

Kwanzaa Celebration at St. James' Episcopal Church,
1941 Webberville Rd, Austin TX

**Kwanzaa and the Well-Being of the World:
Living and Uplifting The Seven Principles**



Sunday, December 27, 2020, 12 pm to 1:30 pm
(Virtual Gathering, on Zoom)

Cover art *Kuumba* by Arleen Polite



Program

1. **Greeter** - Technology Usher - Simone Monique Barnes
2. **Invocation/Calling the Ancestors** - introduced by Kandi Payne
3. **Welcome** - greetings and poem ("The Power of One", author *anonymous*)
read by BJ Taylor
4. **History of St James' Episcopal Church** - read by Ora Houston
5. ***Lift Every Voice and Sing*** - sung by Chaz Nailor with Sharon Coleman on piano (with an introduction by Kandi Payne)

****Please stand.****

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might

Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

6. **Kwanzaa Ceremony** (Candle lighting) - lead by Trina and Dale Robertson

Dale: We begin our candle lighting ceremony joined by members of our community:

Trina: Inonge Khabele (who is the granddaughter of Mrs. Bertha Means, St James' living founder), Drew Payne, Alex Ogunmuyiwa, Zakiya Robertson, Colton Scott, Drew Green, and Lyric Naa Dromor Barber (who is one of our church's youngest members).

Dale: *Habari Gani?* What's the News?

Trina: KUJICHAGULIA (koo-gee-cha-goo-lee-ah)

Dale: Every day of Kwanzaa we ask "Habari Gani?" which means "What's the news?" and the answer is the principle of the day. We're going to ask again, this time you may unmute yourself to answer the principle of the day which is kujichagulia.

Trina: *Habari Gani?* What's the News?

The People: KUJICHAGULIA (koo-gee-cha-goo-lee-ah)

Trina: The news we are celebrating is 54 years of the *Nguzo Saba*, seven principles that represent a guide for daily living studied during Kwanzaa to be practiced throughout the year. We're glad you're here for our ceremony, and the lessons that help us remember what Kwanzaa teaches.

Dale: Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, to reaffirm the responsibility we all have for our families, and to renew the deeply held beliefs and values of traditional African customs and culture. It is a way of life, not just a 7-day celebration.

Trina: The colors of the bendera (the flag) are black for the people, red for their struggle, and green for the future and hope that comes from their struggle. It is based on the colors given by the Honorable Marcus Garvey as national colors for African people throughout the world.

Dale: Let us begin lighting our candles. Today being December 27th, the second day of Kwanzaa, we light the first two candles, and we will continue lighting an additional candle each day of Kwanzaa until all 7 are lit on January 1st.

Trina: A black candle symbolizes Umoja (oo-moh-jah).

Inonge: This is the candle of Unity.

Inonge: We help each other. Black is for the color of the people. African Americans are like the threads in the kente cloth that is woven in West Africa: each beautiful, silken thread fragile alone yet strong together.

Trina: The symbol for *Umoja* is Kikombe cha umoja (kee-kom-beh cha oo-moh-jah) --

Inonge: the unity cup, filled with water, to share a libation to honor elders. Harambee!

Dale/Trina: Let's all pull together!

Dale: A red candle symbolizes *Kujichagulia* (koo-jee-cha goo-lee-ah)

Drew P. This is the candle of Self-Determination.

Drew P. We decide things for ourselves. Red is for the struggle, carried on by African Americans and all people for a better life.

Dale: The symbol for *Kujichagulia* is the Mkeka (em-keh-kah)

Drew P. -- a woven mat, upon which all the other symbols rest. Harambee!

Dale/Trina: Let's all pull together!

Trina: A green candle symbolizes *Ujima* (oo-jee-mah)

Alex O: This is the candle of Collective Work & Responsibility.

Alex O: We work together to make life better. Green is for the bright future that will result from the struggle.

Trina: The symbol for *Ujima* is the Mazao (mah-zah-oh)
-- crops of the harvest (fruits and vegetables).
Harambee!

Trina/Dale: Let's all pull together!

Dale: A red candle symbolizes *Ujaama* (oo-jah-mah)

Zakiya: This is the candle of Cooperative Economics.

Zakiya: We build and support our own businesses, in this joining of effort.

Dale: The symbol for *Ujamaa* is a Kinara (kee-nah-rah)

**Zakiya: -- a candleholder to hold 7 candles.
Harambee!**

Dale/Trina: Let's all pull together!

Trina: A green candle symbolizes *Nia* (nee-ah).

Colton: This is the candle of Purpose.

Colton: We have a reason for living--our individual and collective purposes that affect our quality of daily life.

Trina: The symbol for *Nia* is the Muhindi (moo-hin-dee)

**Colton: -- ears of corn, one for each child in the family.
Harambee!**

Dale/Trina: Let's all pull together!

Dale: A red candle symbolizes *Kuumba* (koo-oom-bah)

Andrew G: This is the candle of Creativity.

Andrew G. We use our minds and hands to make things.

Dale: The symbol for *Kuumba* is Zawadi (zah-wah-dee)

**Andrew G. -- little gifts, like culturally-inclusive books, handmade items, or cultural objects.
Harambee!**

Dale/Trina: Let's all pull together!

Trina: A green candle symbolizes *Imani* (ee-mah-nee)

Lyric: This is the candle of Faith.

**Lyric & Family: We believe in ourselves, our ancestors and our future.
Faith in dreams and the promise of peace now and in all
tomorrows.**

Trina: The symbol for *Imani* is the Mishumaa Saba (mee-shoo-mah
sah-ba)

**Lyric & Family: -- the 7 candles, 1 black, 3 red, and 3 green
Harambee!**

Dale/Trina: Let's all pull together!

7. The Libation Statement lead by Harrison Eppright

**Please stand and have your cup of juice or water in hand to drink at the end
Leaders will pour water libations onto the earth or into plant*

Harrison: **LIBATION STATEMENT** (Tamshi La Tambiko)

Harrison: For the motherland cradle of civilization.

Dale/Trina: **For the ancestors and their indomitable spirit.**

Harrison: The 16 founders of St James:

The Rev John D Epps
H. Lincoln Heath
Marcellous Hodge
Josephine Carol Jackson
H.E. Johnson
Albert Julian Lee
Eliza Millican Lee
Helen Martin
William D. Martin
Bertha Sadler Means
Clarabell Richardson
Myrtle Wormley Royster
Johanna G. Saulter
Christine Sellers Shackles
Claude J. Shackles
Earl Willingham

We now invite you to speak the names of ancestors you'd like to acknowledge at this time. You may say their names silently or out loud. Please unmute yourselves as we all spontaneously call out the names of those who have come before us. You do not need to raise your hand nor wait to be called on.

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Harrison: For the elders from whom we can learn so much.

The People: **(Please unmute yourselves and respond out loud collectively as the voice of "the people" listed in bold print.)*
For our youth who represent the promise of tomorrow.

Harrison: For our people, the original people.

The People: **For our struggle and in remembrance of those who have struggled on our behalf.**

Harrison: For the creator who provides all things, great and small.

The People: **Together we stand. Together we join hands.**

Harrison: Please drink your juice or water.

Now let's say a final Harambee three times together.

The People: **Harambee, Harambee, Harambee!**

Harrison: Kwanzaa inspires us to remember and hold dear the highest ideals and values of humankind.

8. **Performance** - Kanani St James (Introduction by Sue Reed Tate)
9. **Creative Wellness Conversation & Performance Centered Around the Black Experience** - Kelenne Blake (Introduction by Sue Reed Tate)
10. **Performance** - Keito St James (Introduction by Sue Reed Tate)
11. **Closing Remarks** - Sue Reed, President of UBE

On behalf of the 2020 Kwanzaa Committee: Sue Reed Tate, Jennifer Graf, Kandi Payne, Trina Robertson, BJ Taylor, and Simone Monique Barnes; The Union of Black Episcopalians, Myra McDaniel Chapter; and St. James'

Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas (Episcopal Diocese of Texas), thank you all for celebrating with us today.

12. **Closing Prayer** - The Rev Marcea Paul, UBE Myra McDaniel Chaplain; and Priest for Pastoral Care, The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Austin TX

***Karamu Feast**

Traditionally, during Kwanzaa, we break bread together, sharing in a feast that celebrates the foodways of both our families of origin and of our community. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can't eat together in-person as we have in the past. This gives us the opportunity to expand our tables in creative ways. Please be encouraged to support local Black chefs and Black owned restaurants, food trucks, trailers, caterers (for delivery, take out, or in a safely distanced way), and cookbook authors from the African diaspora, and share your family recipes with those you love.