

Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands
ST. ANDREW PARISH CHURCH

Patron Saint Andrew The Apostle

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Chapel of Ease:

St. Thomas Mission - Majesty Gardens and St. Clement's Mission - Kencot



INTENTION FOR THE YEAR:

**We are Baptized to Witness and Minister
In the Name of Jesus Christ**

CLERGY

Rector Revd. Canon Maj. Serrano Kitson, D. Min

Curate

Revd. Orlando Gayle

Church Army

Sister Andrea Taylor

Wardens

Rector's Warden

Mrs. Ruby Anderson

Email (rubyelaineanderson@gmail.com)

People's Warden

Dr. Nigel Elliott

Email (nelliottdvm@hotmail.com)

Treasurer - Valda Ormsby

Administration

Office Administrator & Ops. Officer

Mrs. Merle Thomas

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Hortense James

Receptionist - Miss Latoya Dixon

Verger - Mr. Vernon Miranda

Asst. Verger - Miss Ann Morrison

The Rector is on leave for the month of August.

No one likes to experience discrimination, especially on the basis of race, sex, or where they live. According to *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, discrimination is 'wrong' because it violates the equal moral status of persons by treating their victims in ways that would be appropriate only for individuals having a diminished or degraded moral status, thus causing them to think less of themselves. In the gospel for today, (Matthew 15:21-28), we see Jesus, remaining silent as a Canaanite woman, (whose daughter was very ill), kept pleading for him to have mercy on her and heal her daughter. In the midst of his silence, the disciples urged Jesus to "send her away, for she keeps shouting at us." At that time, it was the norm for Jews to avoid contact with people (such as the Samaritans) who were not part of the twelve tribes of Israel. As for the Canaanites, they were greatly despised by the Jews, because according to the Old Testament Law, they should have been annihilated upon entering the Promised Land; because they weren't, the Israelites were influenced by their idolatrous practices (Deuteronomy 20:16-18).

Consequently, some biblical scholars believe that Jesus' Jewish upbringing was the reason for which He ignored this woman (Matthew 15:23), and even when the disciples urged Him to send her away, He responded as seen in Matthew 15:24, by stating, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel". However, notice that Jesus did not dismiss the woman, as He was not willing to join the discriminatory comments being hurled at her by the disciples. Instead he said, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and give it to the dog." The Greek for dog here does not connote the derogatory context that we know today. Instead, it alludes to a household dog that sits at its master's feet. In saying this, therefore, Jesus did not discriminate against the woman, and so it is for this reason that she would have made the response, "Even the dog eats the crumbs that falls from the master's table." As a result of her making this response, we see in Matthew 15:28 that Jesus loved her for her faith – her humility, her determination, her persistence - even though she was not a Jew. This turning point in the gospel according to Matthew (which was written for a Jewish Christian audience) confirms that Jesus did not come only for the Jews, but he came for one and all. In doing this Jesus broke down "the walls" which divided Jews from Gentiles and demonstrated to the disciples that He loves all people. God hates discrimination and we ought to desist from such practices as Christians.

So when we are about to share in an inappropriate joke about someone, on account of their race, address or class, let us remember that we are all equal in the eyes of God. Jesus liberated this Canaanite woman by telling her "Let it be done for you as you wish", and immediately her daughter was healed. Similarly, we are encouraged to liberate others, by being loving and supportive, so that they too can experience the respect and dignity intended for all God's children. Jesus came so that all people may be saved. Who are we, therefore, to discriminate against others?

We extend a warm welcome to all visitors worshipping with us today.

Olando

PARISH NEWS

Birthdays for this week: Kingsley Goodison, Lona Simmonds-Anderson and Cheryl Watson 22/08, Danielle Evelyn 23/08, Gladstone Bascoe, Carl McDonald and Carolyn Taylor-Bryan 24/08, Monica Cameron, Angela Gregg, Valda Ormsby and Norval West 25/08 and Leila Robinson, Marie Isaacs, and Hazel Thomas 26/08.

Condolence is extended to Lucien Jones and Sonia Wallace on the passing of their aunt Vie Monica Burrows. Her funeral service will be on Thursday August 24 at 10:00 a.m. To Dudley McLean on the passing of his aunt, Caroline Heron. To Michael Fennell and family on the passing of his sister Marjorie Rickards. Her funeral service will be on Thursday 24th at 3:00 p.m. Also to the family of Noel McConnell.

Did you know?

The only full Israelites were the purebred sons of Abraham. Pure ancestry had to be carefully proved for an individual to be able to exercise any civic or religious rights, to share in the benefits accruing from the merit of Abraham, or in the Messianic Salvation. Galilean Jews (as well as Canaanite Jews) were tainted by intermarriage with Gentiles (non-Jews). Such Jewish groups, including Samaritans, were therefore considered to be outcasts because of their mixed Jewish-Gentile origin, and so they were subjected to caste, racial and ethnic discrimination. (*Seeing New Facets of the Diamond*, G. M. Bediako, B. Quarshie, J. K. Asamoah-Gyadu, 2015)

Quote for Reflection

While discrimination is common in society today, whether on the grounds of social, racial, ethnic, or religious background, the Bible shows that it is something God hates. We cannot claim to be followers of Jesus and live at peace with discrimination. God does not discriminate against anyone, and neither should we. (*The Christian Basics Bible*, M. H. Manser, M. H. Beaumont, 2017)

Question for reflection

Jesus bestows His blessings without discrimination. Think of any town or community where people often times are looked down on because they reside there. Are we contributing to the problem of inequality in our country? In what ways can we empower such persons to experience the reality that they too are children of God? How else can we contribute to equality among all people in our own country?

Ms Sasha Lumsden expresses her thanks to the church staff, members of the clergy, the caretaker at the Church Hall and parents and God-parents of the Sunday School of SAPC for their contribution and support given to VBS 2017.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 20, 2017 - Proper 15 - Year A

6:30 a.m.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Old Testament

Genesis 45:1 - 15 Michael Fennell

Psalm 133

Refrain (All sit) *“How pleasant it is to live together in unity.” Alleluia!*

BCP page 648

Epistle

Romans 11:1 - 2a, 29 - 32 Dimitri Smith-Wint

Gospel

Matthew 15:21 - 28

Prayer of Intercession

BCP Form F (page 115)

8:00 a.m.

SUNG EUCHARIST AND SERMON

Processional

513 (*Tune: Nettleton*)

Old Testament

Genesis 45:1 - 15 Vincent Lawrence

Psalm 133

Refrain (All sit) *“How pleasant it is to live together in unity.” Alleluia!*

BCP page 648

Epistle

Romans 11:1 - 2a, 29 - 32 Marie Casserly

Gradual

323

Gospel

Matthew 15:21 - 28

Sermon

Rev. Orlando Gayle

The Creed

561 (CPWI)

Prayer of Intercession

BCP Form F (page 115)

Offertory Hymn

245

During Communion

625, 620, 630, 627, 595, 616 [618]

Recessional

515

10:30 a.m.

NO SERVICE

6:00 p.m.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Thur. Aug. 24, 9:00 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST - St. Bartholomew

SICK AND SHUT-IN

Heron Wright

Lois Owen

William Reeson

Nadine Richardson

Hugh Williams

Victoria Mightly

Leah Goldson

Owen Grant