

JUNETEENTH LITURGY

JUNE 21, 2025



Opal Lee by Alexander S. Tasy II.

Opal Lee is considered the Grandmother of Juneteenth. Read more at the back of the program.

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
HOSTED BY THE BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN CIRCLE
circlesofcolor.org



JUNETEENTH 2025 ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOMING Drummers and Dancers

CALL TO CELEBRATE “Life Goes On” (excerpt from Meditations of the Heart) by Howard Thurman
read by Lillian Springer

ENTRANCE HYMN “We’ve Come This Far by Faith/ I Will Trust (A Gospel Processional)”
(arranged by Vanessa Bruce)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed be God who creates, redeems and liberates

Assembly: And blessed be God’s kingdom of justice and love now and forever. Amen.

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

Assembly: You come to your people and set them free.

GLORIA: “Glory, Glory Hallelujah” (Carl Haywood)



1. Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.
2. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
3. Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

Refrain

4. You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us,
5. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
6. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
7. You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the Father.

Refrain

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: Almighty God, you rescued your people from slavery in Egypt, and throughout the ages you have never failed to hear the cries of the captives; We remember before you our siblings in Galveston, Texas who on this day received the glad tidings of their emancipation; Forgive us for the many grave sins that delayed that liberating word; Anoint us with your Spirit to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to

proclaim the year of your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Assembly: Amen.

THE LESSONS “Citizen” by Claudia Rankine – the Rev. Malcolm McLaurin

“We Wear the Mask” by Paul Lawrence Dunbar – Sherina James

GOSPEL SONG We Shall Overcome (African American Spiritual, arr. T.Y. Wondemagegnehu)

THE GOSPEL John 8:31-36

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, “You will be made free”?’

Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

SERMON The Rev. Paul Karume, Canon for Church Planting; Goshen All Saints, Tacoma

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider: In this Juneteenth holiday celebration, we offer prayers for ourselves and the world.

Intercessor: That those entrusted with authority in our nation may serve the common good and lead in a way that promotes healing in an authentic, responsible, and peaceful manner, we pray . . .

Assembly: Hear us, O God, as we accept the call to be bearers of peace.

Intercessor: That the fullness of justice and compassion may be extended to the victims and families who have been subjected to violence, abuse, discrimination, murder, or the threat of the same, we pray

Assembly: Hear us, O God, as we accept the call to be bearers of peace.

Intercessor: That our communities and our schools may find ways to actively participate in efforts to eliminate violence, especially violence against Black and brown people, so that this country may take the lead in fostering conditions for healing racial division, we pray,

Assembly: Hear us, O God, as we accept the call to be bearers of peace.

Intercessor: That all who gather to mark Juneteenth be able to freely and peaceably, remember, reflect, and celebrate together, we pray,

Assembly: Hear us, O God, as we accept the call to be bearers of peace.

Intercessor: That we may be courageous in living out the Gospel, we pray,

Assembly: Hear us, O God, as we accept the call to be bearers of peace.

Presider: We pray, O Lord, for change. Jesus, you revealed God through your wise words and loving deeds, and we encounter you still today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to the margins. Guide us, through the love you revealed, to establish the justice you proclaimed, that all peoples might dwell in harmony and peace, united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you. And most of all, Lord, change our routine worship and work into genuine encounter with you so that our lives will be changed for the good of all.

Assembly: Amen.

(Based on a prayer from: <https://www.archbalt.org/a-prayer-to-celebrate-juneteenth-a-light-of-hope-for-freedom-and-justice/>)

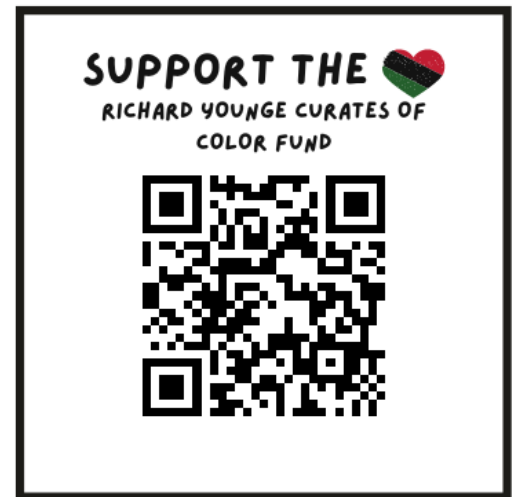
THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

All are invited to make an offering to the Richard Younge Curates of Color Fund which supports new clergy of color in their ministries.

Scan the QR code to give through the ECWW online giving page, <https://resources.ecww.org/give>. Select the Giving Option: "Other Donations" and indicate "Richard Younge" under "Other Designation." More info toward the end of this worship folder.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

(James and J. Rosamond Johnson, arr. by Roland Carter)

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

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

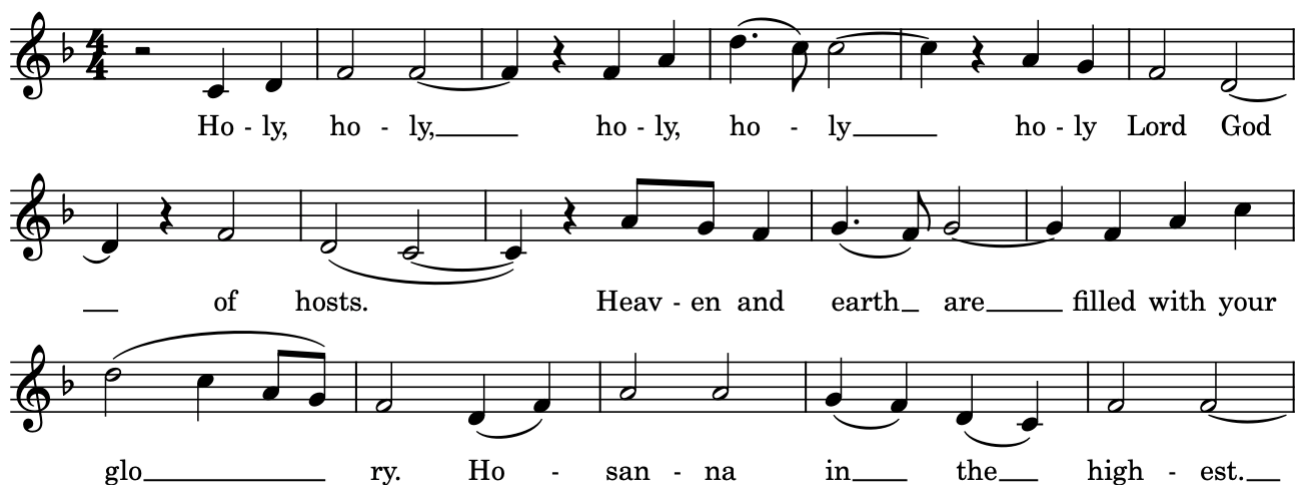
Assembly: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Presider: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

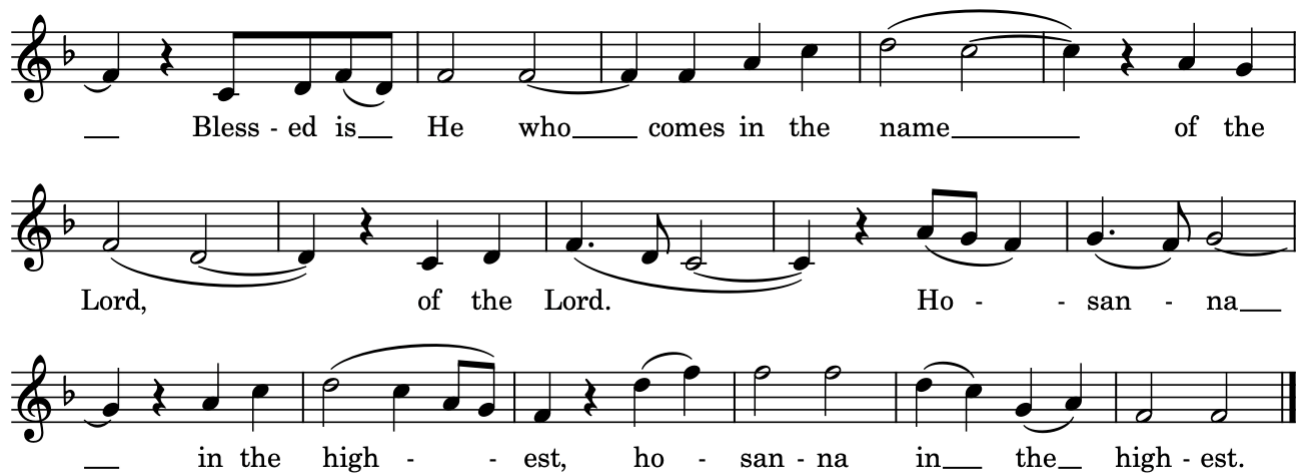
SANCTUS Holy, Holy, Holy (from A Mass for Soulful People, Grayson Warren Brown)



Ho - ly, ho - ly,____ ho - ly, ho - ly____ ho - ly Lord God

____ of hosts. Heav - en and earth____ are____ filled with your

glo____ ry. Ho - san - na in____ the____ high - est.____



Presider: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so, we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah, you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, and when he had given thanks, he 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."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Assembly: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Presider: Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name forever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

Assembly: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Assembly: 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,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.**

THE FRACTION

AGNUS DEI Lamb of God (Eugene W. Hancock)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Eugene W. Hancock

SHARING OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Jehovah Sabaoth (God of Angel Armies)" (Donald Lawrence, arr. by Vanessa Bruce)
"City Called Heaven" (Trad. African American, arr. Josephine Poelinitz)
"Total Praise" (Richard Smallwood)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider: Let us pray.

Assembly: Creator God, May we who have been strengthened by this sacrament, strengthen those in weakness. We who have been fed, feed those in hunger. We who have been welcomed, welcome others. We who have been seen and known, see and know the needs of others. Give us your grace to respond always in loving service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Written by Rev. Gemma Sampson, Diocese of Durham)

THE CHARGE

“For My People” by Margaret Walker – Sophia & Olivia Vann

BLESSING

Presider: And now, may God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, exploitation of people, so that we may continue to work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Assembly: Amen.

Presider: May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

Assembly: Amen.

Presider: May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this work, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Assembly: Amen.

Presider: And the Blessing of God Almighty, the One who Creates, Redeems and Sanctifies, be upon you and all you love, this day, and forever more.

Assembly: Amen.

(A Four-Fold Franciscan Blessing by The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman)

RECESSIONAL SONG “I’ve Got a Robe” (Trad. African American, arr. By Raymond Wise)

DISMISSAL

Presider: Let us go forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Assembly: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE TO

The Rev. Beverly Moore-Tasy, liturgist and creative director | Rector, St. Margaret's, Bellevue

*The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson, presider | Episcopal Diocese of Olympia Canon for
Multicultural Ministries & Community Transformation*

The Rev. Capt. Paul Karume, preacher | All Saints Goshen, Tacoma

Tamara Lamb, deacon in training | St. Margaret's, Bellevue & Epiphany, Seattle

Ryan Ellis, pianist | Music Director, St. Margaret's, Bellevue

*Readers Sherina James, Sophia & Olivia Vann, Lillian Springer and The Rev. Malcolm
McLaurin*

*Saint Mark's Cathedral—especially its Altar Guild (Sue Tait & James Davidson) &
Michael Seewer, Cathedral Sacristan*

Greg Bloch, livestream and communications

Michael Perera, sound

Marc Auburtin, logistics and day-of assistance

The PNW Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians

The Black/African-American Circle and the larger Circles of Color

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GUESTS

Community Choir

Vanessa Bruce, Choir Director | vrnpiano@gmail.com

VCBynum Arts & Education

Vania C. Bynum, Artistic Director | www.weinspirehumanity.org

Awal Alhassan & Sohayini West African Dance Company

Awal Alhassan, Director | awalalhassan@gmail.com

McAlister Merchant

Local artist | www.mcalistermerchant.art

Berry's BBQ

Judy Davis, owner | 11614 Ambaum Blvd SW B, Burien, WA 98146 | 206-257-0320

SUPPORT THE 
RICHARD YOUNGE CURATES OF
COLOR FUND

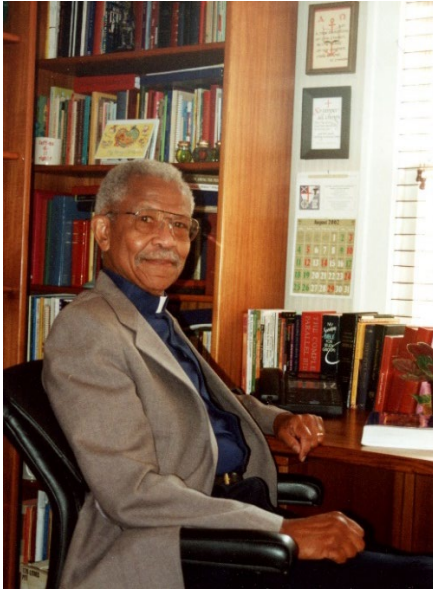


JUNETEENTH OFFERING

The Richard Young Curates of Color Fund was established to honor the ministry of the Rev. Richard Young and to support the ongoing formation of newly ordained people of color in the Diocese of Olympia.

*All are invited to make an offering through the ECWW online giving page:
<https://resources.ecww.org/give>. Select the Giving Option: "Other Donations"
and indicate "Richard Young" under "Other Designation."*

Honoring The Rev. Richard Younge (1925-2011)



Father Richard Younge came to the Diocese of Olympia in 1980 as staff member of the Campus Christian Ministry at the UW and served there until the end of 1985. From the fall of 1986 until his retirement at the end of 1990, he was Episcopal chaplain at Grambling State University in Louisiana and vicar of St. Luke's, Grambling.

His interim assignments here in the Diocese of Olympia were at St. Andrew's, Seattle; St. Columba's, Des Moines (before they relocated to Kent); and St. David's, Shoreline (before their merger with Emmanuel). Father Younge was also at Christ Church in the U-District where he was a part time Sunday and Wednesday evening "curate" for a couple of years as part of an effort to reach out to Episcopal students at the UW in an Episcopal setting. After retiring and returning to the Diocese in the beginning of 1991, he

was invited to be part of the diocesan interim clergy rota. Over the next 16 years, he served as interim priest at Christ Church, Puyallup; St. Andrew's, Tacoma; St. Matthew's, Auburn; St. George's, Lake City; St. Matthew's, Browns Point; and St. Clement's, Seattle. He also served as advisor/chaplain for Integrity of Puget Sound, on the diocesan Standing Committee, as chair of the Sudanese Committee, and on the boards of the Episcopal Charities Appeal, School of Ministry and Theology, and Walking in Love, the diocesan HIV/AIDS Commission.

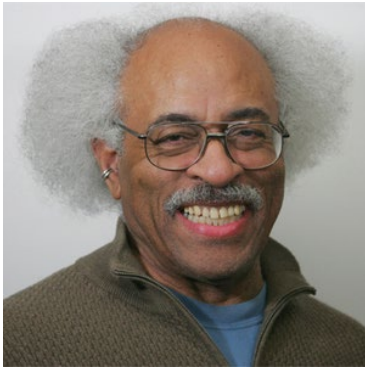
In the wider church, Fr. Younge served as president of the National Episcopal AIDS Commission, a member of the General Convention's Commission on HIV/AIDS, and as a board member of the Episcopal Society for Ministry in Higher Education. Locally in Seattle he was a member of Brother to Brother, an HIV/AIDS outreach and education project, and served two terms on the King County HIV/AIDS Planning Council.

We give thanks for the ministry of Fr. Younge in our diocese and hold it up specifically as an example of ministry by one Black Episcopalian in Western WA which others may find helpful as they consider their own ministries within community.

In a 2006 biography he said, "My ministry has been quite intentional for the diocese in all its diversity and I would want it to be presented as such." Let us remember our friend and brother and honor his legacy!

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

McAlister Merchant | www.mcalistermerchant.art



Cast glass sculptor, McAlister Merchant was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. McAlister took his first art classes at the age of 8 at the Art Institute of Chicago. Several schools and careers later in the early 1970s, McAlister moved to Los Angeles to attend the Art Center College of Design, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Design.

After Art Center, he won numerous awards for his work with Los Angeles area companies and clients, including Circle Industries, Vivitar, and several industrial design firms.

In the early 1980s, he began working with computers and became a self-taught computer programmer and database specialist and wrote magazine articles about using, customizing, and maintaining computers. In 1993, he joined Microsoft in Redmond, WA as a technical writer. In 2001 he retired and returned to his artistic roots.

McAlister creates sculptures in clay, creates a ceramic mold and, in a kiln, casts glass into the mold to get a range of effects from opaque to translucent glass. He also works in acrylic paint and pastel, teaching himself and learning from his friends.

VCBynum Arts & Education | Vania C. Bynum, Artistic Director | www.weinspirehumanity.org



VCBynum Arts & Education's mission is to connect and empower communities through socially relevant performances while raising funds for arts programming that benefits youth and adults. Through music, dance, and poetry, we uplift African American culture and the voices of ALL artists... sharing Art for the Greater Good.



Based in the Bellevue, Washington area, we specialize in dynamic dance classes and uplifting performances. We curate creative works and classes that empower, educate, and transform and believe in celebrating our cultural differences by amplifying the voices of the African diaspora and other communities of color.

Awal Alhassan & Sohoyni West African Dance Company | awalalhassan@gmail.com



Based in Seattle, Awal Alhassan and Sohoyni West African dance company offers a variety of dance classes, performances and workshops. With a focus on traditional and contemporary African dance styles, Sohoyni Dance provides dance lessons and workshops for individuals who want to explore the authentic culture of West African music and dance.

Vanessa Wells Bruce | Choir Director | vrnpiano@gmail.com



Vanessa Wells Bruce has been making music since the age of four. A native of Philadelphia Pennsylvania, she was a leader in all-city groups as a violist and vocalist. Her study of music theory, viola, pipe organ, and piano continued at Oberlin Conservatory, where she earned a Bachelor of Music Education. She took post-graduate classes at West Chester State University and Drake University in vocal pedagogy and conducting.

In addition to being a mother, educating youth has been her life's passion. For decades, Vanessa was an elementary and middle school vocal music teacher in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Iowa. Her creativity as performer, accompanist, choir director, clinician, musician, playwright, drama director, composer and arranger has afforded Vanessa many opportunities since she and her children moved to Washington State in 1998.

This year, Vanessa returns with the assistance of Ryan Ellis, the Minister of Music at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Bellevue, Washington. They have gathered singers from the greater Seattle community to join in a Celebration Choir for this special event!



Opal Lee by Alexander S. Tasy II

Opal Lee is considered the Grandmother of Juneteenth. "She was just twelve years old when a white mob burned down her family's home on June 19, 1939, in Fort Worth, Texas—simply because they dared to move into a white neighborhood. The police made no arrests. Her family had to flee. But Opal never stopped believing in freedom."

Retired teacher, counselor, and activist in the movement to make Juneteenth a federally recognized holiday, "she would say later, 'Freedom is a golden coin—struggle makes it shine.' She kept walking, kept telling the story of Juneteenth, kept organizing until, at age 94, she stood beside President Biden as Juneteenth was signed into law as a national holiday in 2021. A journey that began with trauma and fire was crowned with resilience and joy."

Excerpted from Laura Meyer's Juneteenth sermon at St. Peter's, Seattle 6/15/2025



ETHNIC MINISTRIES



The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

The Episcopal Church in Western Washington

www.ecww.org

Multicultural Ministries & Community Transformation

1551 Tenth Avenue East | Seattle, Washington 98102
206-325-4200 telephone | 206-325-4631 fax | 800-488-4978 wa | online at ecww.org