the work of the Episcopal Church there.

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Welcome and Announcements -

Deacon Sherry Simon

Opening Sentences *(Please stand as you are able)*

Leader: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *(Psalm 43:3)*

Confession of Sin

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

(Short Silence may be kept.)

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Deacon/Leader: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Jubilate *(For the Gloria):*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; * serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; * he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; * give thanks to him and call upon his Name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; * and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

LITURGY OF THE WORD: *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus (39:6–11):

If the great Lord is willing,
he will be filled with the spirit of understanding;

he will pour forth words of wisdom of his own
and give thanks to the Lord in prayer.

The Lord will direct his counsel and knowledge,
as he meditates on his mysteries.

He will show the wisdom of what he has learned,
and will glory in the law of the Lord's covenant.

Many will praise his understanding;
it will never be blotted out.

His memory will not disappear,
and his name will live through all generations.

Nations will speak of his wisdom,
and the congregation will proclaim his praise.

If he lives long, he will leave a name greater than a thousand,
and if he goes to rest, it is enough for him.

Reader The Word of the Lord **People** **Thanks be to God**

The PSALM:

Psalm 19:7–11 (read in unison)

7 The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Second Lesson: A Reading from James (1:2-5):

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.

Reader The Word of the Lord **People** **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Lesson: Mark (4:21-25) *(Please stand as you are able)*

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said to the disciples, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Reflection on readings Deacon Sherry Simon

The Apostles Creed:

Deacon/Leader: Let us say together the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

he Prayers

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander Crummell, whom you called to preach the gospel to those who were far off and to those who were near: Raise up, in this and every land, evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Suffrages (A)

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Exchange of the Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord 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: Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as a offering and sacrifice to God.

Doxology

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.

Collect for Guidance

Leader: O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning; Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for St. Stephen's:

Presider: Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of our search committee, wardens, and vestry, who are in discernment for St. Stephen's church, Sierra Vista, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Other Intercessions and Thanksgivings:

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude

Prayer of St. Chrysostom (All in unison)

Leader: Let us Pray

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

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

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon/Leader: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Deacon/Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all for evermore. Amen.

Continued from front:

Upon returning to Liberia, he worked to establish a national Episcopal Church. Political opposition and a loss of funding finally forced him to return to the United States, where he concentrated his efforts on establishing a strong urban presence of independent Black congregations that would be centers of worship, education, and social service. When Southern bishops proposed that a separate missionary district be created for Black congregations, Crummell created a national convocation to defeat the proposal. The Union of Black Episcopalians is an outgrowth of that organization.

Crummell's ministry spanned more than half a century and three continents. Everywhere, at all times, he labored to prepare Black people and to build institutions that would serve them and provide scope for the exercises of their gifts in leadership and creativity. His faith in God, his perseverance in spite of repeated discouragement, his perception that the church transcended the racism and limited vision of its leaders, and his unflinching belief in the goodness and greatness of Black people are the legacy of this African American pioneer. He died in Red Bank, New Jersey, in 1898.

More from [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

[Alexander Crummell](#) (March 3, 1819 – September 10, 1898) was an American minister and academic. Ordained as an Episcopal priest in the United States, Crummell went to England in the late 1840s to raise money for his church by lecturing about American slavery. Abolitionists supported his three years of study at Cambridge University, where Crummell developed concepts of pan-Africanism and was the school's first recorded Black student and graduate.

In 1853, Crummell moved to Liberia, where he worked to convert Africans to Christianity and educate them, as well as to persuade African-American colonists of his ideas. He wanted to attract American Blacks to Africa on a civilizing mission. Crummell lived and worked for 20 years in Liberia and appealed to American Blacks to join him, but did not gather wide support for his ideas.

After returning to the United States in 1872, Crummell was called to St. Mary's Episcopal Mission in Washington, DC. In 1875, he and his congregation founded St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the first independent Black Episcopal church in the city. Crummell served as rector there until his retirement in 1894.

Early life and education

Crummell was born in 1819 in New York City to Charity Hicks, a free woman of color, and Boston Crummell, a former slave. According to Crummell's account, his paternal grandfather was an ethnic Temne, born in what is now Sierra Leone; he was captured and sold into slavery when he was around 13 years old.[1] Both of Crummell's parents were active abolitionists. Their home was used to publish the first African-American newspaper, Freedom's Journal. Boston Crummell instilled in his son a sense of unity with Africans living in Africa. His parents' influence and these early experiences within the abolitionist movement shaped Crummell's values, beliefs, and actions throughout the rest of his life. Even as a boy in New York, Crummell worked for the American Anti-Slavery Society.[citation needed]

Lithograph of African Free School which Crummell attended.

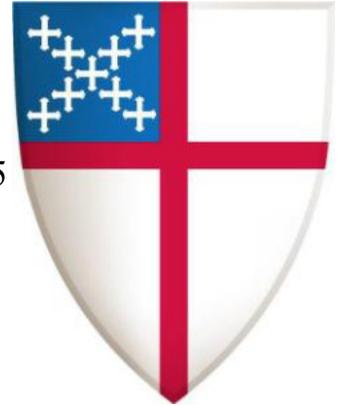
Crummell began his formal education in the African Free School No. 2 and at home with private tutors. Other African-American men who became active in the abolitionist movement, such as James McCune Smith (a pioneering doctor)

[Continued online](#)

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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 _____
(first) (Mid.) (Last)

Hm: _____ Cell _____

Avn. Date _____

Email: _____ BrthDate _____

Adrs: _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____