



**Vespers
on the Commemoration of
James Hannington,
Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa
and his Companions, Martyrs**

1885

2026 October 29

As members of a Parish in the Diocese of New Westminster, we acknowledge that we are gathered from a variety of locations within the traditional and unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish people, including but not limited to, the halq'-emylém speaking Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Musqueam, Tseil-watuth, and Tsawwassen nations.

The Preparation

Officiant

Today we remember James Hannington, the first Anglican bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, who was murdered with most of his company while trying to enter Uganda in 1885. Hannington was raised in a wealthy Congregationalist family but in his youth conformed to the Church of England, went to Oxford, and chose to enter the ordained ministry. He combined two qualities which Victorians found especially attractive in their clergy — he was a first-class athlete as well as a priest with heartfelt religion. After five years in an English curacy, he volunteered his services to the Church Missionary Society for work in the Victoria Nyanza district. When the Society decided to organize this district into the diocese of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Hannington was their choice for first bishop. He was consecrated in June, 1884, and a year later was heading inland from Momba'sa with a large party of European and African Christians. He hoped to open a more direct route to the people around Lake Victoria and, after two months on safari, decided to divide his party and proceed with a smaller group. Five days later, the bishop and his companions reached the eastern shore of Lake Victoria. In the meantime, news of Hannington's

The Preparation, Cont'd.

approach had reached Mwanga, the king of Buganda, who immediately ordered the European party to be seized. Hannington and his companions were ambushed, captured, and then subjected to privation and torture for over a week. On October 29, 1885, they were butchered. The bishop's last words were: "Go, tell Mwanga I have purchased the road to Uganda with my blood."

For All the Saints,
Anglican Church of Canada

The Preparation

Officiant

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

O God, make speed to save us;

O Lord, make haste to help us.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Praise the Lord;

The Lord's Name be praised.

The Psalm

Psalm 124

Psalmist

If the Lord had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;

If the Lord had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;

Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.

Blessed be the Lord! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.

The Psalm (Cont'd)

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *

the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

The Psalm Prayer

Helper and Defender of Israel, rescue the peoples of the world from destructive anger, and set us free to love and serve each other in the peace of Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Reading

Matthew 10: 16 - 22

Reader

See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Response

*After a brief period of reflection
the Reader says:*

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the Earth.

**Thanks be to God!
Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant

Let us Affirm our Faith as we recite “The Apostle’s Creed”

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth:
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
The holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

Officiant

We praise your abiding guidance, O God, for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe. We offer these prayers of love on behalf of ourselves, our neighbours, your creation and our fellow creatures, responding to the bidding “Loving God”, with “Hear our Prayers”.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Diocese of Cape Coast – The Church of the Province of West Africa, The Rt Rev Victor Reginald Atta-Baffoe, Bishop. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In the Anglican-Lutheran-Moravian cycle, we pray for The Most. Revd. John Stephens, Metropolitan, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of New Westminster; We remember October 31, 1517 as the day Martin Luther published the *Ninety-five Theses*, sometimes cited as the launching of the Protestant Reformation. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

Intercessions, Petitions, & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

Officiant

In our diocesan cycle, we pray for The Diocesan Primate's World Relief and Development Fund Unit – The Revd Joe Dirbas, Chair; St. Alban the Martyr, Burnaby - The Revd Brian Choto. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In our parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for Shane, our Primate; Chris, the National Indigenous Archbishop; Stephanie, our Priest; our retired clergy, Michael Deck and Alain-Michel Rosseleau; all in need of prayer; and Tedd O. as he prepares for baptism. Lovng God, **Hear our Prayers.**

Gracious God,
open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Officiant

Precious in your sight, O Lord,
is the death of your martyrs
James Hannington and his companions,
who purchased with their blood a road into Uganda
for the proclamation of the gospel;
and we pray that with them we also may obtain the
crown of righteousness which is laid up for all
who love the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant

Believing in the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

The Sending Forth

Deacon (or Officiant)

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Officiant

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**