



Season After the Epiphany

**Welcome to  
St. Marks's Episcopal Church**

*All are welcome, all are honored, all are embraced, all are loved.*

**The Last Sunday after the Epiphany**

February 11, 2024

10:00 a.m.

*St. Mark's Episcopal Church*

*A house of prayer for all people in the historic Radcliffeboro neighborhood  
of Charleston, South Carolina*

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector

The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, Celebrant

Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster



*The 1982 Hymnal, referred to as **Hymnal** and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, referred to as **LEVAS** are found in your pew. **WLP** designates the music comes from the publication *Wonder, Love and Praise*. If **BCP** appears, that is a reference to the red Book of Common Prayer, also found in your pew.*

## Opening Proclamation

*Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*

<b>CHORAL INTROIT</b>	We Adore You, Lord We Love You	Ruby Mann Pool
<b>OPENING HYMN</b>	Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies	<b>Hymnal 7</b>

## A LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Celebrant says.*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now, and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant says.*

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 following is sung, all standing.*

## THE GLORIA

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The musical score is written on ten staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. There are three distinct triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) in the fifth, sixth, and eighth staves. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect for Absalom Jones

Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## THE LESSONS

*Please be seated.*

### FIRST READING – 2 Kings 2:1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.”

As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

### **PSALM 50:1-6**

1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \***  
**God reveals himself in glory.**

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame,  
and round about him a raging storm.

**4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above \***  
**to witness the judgment of his people.**

5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me  
and sealed it with sacrifice."

**6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \***  
**for God himself is judge.**

### **SECOND READING – 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

### **SEQUENCE HYMN**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

**Hymnal 427**

### **GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

#### TRANSITION SONG

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Song by Taizé

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I'll rejoice.  
Look to God, do not be afraid,  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;  
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.*

#### THE HOMILY

The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych

#### THE NICENE CREED

*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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 – Bid by Intercessor**

God of light and life our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith. We pray for your church, for our diocese, bishops, clergy and all people.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Flame of abundant love, be our Joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world. We pray for all who are coming to faith, all who wonder about faith, and all who are struggling with faith.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Light of all creation, guide us to lead, teach and nurture your disciples We pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God's healing touch, especially those for whom our prayers are especially desired.

***(Intercessor leads specific prayers for parishioners of St. Mark's, the diocese and Anglican Communion)***

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Comforter of the suffering, warm our hands to loving service We pray for the world, especially where there is trouble and suffering, far away or nearby.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Ember of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation We pray for the land on which we stand, the peoples, creatures, plant life and waters around us.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

Star blaze of glory, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home, and to heal the circle of creation God of radiant light, your love illumines our hopes before we know them, and our needs before we ask. Kindle your flame within us, that in our prayers and service, we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lord, in your mercy

***People: Hear our prayer.***

***The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.***

## CONFESSION

*The Celebrant says.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

*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.*

## ABSOLUTION

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

## THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People: And also with you.*

## SONG

Surely the Presence of the Lord is In This Place

*Sung by all.*

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.  
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,  
I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERTORY

Christ Upon the Mountain

Robert W. Lehman

### HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

Hymnal 400, verse 7

*Let all things their creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:  
O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*



## Holy Communion- Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

***People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Celebrant:

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***People: Glory to you for ever and ever.***

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

***People: By your will they were created and have their being.***

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

***People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

***People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.***

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Celebrant:

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***People: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Mothers; Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**People:** *Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.*

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant sing*

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debt, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People:** *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

### Angus Dei

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

## INVITATION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*At St. Mark's Episcopal Church, all desiring a deepening and reaffirming relationship with Christ are invited to come forward for Holy Communion or for a blessing. This is the table not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God. Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be fed and blessed here. For He knows you by name and calls you by name.*

*Communion will be offered in two kinds. The wine may be received by either sipping the chalice or dipping your wafer in the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest when the chalice reaches you at the altar rail. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request at the communion rail. For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.*

**MUSIC AT COMMUNION**

Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring  
Break Thou the Bread of Life

**LEVAS 75**  
**LEVAS 146**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says.*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

*Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**THE BLESSING**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus!

**Hymnal 460**

**THE DISMISSAL**

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

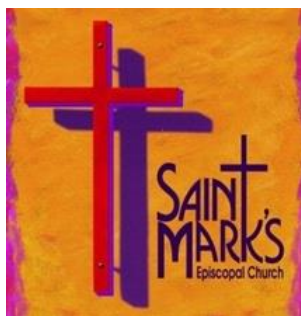
**CLOSING HYMN**

Thank You, Lord

*Sung by all.*

*Thank You, Lord (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.  
You've Been So Good (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.  
You've Been My Friend (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.*

*The worship is over. Now the service begins.*



*All are welcome, all are honored, all are embraced, all are loved.*

**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

The Reverend Dr. Jennie C. Olbrych, *Celebrant & Preacher*  
Shawan Gillians, *Crucifer & Eucharist Minister*  
Walter Boags & Lisa Van Bergen, *Lectors*  
Ruth Breland, Samara Hawkins, Alphonso Grayson, *Altar Guild*  
Suzanne Hieserman, *Flowers*  
Angela Hare & Yvette Douglas, *Ushers*

*The flowers are given by Minerva Brown King and Walter Boags  
in memory of Absalom Jones.*

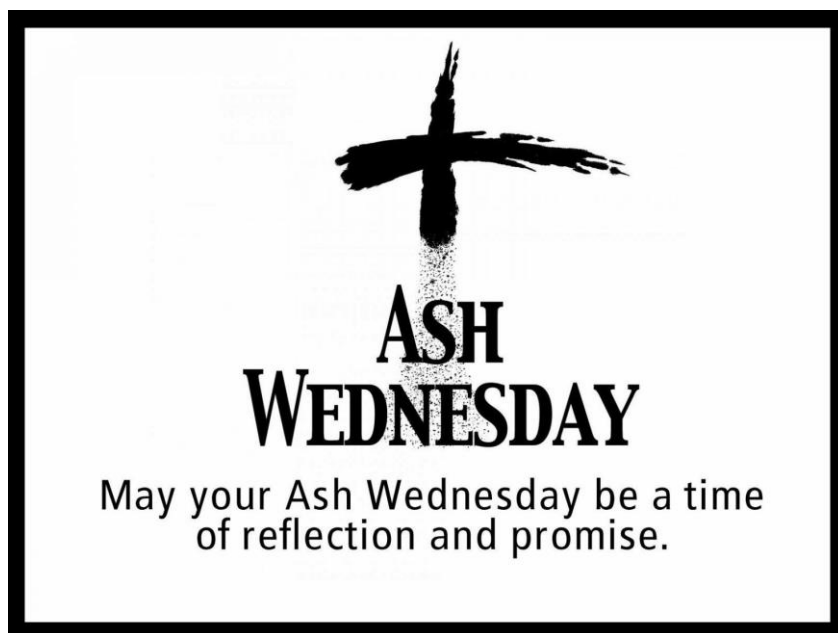
**Announcements**



**Thank you Rev. Dr. Jennie Olbrych**

We are fortunate today to again have the Rev. Dr. Jennie Olbrych presiding and celebrating at our worship service. Jennie and her husband John are no strangers to the St. Mark's community, which they have faithfully served and continue to support. Thank you Jennie and John. You grace us with your presence, and we are grateful.

*This Wednesday, February 14, 2024 – Noon Service*



*Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
Tuesday, February 13- 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM*



The Men's Club will be hosting a *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper* on Tuesday evening, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM in the Parish House. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!* **Join us and let the good time roll!** No charge, but donation to the Men's Club will be appreciated.

***Bishop Ruth to visit St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Sunday, March 17, 2024***

Bishop Ruth will make her annual visit to St. Mark's on Sunday, March 17, 2024, to show her support and share her counsel for the efforts being undertaken in 2024 to put St. Mark's on a good foundation for the future. Please make every effort to be present with us on March 17<sup>th</sup>. And if you have not been confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church and would like to be confirmed or received at the Bishop's Visitation, please contact Fr. Michael.



***Celebrating James Baldwin's Centennial Birthday***

A Conversation with Dr. Frank Thomas

Frank A. Thomas, PhD, who currently serves as the Director of the Compelling Preaching Initiative and the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana, will be giving a talk at the International African American Museum on Thursday, February 29, 2024, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

The writings of James Baldwin remain to this day, one of the greatest influences on the ministry of our Interim Rector, Fr. Michael. To commemorate and celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of James Baldwin, during his presentation, Dr. Frank Thomas will take us on a journey of how the faith of Baldwin has influenced his career as a writer. His life, legacy and literature are a testament of his belief in God that has inspired countless individuals throughout the world.

***Admission to the exciting event is free, although advance reservations are required.*** A group from St. Mark's is attending. If you are interested in joining us, please advise Fr. Michael by email ASAP.

**Altar Flower Donations** – Altar Flowers may be donated by signing up for any given Sunday in the Altar Flower Notebook in the church Narthex. Suggested donation is a minimum of \$40.00.

**Free parking** is available during Sunday Worship Services at Ashley Hall School parking lot, located at the corner of Warren and Smith Streets, only one block from St. Mark's Church.

**Parish Office Hours** are every Friday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Other times, contact Fr. Michael at 843-830-1220.



Absalom Jones by Raphaëlle Peale (1810)

## The Reverend Absalom Jones, 1746-1818

Absalom Jones was America's first black priest. Born into slavery in Delaware at a time when slavery was being debated as immoral and undemocratic, he taught himself to read, using the New Testament as one of his resources. At the age of 16, Jones' mother, sister, and five brothers were sold, but he was brought to Philadelphia by his master, where he attended a night school for African Americans operated by Quakers. Upon his manumission in 1784, he served as lay minister for the black membership at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church with his friend, Richard Allen, and together they established the Free African Society to aid in the emancipation of slaves and to offer sustenance and spiritual support to widows, orphans, and the poor. The active evangelism of Jones and Allen greatly increased black membership at St. George's. Alarmed by the rise in black attendance, in 1791 the vestry decided to segregate African Americans into an upstairs gallery without notice. When ushers attempted to direct the black congregants to the gallery, the group exited the church.

In 1792 Jones and Allen, with the assistance of local Quakers and Episcopalians, established the "First African Church" in Philadelphia. Shortly after the establishment that same year, the African Church applied to join the Protestant Episcopal Church, laying before the diocese three requirements: the Church must be received as an already organized body; it must have control over its own affairs; and Jones must be licensed as lay-reader and if qualified, ordained as its minister.

Upon acceptance into the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the church was renamed the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. The following year Jones became a deacon but was not ordained a priest until 1802, seven years later. At 56 years old, he became the first black American priest. He continued to be a leader in his community, founding a day school (as African Americans were excluded from attending public school), the Female Benevolent Society, and an African Friendly Society. In 1800 he called upon Congress to abolish the slave trade and to provide for gradual emancipation of existing slaves.

Jones died on February 13, 1818.