OF ALEXANDER CRUMMELL . . . To read the tumultuous and sometimes violent history of the United States during the nineteenth century is to discover, or re-discover, the fascinating and inspiring stories of a number of leaders who fought against incredible odds on behalf of Black people in America. These leaders include Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Booker T. Washington, and Ida B. Wells. In that list one would want to include the Reverend Alexander Crummell (1819–1898), a priest of the Episcopal Church. His feast day, celebrated here at Saint Mary’s this past Thursday, is September 10. Father Crummell had a long and rich life, career, and ministry that took him from New York, where he was born, to Boston, the United Kingdom, Liberia, and back to the United States. He was a priest, abolitionist, missionary, educator, philosopher, academic, organizer, preacher, moral theologian, and public intellectual. His thinking about theology and morality was linked to practical concerns about race, slavery, prejudice, and the welfare and progress of Black people. He was a Pan-Africanist who believed in the benefits of building solidarity between and among Africans and Black people in the Diaspora. You can read about him on a [website](https://episcopalarchives.org/church-awakens/exhibits/show/leadership/clergy/crummell) of the Episcopal Church, on the [website](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/alexander-crummell/) of the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, on [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Crummell),in a [chapter](https://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/203/the-souls-of-black-folk/4455/chapter-12-of-alexander-crummell/)entitled “Of Alexander Crummell” in W.E.B. DuBois’s *On the Souls of Black Folk*, and on the [website](https://www.ube.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3204479) of the Union of Black Episcopalians, whose origins go back to the work and influence of Father Crummell. What one learns by delving into these sources is that throughout his life Crummell experienced racism and intense resistance both inside and outside of the church, but he remained resolute, he didn’t lose hope, and he never lost faith in the “greatness of Christ.”

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