

ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COMMEMORATION OF
ELIZABETH DUNCAN KOONTZ
JANUARY 7, 2021 + 5:30 P.M.
EVENING PRAYER

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*You are invited and encouraged to participate fully in this liturgy by praying with us.
Please join in the **bold** sections.*

ELIZABETH DUNCAN KOONTZ was a member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Salisbury before joining St. Luke's when St. Philip's merged into this Parish. She was born June 3, 1919 to Lena and Samuel Duncan, both educators. Ms. Koontz attended segregated schools in Salisbury and graduated as Salutatorian from Price High School. She earned a Bachelor's in English and Elementary Education from Livingstone College, a Master's from Atlanta University. She would go on to be a teacher, the first African-American President of the National Education Association, and the first African-American director of the Women's Bureau of the US Department of Labor, being appointed by President Richard Nixon. Ms. Koontz was a leader in education, civil rights, and the women's movement. She died in Salisbury on January 6, 1989. We are lifting up this local saint for her faithful witness and that she might later receive consideration to be added to the sanctoral calendar of The Episcopal Church.



OPENING SENTENCES

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall. *Psalm 16:7,8*

CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in everlasting life. Amen.

EVENING PRECES

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

PHOS HILARON

O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

PSALM 119:33-40

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees *

and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *

give me life in your ways.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *

which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *

because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *

in your righteousness preserve my life.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 1:16-20

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;

remove the evil of your doings

from before my eyes;

cease to do evil,

learn to do good;

seek justice,

rescue the oppressed,

defend the orphan,

plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out,

says the Lord:

though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be like snow;

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient,

you shall eat the good of the land;

but if you refuse and rebel,

you shall be devoured by the sword;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

MAGNIFICAT

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
 the Almighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
 in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
 and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
 and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
 to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
 to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
 whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
 and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' 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.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

God of the prophets, who taught us to let justice roll down like an ever-flowing stream; thank you for filling Elizabeth the voice of justice.

With thanksgiving, we remember her legacy.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that your Kingdom belongs to children, thank you for Elizabeth's ministry among the little ones of society.

With thanksgiving, we remember her legacy.

God of the weak and the oppressed, you have taught us that you will lift up the lowly; thank you for inspiring and guiding Elizabeth to work with those with special needs.

With thanksgiving, we remember her legacy.

God of the marginalized who was born of a lowly mother and raised under a time of oppression; thank you for Elizabeth's humble yet powerful call for justice and equality for all people, and in particular women, minorities, and children.

With thanksgiving, we remember her legacy.

God of healing power who seeks to bind up the brokenhearted and to bring all Creation to reconciliation in your love; we thank you for Elizabeth's conviction to do good, seek justice, and to rescue the oppressed.

With thanksgiving, we remember her legacy.

God of our beginning and ending, you know us before we are born and give us rest in eternal life; we thank you for Elizabeth's strong sense of identity that gave her stability from which she could grow into the ministry you gave to her.

With thanksgiving, we remember her legacy.

God of all knowledge, your Son was among us as a teacher, thank you for Elizabeth's love of learning and her vocation of sharing that knowledge with those around her.

With thanksgiving, we remember her legacy.

God of comforting presence and stirring power, by your Spirit you animate your Church as your Body in this world; set us afire with your Spirit for becoming the beloved community as you did for Elizabeth.

With thanksgiving, we remember her legacy.

Gracious and loving God who has taught us to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being, we give you thanks for the witness of Elizabeth Duncan Koontz as she pursued this calling as an educator and voice for equality; and we pray that we might have the grace and courage in our day to further become your beloved community; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE COLLECTS

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Your prayers are invited at this time.

REFLECTION ON MS. KOONTZ

Dora Wood

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Robert Black

PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

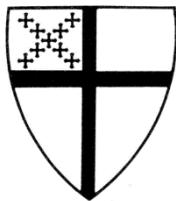
Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Established 1753

A Parish of the Diocese of North Carolina
The Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman, Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Suffragan



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Come and See
the *difference* Christ makes



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PARISH PRAYER

O God, in your abundant grace you sent your Son to be the light of the world: Grant that we may come and see the difference that Christ makes in each of us as we seek to become your beloved community; and as we gather in intentional worship, may we ever be reminded of your transformative love which is the foundation of our faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.