

Jonathan Daniels Commemoration

Born March 20, 1939; died August 20, 1965

O God of justice and compassion, who put down the proud and the mighty from their place, and lift up the poor and afflicted, we give you thanks for your faithful witness Jonathan Myrick Daniels who in the midst of injustice and violence, risked and gave his life for another. And we pray that we, following his example may make no peace with oppression, through Jesus Christ, the Just One, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Social locations – small town in Keene, New Hampshire, St. James Episcopal Church

Father a physician who died in 1959

Not a sports guy but literature, music, arts, church camp

VMI graduate, “rat” status, 1961

Harvard English major, family “troubles” – mother, sister, himself suffered depression

Boston – Church of the Advent, religious experience 1962, Episcopal Divinity School, 1965

Member NAACP, heard Martin Luther King in person

Field work, Christ Church, Providence, R.I.

Voter registration in Hayneville, Alabama, lived with the West family

Murdered August 20, 1965

In what ways does the social location of any of us influence our Christian witness? Where might the resonances be in Jonathan Daniels’ witness?

Levels of violence – Birmingham bombings- four little girls Addie Mae, Denise, Carole, Cynthia

Bloody Sunday, Edmund Pettis Bridge

Missing and found murdered James Cheney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner

Videos available to learn more

Here Am I, Send Me, Vermont PBS

Humanitarian award ceremonies at VMI; recipients include John Lewis and Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Pilgrimage trips with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Feast day commemorations at St. James in Keene with Bishop Curry

Ruby Sales

Texts for inspiration

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Psalm 85: 7-13

Galatians 3: 22-28

Luke 1: 46-53

“An ordinary normal seminarian who paid attention to the gospel of Jesus...when he sensed a call deep within, he responded,” Michael Curry

“Our grief should give way to a sense of Christian honor and nobility for this church and the movement gave to the world a true follower of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

“ I had come to evening prayer as usual that evening – was, as usual, singing the Magnificat with the love and reverence I have always felt for Mary’s glad song... as the lovely hymn of the God-bearer continued I found myself peculiarly alert, suddenly straining toward the decisive, luminous Spirit filled moment that would, in retrospect, remind me of others – particularly at Easter three years ago. “He hath exalted the humble and the meek. He has filled the hungry with good things. I knew I must go to Selma.” Jonathan Daniels

Prayers for social justice, BCP, collect #27, p. 823

Prayers for the poor and neglected, BCP, collect #35, p. 826

Thanksgiving for heroic service, BCP, collect #6, p. 839

Icon written by Alexander Gassel commissioned in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of his birth and the twenty-fifth anniversary of his death; created to commemorate not only Jonathan Daniels but also other saints and martyrs of the Church.

“The blood of the martyrs is the seedbed of the church.” Tertullian, A.D. 197

We spring up in greater numbers the more we are mown down by you; the blood of the Christians is the seed of a new life, transl.

Feast day August 14