

# Juneteenth

## What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that enslaved people were free. Although the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued more than two years earlier, many enslaved people in Texas had not yet experienced its effect.

## Why Do We Celebrate?

- To celebrate freedom and human dignity.
- To remember the full story of our nation's history.
- To honor the resilience, faith, and perseverance of African Americans.
- To recommit ourselves to justice, reconciliation, and beloved community.

For the Episcopal Church, Juneteenth is an opportunity to reflect on God's liberating work in human history and on our call to seek justice, love mercy, and uphold the dignity of every person.