

## ***Happy Eighth Day of Christmas and Feast of the Holy Name***

### **On the Circumcision** *(excerpt)*

*by Thomas Ken, Anglican Bishop (1637–1711)*

UPON the Octave of thy Birth,  
Since thou God-Man didst shine on Earth,  
Thou as the blissful Light  
Immaculately Bright,  
Wouldst a Severity endure,  
Contriv'd to teach laps'd Men they were impure.

Thy heav'nly Father it ordain'd,  
Love to Obedience thee constraint,  
Our Spirits to incline  
To Zeal for Law Divine,  
From Infancy thy Father's Will,  
It was thy Care devoutly to fulfill.

Thou our Affections to excite,  
Wouldst stoop to an afflictive Rite,  
Thou early didst foreshew,  
What thou wouldst undergo,  
Thy Cross and Agonizing Pains,  
Which made thy Blood gush out at all thy Veins.

But, Lord from Sin all Pain arose,  
Sin is the Cause of Penal Woes,  
A Babe thou didst begin  
To bear the Weight of Sin,  
And by the circumcising steel,  
Teach that thy Flesh our Punishment should feel.

All Heav'n and Earth which saw Thee bleed,  
Saw Thee true Man and Ab'ram's Seed,  
He first receiv'd the Sign  
Of Covenant Divine,  
And 'twas by thee from him deriv'd,  
All dead in Sin, to Bliss shou'd be reviv'd.



*Leaf from a 15th-Century northern French Book of Hours depicting the circumcision of Christ.*

*On January 1st, we celebrate the Circumcision of Christ. Since we tend to be more squeamish than our ancestors, modern calendars often list it as the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, but the other emphasis is the older. Every Jewish boy was circumcised (and formally named) on the eighth day of his life, and so, one week after Christmas, we celebrate this occasion.*

## This Week at CTR

**FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:** Friday, January 6 at 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with incense and music. There will be a dessert pot-luck afterward in the Parish Hall.

**FIRST TUESDAY PRAYER:** Tuesday, January 3 from 10-12:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. We gather for songs of praise, Scripture, and then follow the prayer points in *Intercessors for America's* newsletter praying for America, Israel and the Middle East, and the persecuted church around the world. "Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body." (Hebrews 13:3) For further information, please contact Linda Preston, [ljpres-ton7@yahoo.com](mailto:ljpres-ton7@yahoo.com).

**PRAYER FOR CTR'S STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS:** We continue to meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacristy.

### REGULAR SCHEDULES RESUME:

*Sunday, January 8* - Hospitality meals will resume in the Parish Hall after the 11 a.m. service.

*Sunday, January 8* - Junior High Youth Group will return to regular schedule—Sunday afternoons from 2-4:00 p.m. at the Keifer family home in Danvers. Contact Fr. Brian for more information, [brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org](mailto:brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org).

*Thursday, January 12* - Women's Bible Study returns to regular schedule. Thursdays, from 10-11:30 a.m. for fellowship, refreshments, Scripture study, discussion, and shared prayer. Contact Kim Ober, [kimwober@msn.com](mailto:kimwober@msn.com), with questions or to request materials.

**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY** meets in the Sacristy on Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact Richard Thorndike, 978-922-3618, for more information.

**MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES:** God gives us gifts with which to serve him; use your musical talents by participating with Christ the Redeemer music ensembles:

**Choir of Christ the Redeemer**, for adults and high school students, rehearses in the church, 7:15-9:15 p.m., Thursdays. New members are welcome and needed. Child care might be available on request. The choir will sing the 11:00 a.m. service most Sundays, September 11 through Trinity Sunday in June, as well as special services. Contact Minister of Music Dan McKinley, 978-774-3163, x105, [dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org](mailto:dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org).

**Seraphim Choir** (grades 4 +), Wednesdays, 4-5:15 p.m. Children will be equipped to make music to the Lord their whole life. Contact Dan McKinley, see above.

**Cherubim Choir** (grades 1-3), Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m. Establish the foundation of music making with this engaging program. Contact Cyndi Kreyling, [kreylingc@gmail.com](mailto:kreylingc@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events



**FORUM SERIES:** Sunday, January 8 at 10 a.m. The fourth in our Keep Calm and Love Your Neighbor series, *Jesus Touched the Untouchable*. Join as Fr. Tim teaches through a series of dialogues with various CTR parishioners about tools for being brave, patient and authentic listeners while sharing our faith, and the joy of Christ with our friends and neighbors.

**THIRD SATURDAY HEALING SERVICE:** Cast Your Cares—*Healing Wounds of Heart And Mind*, Saturday, January 21 at 5 p.m.

**EMPOWERED:** On Saturday, February 4, Archbishop Benjamin Kwashi, from the Diocese of Jos, Nigeria, will be speaking at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral, Amesbury as part of SOMA Mission in New England Conference. An opportunity not to be missed. For more information or to register please visit <https://adne.webconnex.com/soma-new-england>. Registration ends on January 27.

### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

 On Twitter: @ctr\_north\_shore

 On Twitter: @revdtim

 On Instagram: @ctr\_northshore

 On Facebook: @ctranglican



Merson, Luc-Olivier. *Rest on the Flight into Egypt*. 1879. Museum of Fine Art, Boston.

Fleeing persecution at the hands of Roman authorities, the Holy Family takes refuge in Egypt. Joseph dozes beside a dying campfire while his donkey grazes on sparse desert grass. At left sleep the Virgin Mary and infant Christ, crowned with a halo of light. They lie in the arms of a sphinx, its eyes turned to the heavens, where the first stars begin to appear. A successful Academic artist, Merson never traveled to North Africa, but his use of archeological detail creates the illusion of an eyewitness account, breathing new life into a time-honored subject.

LVC OLIVIER-MERSON / MDCCLXXIX

19th century, acquired in Paris by George Golding Kennedy (b. 1841 - d. 1918), Boston [see note 1]; 1918, bequest of George Golding Kennedy to the MFA. (Accession Date: November 7, 1918) NOTES: [1] According to notes in the MFA curatorial file.

*To the Faithful of the GAFCON movement and friends from Archbishop Nicholas Okoh, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria and Chairman, the [GAFCON](#) Primates Council, [Sent in early December 2016.]*

## ***My dear people of God,***

As the season of Advent begins, I am calling on all of us who belong to the [GAFCON](#) movement to make this a time when we focus our prayer and our giving on the great work God has called us to do.

At the heart of our mission is the task of restoring the Bible to its rightful place at the centre of the Anglican Communion and if we really believe its message, then everything we do will be shaped by the promise of Christ's glorious, personal and universal return as Saviour, Judge and Lord. In an uncertain world, this is certain. The election of an outsider as the next President in the United States and the upheaval of the UK's vote to leave the European Union earlier this year remind us of the uncertainty of human rule and the urgency of proclaiming God's rule and kingdom.

So we must be ready and prepared, understanding the times, just as the Apostle Paul urges the Christians in Rome when he writes: 'the hour has come for you to wake out of sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed' (Romans 13:11).

At this critical point in the life of the Communion, we need your full support. Will it return to the ancient paths or sleep-walk into fatal compromise? By the grace of God, GAFCON is a movement of spiritual awakening in a Communion standing at the crossroads.

I am greatly encouraged by what has already been achieved. GAFCON pioneers new structures where old ones have failed, we are recognised as the leading voice for orthodoxy in the Communion, we are equipping key leaders, in the Jerusalem Statement and Declaration we have given the Communion a contemporary standard of historic Anglican confession and every five years the Anglican Communion has a taste of what it can become as faithful Anglicans gather in growing numbers from around the world in worship and fellowship around God's Word.

But what especially encourages me about GAFCON is the recovery of gospel courage and enterprise. Much of the Anglican Communion owes its existence to missionary pioneers who were ready to lay down their lives because they were confident in the promises of God, however difficult their circumstances. Now, the same courage is needed to guard that legacy and re-evangelise the increasingly secular West. Let me share just two examples.

Firstly, I thank God that Archbishop Greg Venables will be re-joining the GAFCON Primates Council now that he has been elected to serve again as the Primate of the Anglican Province of South America in succession to our greatly esteemed colleague Presiding Bishop Tito Zavala. His ministry demonstrates that courage which is so central to the GAFCON story. In his previous term as Primate, despite much opposition, Archbishop Venables bravely supported orthodox Anglicans in North America and stood with the Diocese of Recife in Brazil after it had to withdraw from the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil.

We are now seeing similar courage in England as GAFCON UK, led by Canon Andy Lines, endures hostility simply for speaking the truth about the increasing breakdown of church discipline in the Church of England. There are now clergy and bishops who openly take pride in their rejection of biblical preaching and have even launched a website to encourage the violation of the 1998 Lambeth Conference Resolution I.10 on human sexuality.

But more disturbing is the response of the Church of England at its highest level. The Secretary of the Archbishops' Council has written an open letter to Canon Lines in which he describes the Lambeth resolution as merely 'an important document in the history of the Anglican Communion'. But this is no ordinary resolution. It has been the standard appealed to again and again in Communion affairs and most recently in the Communiqué from the Sixth Global South Conference in Cairo which describes it as representing the 'clear teaching of Scripture'.

God has greatly blessed GAFCON, but there is much yet to do. My vision is for ordinary Anglicans in every continent to be fully alert and committed to this movement of the Holy Spirit to restore our Communion. So please visit the GAFCON website where you will find much to give thanks for and much to pray for. And please help boost our finances. You can donate online, either a one-off gift or regular donation.

My brothers and sisters, may we long for our Lord's appearing and let us pray and let us give as those who will one day stand before him in the full splendour of his majesty and power.



The Most Revd Nicholas D. Okoh  
*Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria and Chairman, the GAFCON Primates Council*