

Opening Worship Service

IN CELEBRATION OF
THE FIFTIETH QUADRENNIAL SESSION
OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION CENTER
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
SUNDAY, THE TENTH OF JULY
TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN RICHARD BRYANT WORSHIP LEADER

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

Twaun Doyle, Organist

Now Thank We All Our God
My Lord, What a Morning
Oh the Glory of Your Presence

Mendelssohn/Nun Danket Tune Negro Spiritual Steve Fry

THE INTROIT

First Episcopal District Bicentennial Liturgical Dancers

Holy, Holy, Holy

Composed by Kurt Carr

THE PROCESSIONAL

All Hail the Power

Arrangement by The Reverend Robert R. Lowe

THE WELCOME AND OPENING ACCLAMATION

The hour is coming, and now is here, when the true worshippers of God must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

The Right Reverend John Richard Bryant Bishop, The Fourth Episcopal District Senior Bishop

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow, AME Hymnal No. 647

Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Bishop Bryant: I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Our feet shall

stand within Thy gates, O Jerusalem!

People: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in

the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Bishop Bryant: Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek Thy good.

People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our

God.

Bishop Bryant: Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house, Lord, I have loved Thy habitation, the place

where Thy honor dwelleth.

People: For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Bishop Bryant: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy

sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

People: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make a joyful

noise unto the Lord, all the earth, and sing praises!

> And are we yet alive, And see each other's face? Glory and praise to Jesus give For His redeeming grace.

> Preserved by power divine To full salvation here, Again in Jesus' praise we join, And in His sight appear.

What troubles have we seen, What conflicts have we passed, Fighting's without, and fears within, Since we assembled last.

But out of all the Lord Hath brought us by His love; And still He doth His help afford, And hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast Of His redeeming power, Which saves us to the uttermost. Till we can sin no more.

Let us take up the cross Till we the crown obtain; And gladly reckon all things loss, So we may Jesus gain.

THE PRAYER RESPONSE

God Is Here

Composed by Karen Clark Sheard

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT Jeremiah 29:10-14 The Right Reverend David Rwhynica Daniels, Jr.

Epistle I Peter 2:3-10 The Right Reverend McKinley Young

Gospel St. Matthew 16:13-19 The Right Reverend Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr.

THE DECALOGUE (ABRIDGED)...... The Right Reverend Carolyn Tyler Guidry (Retired)

From All That Dwell Below The Skies, AME Hymnal No. 69

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

From all that dwell below the skies Let thy creator's praise arise, Let thy redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends thy word. Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Bishop Guidry:

And God spake all these words, saying, "I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

People:

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Nearer My God, to Thee!

Nearer to thee, E'en though it be a cross

That raiseth me;

Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer, my God, to thee,

Nearer to thee.

Bishop Guidry:

Hear what Christ our Savior saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

THE GLORIA PATRI, AME Hymnal No. 626

Henry W. Greatorex (1813-1858)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC......The First Episcopal District Bicentennial Choir
For The Rest of My Life Composed by Timothy Wright

An Extraordinary History, An Incredible Future - Pass On The Torch!

Bishop Richardson: We have assembled for a great celebration.

People: The Lord's name be praised! Hallelujah!

Bishop Richardson: They that carried us away as captives, required of us a song. And they that

wasted us required of us mirth, saying sing us one of the songs of Zion.

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

People: And so, we lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring.

Bishop Richardson: And God heard our songs, and from the slough of slavery emerged one of

the nation's spiritual giants and a pioneering Civil Rights activist, Richard

Allen.

People: The Lord's name be praised! Hallelujah!

Bishop: Richardson As the school bells ring across the land and our youth enter the Halls of Ivy,

if they listen with their hearts, they can hear the resonant ring of a hammer

beating staccato tones against an anvil:

People: God our Father,

Christ our Redeemer,

The Holy Spirit our Comforter,

Humankind our Family.

Bishop Richardson: We celebrate two hundred years of an extraordinary history and

"The Romance of African Methodism."

People: "Pass on the torch – pass on the flame.

Remember when the glory came!

Bishop Richardson: O Lord of life - to thee we kneel.

Maker of men and women – our purpose seal!

People: We will – for honor of Thy name

All: Pass on the torch – pass on the flame!"

Bishop Richardson: What an extraordinary history!

People: What an incredible future!

THE OFFERING FOR MISSIONS The Right Reverend Vashti Murphy McKenzie

In the name of the Triune God, May the Spirit of Christian Missions enter every heart, May the Spirit of Christian Missions, enter every heart. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF DANCE
THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER The Right Reverend William Phillips DeVeaux
THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC The First Episcopal District Bicentennial Choir Trust Me Composed by Richard Smallwood
THE QUADRENNIAL SERMONThe Right Reverend Theodore Larry Kirkland
THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP The Right Reverend Samuel Lawrence Green
Lord, I'm Available To You Composed by Carlis Moody, Jr.
THE OFFERING The Right Reverend Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram
THE OFFERTORY All Things Come of Thee, O Lord Ludwig von Beethoven (1770-1827)
THE MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS (Announcements) The Right Reverend Clement Willie Fugh
The Transfer of the Presidential Medallion
The Presentation
THE RESPONSE

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A BICENTENNIAL LITANY The Right Reverend Adam Jefferson Richardson

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THE OFFERING FOR MISSIONS The Right Reverend Vashti Murphy McKenzie

THE CHARGE...... The Right Reverend John Richard Bryant

My brother, it has pleased Almighty God to permit you to become by succession, the presiding officer among chief pastors in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Your fellow bishops, along with the people of the church, do here as solemnly confirm your presidency. You surely know how weighty an obligation and how great a trust is laid upon you. Will you, as President of the Council, pattern your life after that of our Lord Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve? Will you strive to demonstrate leadership that will keep our Church in the vanguard of love, liberation, and reconciliation of all the family of God?

I will endeavor to fulfill my obligation as President and manifest a faith that will demonstrate total commitment to love, liberation, and reconciliation.

THE COVENANT

The Right Reverends John Franklin White, Clement Willie Fugh and Reginald Thomas Jackson

As officers of the Council of Bishops, we do here renew our pledge to uphold the highest in Christian leadership and to continue unbroken the tradition of liberation, love and reconciliation as we live our motto: "God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit our Comforter, Humankind our Family."

THE RESPONSE (please stand)

Bishops: We have this charge of leadership as a legacy from our fathers and mothers. We shall honor and guard it with our lives, being faithful to our Lord and to the mandate of the people who elevated us from their ranks to this opportunity of service.

People: We have a heart, mind, soul and willingness to follow. Lead us and lead us well that all might walk in love, liberation, and reconciliation, enabling us to be a visible manifestation of our Christian faith and works.

THE DOXOLOGY

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Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

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THE BENEDICTION The Right Reverend Richard Franklin Norris