



Scott James Matheson
Mayor

CITY of VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, traveling clergy from Georgia, Florida, and Alabama held Episcopal Church services in private homes and at the courthouse in Valdosta; and

WHEREAS, the Right Rev. John W. Beckwith, 2nd Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, purchased a lot on Ashley Street on July 8, 1871 for the purpose of establishing a permanent church in the town of Valdosta; and

WHEREAS, local families raised money for 14 years to purchase a larger lot and construct the first church building at 305 East Central Avenue where Christ Church remained for 60 years; and

WHEREAS, a larger lot was purchased in 1946 at 1521 North Patterson Street and a new Christ Church constructed, holding its opening service and dedication on February 20, 1949; and

WHEREAS, the Right Rev. G. Paul Reeves, 7th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, purchased 10 acres at 3565 Bemiss Road on December 31, 1980 for the purpose of establishing a Church to serve the north side of Valdosta and St. Barnabas Episcopal Church was constructed on this lot with its first service held on November 18, 1984; and

WHEREAS, the Right Rev. Harry W. Shipps, 8th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, welcomed an independent congregation to join en masse as the Episcopal Church of Christ the King on April 15, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Christ the King worshipped at 3424 North Valdosta Road from 1990 to 2002, 101 East Central Avenue from 2002 to 2021, and dedicated its new location at 110 McKey Street on June 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, these three member churches represent the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia and therefore celebrate together and recognize 150 years of service to the citizens of Valdosta and Lowndes County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Scott James Matheson, Mayor of the City of Valdosta, pursuant to the authority invested in me by local and state law do hereby proclaim November 13, 2021 as

EPISCOPAL CHURCH DAY

and ask all citizens to join me in recognizing these Episcopal Churches and their congregations for their dedication and their service to our community for the past 150 years.

SO PROCLAIMED this 13th day of November, 2021.



Scott James Matheson, Mayor