



Union of Black Episcopalians
UBE Sunday
September 7, 2014
Honoring Our Saint: The Reverend Alexander

Crummell

UBE Sunday:

On Sunday September 7, we celebrate the life and legacy of our notable saint, the Reverend Alexander Crummell. We will also designate this day as UBE Sunday to commemorate the racial justice ministry of this organization which was an outgrowth of the Rev. Crummell's advocacy.

We respectfully request that these liturgical resources (Biography, Collect and Prayers) be included in your bulletin and used as appropriate in the Service.

The Rev. Alexander Crummel's Biography:



Born March 3, 1819 in New York City, Alexander Crummell struggled against racism all his life. As a young man 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 he went to Liberia as a missionary. A model Christian republic seemed possible in Liberia. He traveled extensively in the United States urging blacks to immigrate to Liberia and support the work of the Church there. On returning to Liberia he worked to establish a national Episcopal Church. Political opposition and a lack of funding finally forced him to return to the United States.

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 fight the proposal. The Union of Black Episcopalians is an outgrowth of that organization.

His faith in God, his perseverance in spite of repeated discouragement, his perception that the Church transcended the racism and limited vision of its rulers, and his unflinching belief in the goodness and greatness of black people are the legacy of the Afro-American pioneer.



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Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander Crummell, whom you called to teach the Gospel to those who were far off and 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 forever. *Amen.*

Prayers for the People:

Let us pray, saying *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you.*

On this UBE Sunday, we pray for the world, that all people, beneath their vines and fig trees, may live in peace and unafraid. Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you.*

We pray for this nation, that it may grow morally strong, realize an end to racism and that our divisions may cease. Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you.*

We pray for those who are lost, lonely, left out and left behind, for all those who are sick, shut-in, grieving or afraid (especially those we name aloud now_____), that they may be relieved of their suffering. Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you.*

We pray for the souls of those who have died in the hope of the resurrection. Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you.*

We pray our thanks for and celebrate the life if Alexander Crummell as an example of courage and perseverance at a time when racism within the Episcopal Church was rampant. We offer thanksgiving for all your blessings and for the opportunity to witness as Alexander Crummell did. Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you.*

On this day, inspired by the evangelical spirit of Alexander Crummell, may the God of all peace give us the courage to witness to your love, mercy and justice as we speak out and act out against injustice wherever we find it. Amen.

Psalms: 19: 7 -11

Lessons: Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 2: 7 -11, 17-18
James 1:2-5
Mark 4:1-10, 13-20

Donations gratefully appreciated in support of our ministry of racial justice and reconciliation:
Union of Black Episcopalians
Bishop John T. Walker National Learning Center
701 Oglethorpe Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
www.ube.org

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