

## THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, July 9, 2016  
5:00 P.M.

**Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath**  
Worship Leader

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP

**Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath**

**Bishop Leath:** Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live.”

**People:** **Whoever believes in Jesus shall never die. We praise God for all the servants who have finished their course in faith.**

**Bishop Leath:** My sisters and brothers, we gather together in the protective shelter of God’s healing love. We are free to pour out our grief, face our emptiness, and know that God cares. We gather together as God’s people, conscious of others who have died and of the frailty of our own existence on earth. We gather to hear God’s word of hope that can speak to our despair and move us to celebrate the strength and comfort we know in God’s love and care. Above all, we gather to remember and celebrate the lives of those who transitioned from this place since we last met.

**People:** **We celebrate their lives and remember them today.**

### HYMN OF FAITH

**Bishop Fredrick Hilborn Talbot**

*Forever With The Lord*  
AME Hymnal No. 477  
(Tune: *St. Thomas*)

“Forever with the Lord! A-men, so let it be!  
Life from the dead is in that word, ‘Tis immortality.

Here in the body pent, Absent from Him I roam,  
Yet nightly pitch my moving tent, A days march nearer home.

“Forever with the Lord! Father if ‘tis Thy will,  
The promise of that faithful word, E’en here to me fulfill.

So when my latest breath, Shall rend the vail in twain,  
By death I shall escape from death, And life eternal gain.

Knowing as I am known, How shall I love that word?  
And oft repeat before the throne, "Forever with the Lord!"

THE PRAYER

**Bishop Robert Vaughn Webster** (Retired)

THE SCRIPTURE

*1 Corinthians 15:50-58*

**Bishop Errenous Earl McCloud, Jr.**

**Bishop Clement Willie Fugh, Secretary of the Council of Bishops:** We remember the following bishops who transitioned from this life to be remembered by this General Conference.  
(*names to be read*)

**Dr. Jerome Harris, General Officer:** We remember the following retired general officer who transitioned from this life to be remembered by this General Conference.  
(*name to be read*)

**Sister Ora L. Easley:** We ask this General Conference to remember the connectional officers, now transitioned from this life, who served our Zion.

**The Reverend Earle H. Ifill:** We ask this General Conference to remember the ordained clergy, now transitioned from this life, who were members of the 49<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Session of this body.

**Brother Alfred Goliath:** We ask this General Conference to remember the laity, now transitioned from this life, who were members of the 49<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Session of this body.

**Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath:** The doors of the church are open, and the faithful affirm justice over hate and confidence beyond fear. We ask this General Conference to remember the cries from Charleston and the call of the open door.

**People:** Let us remember the Honorable Rev. Clementa Pinckney, the Rev. Daniel Simmons, the Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Sister Susie Jackson, Sister Ethel Lance, Sister Myra Thompson, Sister Cynthia Hurd, Sister DePayne Middleton Doctor, and Brother Tywanza Sanders.

THE SOLO

*Abide With Me* (Hymn No. 495)

THE LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Adaptation from *'The Doors of the Church Are Still Open'*

*By Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson*

**Bishop John Richard Bryant:** Let us stand to honor those we have known and loved. Let us pray: We thank You, O God, for the Bishops of the church who have finished their labors... Absent from the Body.

**People: Present with the Lord.**

**Bishop John Hurst Adams:** We give thanks for our General and Connectional Officers who have finished their labors... Absent from the Body.

**People: Present with the Lord.**

**Bishop Frank Curtis Cummings:** We give thanks for Ordained Clergy and Laity who have finished their labors... Absent from the Body.

**People: Present with the Lord.**

**Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry:** We give thanks for the faithful whom we name in our hearts and who have glorified You with their life and work... Absent from the Body.

**People: Present with the Lord.**

**Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson:** We thank you that the witness of the martyrs is stronger than the message of racism and hate. Bless those left to continue the struggle for justice. Encourage our spirits as we remember those who transitioned from Mother Emanuel in Charleston, they now are... Absent from the Body.

**People: Present with the Lord.**

**Bishop Philip Robert Cousin, Sr.:** Gracious God, the doors of the Church are still open. We cherish the memory of those with whom we labored. We cry for justice in the land, and we look for the promised comfort for those who mourn. Strengthen us to celebrate ministries of love. Empower us to continue Your work with holy diligence. Revive our hope in that eternal fellowship when we ALL are present with the Lord. Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN

**Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath**

*When We All Get To Heaven*

AME HYMNAL NO. 511

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, Sing His mercy and His grace;  
In the mansions bright and blessed He'll prepare for us a place.

*Refrain*

When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus, We'll sing and shout the victory.

While we walk the pilgrim pathway Clouds will overspread the sky;

But when traveling days are over, Not a shadow, not a sigh.

Let us then be true and faithful, Trusting, serving every day;  
Just one glimpse of Him in glory Will the toils of life repay.

Onward to the praise before us! Soon His beauty we'll behold;  
Soon the pearly gates will open, We shall tread the streets of gold.

THE MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

**Bishop Clement Willie Fugh**

THE BENEDICTION

**Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the General Conference Commission and the Bicentennial Committee we wish to express our gratitude to **Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson**, author of the Litany, *“The Doors of the Church are Still Open”*.