

**REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**10:15 A.M. – Holy Eucharist**

**CHURCH STAFF**

The Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Ramsey - Interim Rector - 757.818.1630  
Charles Carballo, Jr. - Sexton  
Randy Walston – Organist/Pianist  
Stephanie Johnson – Parish Administrator

**THE VESTRY**

Alex Hunter - Rector's Warden - 757.548.8017    Angela Spruill – People's Warden  
Valencia Ingram – Secretary | Beverly Powell - Register  
Corey Brooks | Paulette Ellis | Melinda Gainer | Angela King | Kenneth Miller | Wanda Watters  
Robert Johnson – Treasurer    Elbert Smith – Building & Grounds Superintendant

**PARISH TRUSTEES**

Dr. Robert Johnson | Darryl Mitchell | Dr. Fred Quarles  
Paul R. Riddick, Sr. | Dr. Richard O. Wright

**LAY READERS**

Jerome Bynum | Roscoe Coles | Maria Herbert | Kenneth Miller  
Darryl Mitchell | Michele McCoy | Dale Murray | Ruth Rose

**PARISH ORGANIZATIONS**

Acolytes.....Diane Allen  
Adult Choir.....Wanda Watters  
Altar Guild.....Melissa Hunter & Kitty Hill  
Bereavement Committee.....Michele McCoy & Angela Spruill  
Boy Scouts.....Robert Johnson  
Brotherhood of St. Andrew.....Jerome Bynum  
Finance Committee.....Ruth Rose  
Floral Liaison.....Gail Hunt(757.619.1412)  
Communications Director.....Melinda Gainer  
Christian Education.....Donna Coles & LaQuetta Porter  
Daughters of the King (DOK).....Beverly Powell & Angela King  
Episcopal Church Women (ECW).....Angela King  
Episcopal Youth Community (EYC).....Margaret McCourty  
Girl Scouts.....Alisa Greene, Paulette Ellis & Alexis Greene  
Lay Minister Coordinator.....Maria Herbert  
Mary's Corner Book Store.....Beverly Powell  
Men of Grace Church.....Robert Johnson  
Newsletter.....Janet Neeley-Johnson & Paulette Ellis  
Outreach Ministry.....Alisa Greene  
Praise Dancers.....LaQuetta Porter & Donna Coles  
Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE).....Michele McCoy  
Ushers & Greeters.....Daschell Copeland & Chucky Carballo  
Webmaster.....Valencia Ingram

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**The Feast of Alexander Crummell**

*Grace Episcopal Church*

The Servant Church  
Since 1883



*The Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Ramsey, Interim Rector*

**Church Office**

Tuesday-Friday | 11am-4pm

Fr. Ramsey's Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday | 10am-4:30pm  
(757) 625-2868

[www.gracchurchnorfolk.com](http://www.gracchurchnorfolk.com)

[gracechurchnorfolk@gmail.com](mailto:gracechurchnorfolk@gmail.com)

1400 E. Brambleton Ave. | Norfolk, Virginia 23504

### Our Purpose

To bring people to Jesus and membership in His family, develop them to Christlike maturity & equip them for their ministry in the Church and life mission in the world, in order to magnify God's name.

### From the Interim Rector

Dear Parishioners,

After my arrival, I created a space during the worship service for special announcements. That space has allowed us to regather as a vibrant Christian community. Having achieved that purpose, I will now ask you to rely on the announcements in the bulletin for information about events, ministries and expressions of gratitude related to the life of our parish. Special announcements will only be allowed if they are urgent or necessary for the good of our parish family. If allowed, I will encourage you to be as brief as possible. I look forward to witnessing your continued growth in the power of the Spirit.

Fr. Ramsey

We extend a warm welcome to **guests, friends, visitors** and **newcomers** joining us for Sunday worship.

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All baptized persons are invited to receive  
**Holy Communion** at the altar.

## **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost The Feast of Alexander Crummell**

**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II 10:15AM**

Prelude

Processional Hymn: *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

L - 120

The Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Page 355

Kyrie: McLin (L - 235)

The Collect of the Day

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### The Lessons

Ecclesiasticus 39:6-11

Psalm 19:7-11

Page 606

James 1:2-5

Gospel Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine*

L - 221

~~The Gospel:~~ Mark 4:21-25

The Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Ramsey

Nicene Creed

Page 358

Litany for the Feast of Alexander Crummell

Insert

Confession of Sin

Page 360

The Peace

Prayers for Birthdays and Anniversaries

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

The Doxology

Page 361

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

Page 367

The Sanctus-Benedictus Brown (L - 255)

Page 362

The Lord's Prayer McLin (L - 263)

Page 364

Fraction Anthem DeLewis (L - 270)

Page 364

Communion Hymns: LEVAS #'s 154, 148, 152

Post Communion Prayer

Page 365

The Blessing

Page 366

Recessional Hymn: *I Will Trust in the Lord*

L - 193

Postlude

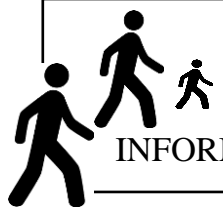
The following dates are available if you would like to donate **flowers to be placed on the altar** with a memorial tribute: September 21<sup>st</sup>, September 28<sup>th</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, October 12<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup>. Please call our floral liaison, Gail Hunt (757.619.1412), to make arrangements.



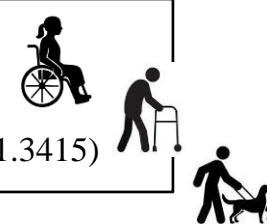
## UBE SUNDAY

Today we will celebrate the life and legacy of our notable saint, **The Reverend Alexander Crummell**. We designate this day to commemorate UBE's racial justice ministry, which was an outgrowth of the Rev. Crummell's advocacy.

**The Cross and Anchor** quarterly issue is out! An electronic copy was sent to every parishioner who has an email registered with the church. Printed copies are available for those with no email. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically and have never submitted your email to the Church Office, please do so.



WHAT: **Alzheimer's Walk**  
WHEN: September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
WHERE: Chesapeake City Park  
INFORMATION: *Michele McCoy* (757.651.3415)



The **Outreach Committee** will begin collecting donations for its **Care Closet and School Uniform Drive** starting **today through Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**. All donations will go to support the student of **Jacox Elementary School**. Your generosity will help ensure that children have the uniforms and essentials they need to feel confident and ready for success in the classroom. Items needed are: uniform navy blue bottoms, white or light blue shirts, facial tissues, toothpaste, mouthwash, hand soap, sanitary products, baby wipes, deodorant, body wash and body lotion. Thank you in advance for your support! Together, we can make a difference.

The **Finance Committee** meets  
this Wednesday,  
September 17<sup>th</sup>, at 11am.

The **Men's Club** will meet on  
September 21<sup>st</sup> after church  
service. The meeting will take  
place in the library.

## Discernment Committee Prayer

Almighty God, just as you directed Samuel to the calling of David to be King, we ask that our eyes and hearts might be opened so we can see whom you have directed to lead Grace Episcopal Church. Humble us and allow us to rely on your spirit's guidance. Fill our horns with oil O Lord and help us to focus on the heart of the one you will send to lead us. Be with us as we seek the one you have sanctified. We pray for discernment and guidance during this process. O Lord our God, give wisdom to our Discernment Team and to this parish as we seek your direction in finding our new priest. ~Amen

## TO ALL THOSE READING THIS BULLETIN

(and those Not reading it):

There is a ministry at Grace Church for you...

If you or your organization has a planned meeting in the church (outside of church hours), please notify your friendly church *sexton* so that he can unlock the building for you and secure it afterwards. Please and thank you.

## For Your Information

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday | 11am – 4pm  
Fr. Ramsey's Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday | 10am – 4:30pm  
Parish Administrator's Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday | 11am – 4pm

Please have **announcements for the bulletin** submitted to the church office by noon on Tuesdays...in writing. 😊

Sermon Notes

Title/Topic/Gospel\_\_\_\_\_



*“Oh my God, listen to me and hear my request . . . We do not ask because we deserve help, but because you are so merciful.”*  
**DANIEL 9:18**

PRAYERS FOR WELLNESS AND COMFORT

- Cecelia Anderson.....6320 Auburn Dr, Va. Beach 23464  
Dorethea Bagby.....Portside Health and Rehab  
4201 Greenwood Dr, Portsmouth 23701  
Barbara Bell..... 927 Kenton Ave, Norfolk 23504  
Dorothy Burnette..... 421 Clemson Ave, Chesapeake 23324  
Mercedes Coveney..... 536 Sandy Lake Ct, Va Beach 23454  
John Hopkins..... 5312 Halter Ln, Norfolk 23502  
Barbara Massey.....2717 Blueberry Bank, Chesapeake, VA 23325  
Doris Parrish.....3645 Wedgefield Ave, Norfolk 23502  
Ernestine Swain.....5933 Dorothy Bolton Ct., Alexandria, VA 22310  
Robena Vaughan.....Harbor's Edge 1 Colley Ave-AL #302, Norf 23510  
Alicia Williams.....Lake Taylor Transitional Care Hospital  
1309 Kempsville Rd Norfolk 23502  
Mary Woodhouse.....3100 Shore Dr., Apt 710, Va Beach 23451

## THE FEAST OF ALEXANDER CRUMMELL

### GOSPEL: Mark 4:21-25

Jesus said to the disciples, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

September 14, 2025

### COLLECT

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

### FIRST READING: Ecclesiasticus 39:6-11

If the great Lord is willing, he will be filled with the spirit of understanding; he will pour forth words of wisdom of his own and give thanks to the Lord in prayer. The Lord will direct his counsel and knowledge, as he meditates on his mysteries. He will show the wisdom of what he has learned, and will glory in the law of the Lord’s covenant. Many will praise his understanding; it will never be blotted out. His memory will not disappear and his name will live through all generations. Nations will speak of his wisdom, and the congregation will proclaim his praise. If he lives long, he will leave a name greater than a thousand, and if he goes to rest, it is enough for him.

## **Psalm 19:7-11**

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the LORD is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just  
and rejoice the heart; \*  
the commandment of the LORD is clear  
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey,  
than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

## **SECOND READING: James 1:2-5**

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.

## A Litany for the Feast of Alexander Crummell and Annual UBE Sunday

*Leader:* Creator God, in your grace,

*People:* **Bless our spirits.**

*Leader:* Nurturing God, in your peace,

*People:* **Strength our lives.**

*Leader:* Redeeming God, in your love,

*People:* **Clothe our souls.**

*Leader:* Sustaining God, in your mercy,

*People:* **Hear our prayers.**

*Silence is kept.*

*Leader:* Let us pray (may be said in unison) O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [BCP p. 840]

[Litany written by the Rev'd Canon John T.W. Harmon;  
and the Rt. Rev'd Nathan D. Baxter, 2016]

*Leader:* For the commemoration of the life and legacy of Alexander Crummell, priest and pastor, theologian, missionary, abolitionist and educator in the Church of God, we invite your prayers. We pray also for all who continue in his witness to Jesus Christ, especially the Union of Black Episcopalians. Let us pray that God's justice and peace is established throughout the world and in the Church.

*Leader:* O Holy God, the ground of all creation and source of mercy,

*People:* **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader:* O Holy Jesus, the companion of all humanity and liberator of the oppressed,

*People:* **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader:* O Holy Spirit, the strength of souls and lover of justice,

*People:* **Have mercy on us.**

*Leader:* For Alexander Crummell, prophetic leader for justice and reconciliation and faithful servant of Jesus Christ.

*People:* **Grant him rest and eternal peace.** [Silence is kept]

*Leader:* For Alexander and all (our ancestors) whose works and prayers continue to shelter our lives from danger and degradation.

*People:* **May their presence and witness inspire us.**

*Leader:* For his vision of Pan-African unity, self-governance and restorative justice for the peoples of Africa and the Diaspora,

*People:* **Deliver and restore us with hope.**

*Leader:* For parting the sea of ignorance, for inspiring his generation and generations to come toward their spiritual and intellectual liberation.

*People:* **Encourage our Soul and set us free.**

*Leader:* For the intellectual heritage of the American Negro Academy; and for

the continuing work of Black Scholarship and the education of black/our people.

*People:* **Liberating Christ, we praise you.**

*Leader:* For his ministry as church planter and local pastor in America and in Africa.

*People:* **Inspire and strengthen our local works of ministry.**

*Leader:* We thank you for the nurture and example of Alexander's parents, educators and abolitionists. May we be nurturers of learning and models of courage for our youth.

*People:* **Good God, we give you thanks.**

*Leader:* We thank you for his courage as he faced racist violence at Noyes Academy (New Hampshire), and denial of admission at General Theological Seminary (New York), and of full inclusion in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

*People:* **Good God, we give you thanks.**

*Leader:* We thank you for Oneida Institute, a Quaker School in New York, where his mind was sharpened and intellect affirmed.

*People:* **Good God, we give you thanks.**

*Leader:* We thank you for his undiminished hunger for theological education, becoming the first person of African Descent to graduate from Cambridge University (England); and for the white laymen of the Diocese of Pennsylvania who provided for his various needs.

*People:* **Good God, we give you thanks.**

*Leader:* We thank you for his twenty years of ministry in Africa; his articulated vision for Pan- African unity in Africa, the West Indies and the Americas; and for preserving him in safety when African detractors sought to take his life.

*People:* **Good God, we give you thanks.**

*Leader:* From the deep divisions that diminish all humanity, from the pain and cruelty inflicted by race and ethnicity, gender and class, sexual identity and orientation,

*People:* **Forgiving God, have mercy on us.**

*Leader:* From leaders who seek to separate and threaten the unity of the Church and human community.

*People:* **Protect with your gracious love.**

*Leader:* From laws that deny and reject the gifts and worth of all your people.

*People:* **Defend with your liberating power.**

*Leader:* From a culture which often does not care for or protect black bodies and souls; from fearful hatred that distort and devalue the dignity of black lives.

*People:* **Teach us to respect the dignity of every human being.**

*Leader:* From our disunity, tribalism, classism, self-hate, unforgiving memories, uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors and from all that divides the human family.

*People:* **Let us not become instruments of our own oppression.**

*Leader:* For the legacy of our forebears; for their gifts of organizing, self-determination, courage and dignity in the struggle against oppression: the Protestant Episcopal Society for Promoting the Extension of the Church among Colored People (1856); the Society for the Promotion of Church Work Among the Colored People (1867); the Conference of Church Workers among Colored People (1882); and the Union of Black Clergy and Laity (1968).

*People:* **Healer of Souls, we bless you.**

*Leader:* For their successor body, the Union of Black Episcopalians; may we in our own time work to heal and be healed, to boldly witness for racial justice, and promote the Gospel of Peace.

*People:* **Savior of Souls, we bless you.**

*Leader:* For the witness of the Black Diaspora in the Anglican Communion, together with the church throughout the world we commit our lives and ministries to the mission of Christ.

*People:* **To you Holy Spirit, lover of souls, we offer our hearts, minds, body and strength.**





## **The Feast of Alexander Crummell and UBE Sunday**

On September 14, The Episcopal Church celebrates the life and legacy of a notable saint: the Reverend Alexander Crummell. This day is also designated as Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) Sunday to commemorate the racial justice ministry of this organization which was an outgrowth of Crummell's advocacy. The Rev. Alexander Crummell was born March 3, 1819, in New York City to Charity Hicks, a free woman of color, and Boston Crummell, a former slave. Both parents were active abolitionists. The first African-American newspaper, Freedom's Journal, was published out of their home.

As a young man, Crummell 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 because of his race. He was eventually ordained in 1844 as a priest in the Diocese of Massachusetts, but left for England after being excluded from diocesan convention.

Ever determined, Crummell studied at Queens' College, Cambridge and was the first officially black student recorded as graduating. Soon after, he traveled to Liberia as a missionary to convert native Africans to Christianity and educate them, as well as to persuade American black community of their duty to go to Africa to spread Christianity across the continent. Crummell lived and worked for 20 years in Liberia. Finally, political opposition, lack of funding, and the potential for life-threatening violence forced him to return to the United States.



Upon return to the U.S., he was first called to St. Mary's Episcopal Mission in the Foggy Bottom area of Washington, DC. In 1875 he and his congregation founded St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the first independent black Episcopal church in the city. When in 1882 southern bishops proposed that a separate missionary district be created for black congregations, Crummell was a founding leader in establishing national black convocation to fight the proposal. The organization became known as Conference of Church Workers Among Colored People and is a predecessor body to UBE.

After retiring from St. Luke's in 1894, Crummell taught at Howard University until 1897. He died September 10, 1898, at the age of 79. Crummell was an important voice within the abolition movement and a leader of Pan-African ideology, influencing other black nationalists. In fact, W.E.B. Du Bois paid tribute to Crummell with a memorable essay entitled "Of Alexander Crummell" collected in his 1903 book, *The Souls of Black Folk*. His Episcopal feast day is September 10.

The Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) is a national faith-based advocacy organization whose goal is to address racial and social injustices and disparities within and outside our church. Visit UBE's website, [www.ube.org](http://www.ube.org), to support UBE's ministry of justice and racial reconciliation.