A Service of Thanksgiving



Celebrating the 60th Anniversary
of the
Independence of Barbados
and
the 5th Anniversary as a Parliamentary Republic
1966 – 2026

"Gathering as One Nation"

Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 4:30pm

St. Hilda's Church
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada

TODAY'S MINISTERS

Incumbent	*The Reverend Canon Kenute Francis*
Co-Officiants	*The Right Reverend Peter Fenty* *Imam AbdurRashid Taylor*
Homilist	*The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields*
Assisting Clergy	*Lieutenant Colonel Imam Ryan Rasheed Carter* *The Reverend Antionette Forde* *Shaikh Isa Abdul Haqq*
Crucifer	*Kathyann Sandiford*
Readers	*Isa Taylor* *Juan Blackman*
Choir & Other Musicians	*Choir of St. Hilda's Church* *Jaime Barrow* *Susan Grogan (vocals),* *Joseph Callender (saxophone)* *John O'Dell, Roderick Rasheed &* *Shaikh Isa Abdul Haqq (Drummers)*
Ushers	*Ruby Maynard, Cassandra Culpepper*
Flag Bearers	*Constable Alex Brooker, Malcolm Flatts*
Office of the High Commission	
High Commissioner to Canada	*His Excellency Gline Clarke*
Counsellor	*Marvin Brathwaite*
Office of the Consul-General	
Consul-General	*The Hon. Anthony Brancker, J.P.*
Vice Consul-General	*Kurt Haynes, J.P.*
Consul	*Melissa Straker-Taylor*
Vice-Consul	*Mishcha Roberts*

ORDER OF SERVICE

B-ienvenue (Anthems, opening Hymn, an Opening Prayer, Greetings
A-doration & Prayers for the nations
R-eadings
B-ajan Talent
A-ddress
D-ance and Diamond Commendations
O-ffering of Labour and Thanksgiving
S-ending Forth

Prelude

B-ienvenue

Procession of the Choir and Clergy *Drums*

Procession of Colours

Beautiful Barbados – Susan Grogan

The National Anthem of Canada

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

The National Anthem of Barbados

In plenty and in time of need
When this fair land was young
Our brave forefathers sowed the seed
From which our pride was sprung
A pride that makes no wanton boast
Of what it has withstood
That binds our hearts from coast to coast
The pride of nationhood.

Refrain *We loyal sons and daughters all do hereby make it known*
These fields and hills beyond recall are now our very own
We write our names on history's page with expectations great
Strict guardians of our heritage firm craftsmen of our fate.

The Lord has been the people's guide
For past three hundred years.
With Him still on the people's side
We have no doubts or fears.
Upward and onward we shall go,
Inspired, exulting, free,
And greater will our nation grow
In strength and unity.

Presentation of Colours – received by Bishop Fenty & Imam Taylor

Opening Prayer *Bishop Peter Fenty & Imam AbdurRashid Taylor*

Bishop Peter Fenty: God of all peoples and nations, Creator of the earth and Source of every good gift, we gather today with grateful hearts to celebrate sixty years of Barbados as an independent nation. We come from different traditions, cultures, experiences and faith communities, yet we gather as one people, united in hope, respect and common purpose.

Imam AbdurRashid Taylor: We give thanks for those whose sacrifice, labour, vision and courage laid the foundations upon which this nation stands. We remember those who dreamed of freedom, worked for justice, nurtured communities and helped shape Barbados into a place of resilience, creativity and dignity. Bless this gathering and all who participate. May our words inspire understanding, our prayers deepen compassion, and our fellowship strengthen the bonds that unite us.

Bishop Peter Fenty: Grant that this celebration may renew our commitment to build communities where all people are valued, where differences are respected, and where peace, justice and goodwill flourish. Guide us as we honour the past, embrace the present, and work together for a hopeful future.

All: **Amen.**

Welcome & Greetings

The Reverend Canon Kenute Francis
The Consul-General – The Hon. Anthony Brancker
Message from the Prime Minister

A-doration

Hymn of Praise – Praise to the Lord, the King of Creation

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
All who hear; brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea so gently sustaineth:
Hath thou not seen how thy entreaties have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
gladly for aye adore him.

A Prayer for Barbados *The Rev. Antionette Forde*

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for Barbados and for sixty years of independence, years marked by perseverance, achievement and national pride.

We pray for all entrusted with civic leadership: for those who govern, legislate and administer public life. Grant them integrity, humility, wisdom and courage in service of the common good.

Bless those who serve in the courts and the administration of justice. May truth prevail, fairness be upheld and every person be treated with dignity.

Prosper the work of industry and commerce. Strengthen entrepreneurs, workers, innovators and all whose labour sustains the nation. May economic growth be joined with compassion and opportunity for all.

We pray for schools, colleges and universities; for teachers, administrators and support staff. Inspire minds, encourage curiosity and nurture future generations.

Bless the youth of Barbados. Give them confidence, purpose and hope. Protect them from despair and violence and help them discover their gifts for service and leadership.

Strengthen Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Rastafarians, Bahai, the faith communities in their witness, compassion and service. May they be places of welcome, healing and reconciliation.

As one nation, guide Barbados into a future shaped by justice, generosity and peace. Through your mercy and love we pray.
All: **Amen.**

A Prayer for Canada and the Barbadian Diaspora *Lieutenant Colonel Imam Ryan Rasheed Carter*

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

O Allah, Lord of all nations and peoples, we give thanks for Canada, a land that has welcomed many from Barbados and across the world, becoming home to generations who have sought opportunity, community and belonging.

We pray for the Barbadian diaspora in Canada—those who arrived decades ago and those newly establishing their lives; for families separated by oceans yet joined in love; for elders who preserved culture and tradition; and for youth carrying forward a shared heritage.

Bless all who work to strengthen diversity, equity and inclusion. Grant wisdom to leaders and institutions so that every person may be treated with dignity and fairness, regardless of race, faith, background or circumstance.

Help us to build communities marked by mutual respect, neighbourliness and understanding. May differences become opportunities for learning and may diversity become a source of strength.

Grant success to the work of peacebuilders, educators, public servants, faith communities and all who labour for justice and reconciliation.

Make us people who welcome one another with open hearts and who seek the common good.
All: **Ameen.**

Choir - Psalm 150 – O Praise ye The Lord

R-eadings *Isa Taylor*

From the Qur'an - Verses about Unity

Surah Āl ʿImrān (The Family of Imran) - (Qur'an 3:103)
Hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided. Remember Allah's favour upon you: when you were enemies, He brought your hearts together and you became, by His grace, brothers and sisters.

Surah Al-Hujurāt (The Private Apartments) - (Qur'an 49:9; 10; 13)
If two groups of believers fall into conflict, make peace between them (and act promptly). But if one of them aggressively encroaches the rights of the other, then fight you all against the aggressive side until they comply with God's decree (concerning the matter). If they comply, them make peace between them with justice and be scrupulously equitable. Surely God loves the scrupulously equitable.

The believers are but brothers and sisters, so make peace between your brothers and sisters, and keep from disobedience to God in reverence for Him and piety (particularly in your duties towards one another) so that you may be shown mercy.

"O humankind! We created you from a single male and female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may know one another (and so build mutuality and co-operative relationships, not so that you may take pride in your differences of race or social rank and breed enmities).

From the Bible - John 17:20– *Melissa Straker-Taylor*

Jesus prayed, 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father,

are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

B-ajan Talent

Beautiful and Unspoilt - Susan Grogan
Medley of the Music of the Merrymen - Joseph Callender

A-ddress ***B.A.R.B.A.D.O.S***

B-elonging
A-cting Together
R-esilience
B-reaking Barriers
A-Affirming Human Dignity
D-iversity
O-pening our Hearts
S-hared Future

Hymn – Bind us Together

Refrain
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
Bind us together in Love.

There is only one God, there is only one King
There is only one Body, that is why we sing.

Fit for the glory of God, purchased by His precious Blood
Born with the right to be free, Jesus the victory has won.

We are the family of God, we are the promise divine
We are God's chosen desire, we are the glorious new wine.

A Prayer for Peace and Unity *Shaik Isa Abdul Haqq*

God of all creation, we hold before you our troubled and beautiful world. Where there is conflict, bring peace. Where there is injustice, raise up courage and compassion. Where there is division, plant understanding and reconciliation.

We pray also for the healing of your creation, our common home. Guide the nations in their response to climate change and environmental destruction. Give us wisdom to protect the earth, to share its resources responsibly, and to safeguard the natural world for generations yet unborn. May our care for creation unite us in a common purpose and deepen our commitment to the well-being of all peoples.

Source of Peace, we remember nations burdened by war, communities wounded by violence and people displaced from their homes. Strengthen those who protect human dignity and those who work quietly for healing and restoration. Teach us to recognize our shared humanity and to reject hatred, fear and prejudice. May leaders seek wisdom over power, cooperation over division and service over self-interest.

God of justice, we pray for all who suffer from poverty, hunger, discrimination and the loss of their homes. Be a refuge to those who are vulnerable, a voice for those who are silenced, and a source of strength to those who struggle for justice. Move our hearts to generosity and our hands to acts of mercy, that no one may be forgotten or deprived of the dignity and care that are their birthright.

Holy One, help us to become builders of bridges and guardians of hope, so that future generations may inherit a world more just, more peaceful and more united. We pray that all peoples may live together in freedom, dignity and mutual respect.

All: **Amen.**

D-ance and Diamond Commendations

Dance *The Lord's Prayer* *Juanita Willians*

Commendations *Kurt Haynes*

Belfield Alleyne *(posthumous)*
Dan Bancroft *(posthumous)*
Jaime Barrow
Alex Brooker
Jessica Carrington
Mark Carrington *(posthumous)*
Charles Cooke
Malcolm Flatts
The Very Rev'd. Douglas Stoute
Gloria Went

O-ffering of Labour and Thanksgiving

Hymn – To God be the Glory

To God be the glory! Who great things has done!
God so loved the world freely sending the Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear God's voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son
and give God the glory; who great things has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God:
That when the offender repenting believes,
Through Jesus' atonement, God's a pardon receives.

Great things God has taught us, great things God has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our joy and our wonder, when Jesus we see!

Prayer over the Collection

Bishop Peter Fenty: Generous and gracious God, receive these offerings and bless them for the service of others, for the advancement of justice, and for the

building of hope. May our gratitude move us to service, and may this celebration move us to renewed commitment to one another. Gather us as one nation and one human family, now and always.
All: Amen.

S-ending Forth

Islamic Benediction

Imam Abdur Rashid Taylor We join our prayers together in Unity and Hope.
O Allah, you are the source of peace and from you comes peace, exalted you are, O Lord of Majesty and Honor. There is no might or power, except from God.
O Allah, help us in remembering you, thanking you and conducting worship to you in a perfect way.
O Lord, lead us to true faith with those you have guided, pardon us with those you have pardoned, protect us with those You have protected, bless for us what you have given to us, keep us safe from evils. you have ordained. It is you who decrees and it is not decreed upon you, no one under your care is brought down and no one to whom you show enmity can be exalted, O Lord, you are the Most Praised, Most Sublime.
Your Lord is Holy and clear of all that is alleged against him; and he is exalted. May God's blessing be upon all Messengers. All praise truly belongs to Allah who is the Sustainer of all the worlds.
All: **Ameen.**

Christian Benediction

Bishop Peter Fenty: Unto God's gracious mercy and protection, we commit you. The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make God's face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of God's countenance upon you, and give you peace. And may the blessing of our Loving. Liberating, and Life-Giving God be upon our island home Barbados, upon this nations, and upon you now and always.
All: **Amen.**

The Colours are Retired - *Beautiful Barbados (reprise)*
(Handing over by Bishop Fenty & Imam Taylor)

***Hymn* – O Praise Ye the Lord**

O Praise ye the Lord! Give praise in the height;
Rejoice in God's Word, ye angels of light;
Ye heavens, adore him by whom ye were made,
And worship before him in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Give praise Him upon earth,
In tuneful accord, give thanks for new birth;
Praise God who hath brought you all grace from above,
Praise God Who hath taught you the pathways of love.

O praise ye the Lord, all things that give sound;
Each triumphant chord re-echo around;
Loud organs, God's glory proclaim in deep tone,
And sweet harp the story of what God hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
Be ever outpoured all ages along;
For love in creation, for Heaven restored,
For grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

Postlude

ABOUT THE PREACHER:

The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields was born in Barbados was educated at Ebenezer and St. Martin's Primary Schools, Boys' Foundation School, the Barbados Community College, Codrington College, the University of the West Indies, The General Theological Seminary, and The Graduate Theological Foundation. He was ordained Deacon in 1981 in Brooklyn and Priest in 1983 in Barbados.

After serving curacies at Christ Church Parish Church and St. Peter's Parish Church, he was Rector of St. Mark and St. Catherine (1985–1990) and St. Augustine (1990–1992). He served in the wider diocesan life as chaplain to the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary, editor of the Anglican Herald, a member of Synod Council and Secretary of Synod. He was a part-time teacher at The Alexandra School and Queen's College and served aa a member of the Board of Management of Princess Margaret Secondary School.

In 1993, he was called to Toronto as Associate Priest at St. Michael & All Angels, later serving as Incumbent of St. Stephen, Downsview (1996–2011), Holy Trinity, Thornhill (2011–2021), and Sub-Dean of the Diocese of Toronto and Vicar of St. James Cathedral (2021-2026).

He has served widely in diocesan leadership, including Diocesan Council, Executive Board, and the General Synod and the Council of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Deeply committed to social justice, his ministry has focused on youth, anti-racism, and community outreach. He founded the Downsview Youth Covenant and helped lead initiatives such as the No Longer Strangers Project and the Black Anglicans Coordinating Committee (now the Black Anglicans of Canada).

Active internationally, he has contributed to major Anglican gatherings, including Caribbean and Afro-Anglican consultations hosted in Toronto.

Canon Stephen is supported by his wife, Lucy, and their family. He enjoys travel, cricket, calypso, and guitar, and is a prolific writer of prayers. He has received numerous awards, including the Making A Difference Award and the African Canadian Achievement Award, and was named an Honourary Canon of St. James Cathedral in 2004.

THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF BARBADOS

&

Planning Committee

Wish to express our sincere thanks to
The Incumbent, Churchwardens, people and Choir
of St. Hilda's Church, the assisting clergy, musicians, ushers,
readers, crucifer, and flag bearers,
and all others who have assisted in making today's celebration of
Barbados' 60th year of Independence and 5th year as a Parliamentary Republic
a memorable and enjoyable occasion.

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The Consulate-General of Barbados at Toronto, located at 110 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 205, Toronto, ON M2N 6Y8, proudly serves Barbadians across its jurisdiction of Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Working closely with the Barbados High Commission in Ottawa, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., the Barbados Liaison Service and five Honorary Consuls in Montreal, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Calgary and Edmonton.

Led by Consul General Anthony Branker, J.P., we provide efficient consular services including passports, driver's license validation, citizenship, visas, document authentication, pension verification, life certificates, emergency and repatriation assistance. We also offer support for business investment and cultural diplomacy.

The Consulate has placed renewed emphasis on Diaspora engagement, led Mr. Kurt McB. Haynes, J.P., Vice Consul-General, and Ms. Mishcha Roberts, Vice Consul Diaspora Affairs. Their mission is to enhance information-sharing, deepen community partnerships, and connect Barbadians in Canada with each other as well as the opportunities at home.

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