



The Historic **CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH** *of Dover, Delaware*

Established 1884

The Place Where Life Begins

Bishop W. James Thomas, II, D.Min., Senior Pastor

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Greetings, CBC Family and Friends,

Today, we celebrate Juneteenth, which President Joe Biden made a federal holiday on June 18, 2021. As we celebrate this day, let it remind us of several things.

Slavery was an egregious reality and is a particular stain on the fabric of the United States. The impact of slavery continues to impact the lives of people of color, regardless of how we try to create distance from that reality. Some suggest that since it happened so long ago, why can we not put it behind us and move on? Those who suggest such fail to understand how important it is to remember our history as African Americans and teach the true history to our children. As horrid as it was, it is not only a part of our history but a testament to the resilience and faith of our ancestors, whose shoulders we stand on today.

Juneteenth is a necessary reminder of how far we have come and how much work is yet to be done. The church has a responsibility in the recollection of history. It is vital to maintain an accurate understanding of where we have come from and not some "reset," sanitized version that suggests that black people somehow benefitted from slavery. We have come this far by faith, but you inevitably miss the strength of that faith when you leave out the true story of what that faith enabled us to do and become.

This year, our congregation will celebrate 140 years of ministry. We did not get here because of our own ingenuity and intelligence. God blessed people whose names we may not know to sacrifice so that our Zion, which currently occupies the corner of Queen and Fulton, could exist and thrive both here and beyond.

CBC has become an integral part of this community and city, and we remain committed to cultivating flourishing among African Americans – and all who come through our doors. We celebrate the goodness of God while remembering the legacy of slavery, lamenting ongoing racism, and preaching the gospel of reconciliation.

Happy Juneteenth!! Remember from where we have come, celebrate where we are, and be prayerful and intentional about where we are going...in Jesus' name!

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