

51st Quadrennial Session
of the
GENERAL CONFERENCE
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Service of Consecration of Bishops
and Closing Worship



Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield,
President, Council of Bishops

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.
Senior and Host Bishop

Bishop John Franklin White
Chair, General Conference Commission

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie
Program Chair



Service of Consecration of Bishops and Closing Worship

**IN OBSERVANCE OF
The Fifty-first Quadrennial Session
of the
General Conference
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, Florida**

**Cape Town International Center
Cape Town, South Africa**

**Saturday, The Tenth Day of July
Two Thousand Twenty-One**

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm EDT

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm SAST

The Order of Service

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie
Worship Leader

The Moments of Praise

The MCAM Ensemble

The Great Processional

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

AME Hymnal No. 4, Coronation

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall, Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,

*And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,
Crown Him, crown Him, crown Him
And crown Him Lord of all.*

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball, On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall, We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,

The Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

AME Hymnal No. 647

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

The Call to Worship

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold
of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People: **O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation!**

The Hymn of Praise
Wicker

Bishop Stafford J. N.

O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing

AME Hymnal No. 1

O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His Grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinners' ears, 'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for me.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind behold your Savior come; And leap, ye lame, for joy.

The Call to Prayer

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson

Beloved, it is written in the Gospel of Luke that our Savior Christ continued the whole night in prayer before He chose and sent forth His twelve apostles. It is written also in the Acts of the Apostles that the disciples who were at Antioch did fast and pray before they laid hands on Paul and Barnabas and sent them forth. Let us therefore, following the example of our Savior Christ and His Apostles, first enter into prayer before we admit and send forth these persons presented to us to the work whereupon we trust the Holy Spirit has called them.

The Prayer of Intercession

Bishop James L. Davis

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by Your Holy Spirit has appointed diverse orders of ministers in Your church, mercifully behold these Your servants, now called to the work and ministry of a bishop, and replenish them so with the truth of Your doctrine, and adorn them so with innocence of life that, both by words and deeds, they may faithfully serve You in this office to the glory of Your name, and the edifying and the well governing of Your church, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Choral Response

Anointing Fall on Me

Anointing fall on me. Anointing fall on me.
Let the power of the Holy Ghost fall on me
Anointing fall on me.

The Ministry of Music

Eleventh Episcopal District Choir

The Lord Will Make A Way Somehow

The Scripture Readings

Acts 20:17 - 35 (NRSV)

Bishop Michael L. Mitchell

From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. When they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus. And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the Good News of God's grace. "And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. Therefore, I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the

Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that He obtained with the blood of His own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore, be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the message of His grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

John 21:15-17 (NRSV)

Bishop John R. Bryant

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time He said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" Peter felt hurt because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

The Choral Preface to the Te Deum

From all that Dwell
AME Hymnal No. 69

Bishop David R. Daniels

From all that dwell below the skies Let Thy Creator's praise arise,
Let Thy Redeemer's name be sung Through every land by every tongue.

The Te Deum Laudamus

(Latin: "We Praise You, O God" /Xhosa: Siyakudumisa Thixo)

The Jackal Family
Fifteenth Episcopal District

Leader: We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.

People: **All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.**

Leader: To Thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens, and all the powers therein.

People: **To Thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry.**

Leader: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabbaoth.

People: **Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory.**

Leader: The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee.

People: **The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee.**

Leader: The noble army of martyrs praise Thee.

People: **The holy church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee.**

Leader: The Father of an infinite majesty.

People: **Thine adorable, true and only Son.**

Leader: Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

People: **Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.**

Leader: Thou art the Everlasting Son of the Father.
People: **When Thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, Thou didst humble Thyself to be born of a virgin.**

Leader: When Thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

People: **Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.**

Leader: We believe that Thou shalt come to be our judge.

People: **We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious blood.**

Leader: Make them to be numbered with Thy saints in glory everlasting.

People: **O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine heritage.**

Leader: Govern them and lift them up forever.

People: **Day by day, we magnify Thee.**

Leader: And we worship Thy name ever, world without end.

People: **Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.**

Leader: O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

People: **O Lord, let Thy mercy be upon us, as our trust is in Thee.**

Leader: O Lord, in Thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

The Gloria Patri

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 Presentation of the Preacher

Bishop John F. White

The Sermonic Hymn

Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford, Sr.

Before the Mercy Seat

Tune: Metropolitan

Before Thy mercy seat, O Lord, behold, Thy servants stand,
To ask the knowledge of Thy Word, The guidance of Thy hand.

Let Thy eternal truths, we pray, dwell richly in each heart;
That from the safe and narrow way We never may depart.

Lord, from Thy Word remove the seal, unfold its hidden store,
And as we read, teach us to feel Its value more and more.

Help us to see a Savior's love shine forth from every page,
And let the thoughts of joys above Our inmost souls engage.

Thus, while Thy Word our footsteps guides, shall we be truly blest,
And soon arrive where love provides an everlasting rest.

The Sermon

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Bishop Wilfred Messiah

There's nothing better than knowing Jesus; He will pick you and turn your life around
You ought to know Him, get to know Him, right now, today, just come.
There's nothing better than knowing Jesus, He gets sweeter as the days go by,
You ought to know Him, get to know Him, right now, today, just come.
Come on, come on, come on, come on, come on, come on Right now, today, just come.

The Recognition of Retiring Bishops

The Stewardship Litany

Bishop Adam J. Richardson

Leader: Our call to Stewardship as an Act of Worship is historic; it is biblical; it is relevant to our relationship with Christ, to our spiritual maturity, to the manifold blessings we enjoy.

People: **The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and they that dwell therein.** (Psalm 24:1)

Leader: Therefore, we cheerfully give and gladly affirm:

People: **"The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the LORD Almighty.** (Haggai 2:8)

Leader: Therefore, we cheerfully give and gladly affirm:

People: **All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.** (1 Chron. 29:14)

Leader: Therefore, we cheerfully give and gladly affirm:

People: **For the Kingdom is Thine; the Power is Thine; the Glory is Thine; the earth is Thine, the money is Thine, and I am Thine. Through my stewardship, I am closer drawn to Thee.**
(A Litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson)

The Offering

Bishop Clement W. Fugh

The Offering Response

We Give Thee But Thine Own

AME Hymnal No. 646

We Give Thee But Thine Own, What e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

THE LITURGY FOR THE CONSECRATION OF BISHOPS

The Collect

Bishop Robert V. Webster

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with Your most gracious favor and further us with Your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in You we may glorify Your holy name and finally, by Your mercy, obtain everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The presentation of persons elected to the office of Bishop
by two elders to the Bishop, saying:*

The Presenters: Reverend Father/Mother in God, we present to you _____, the 139th person to be consecrated a Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Presenters: Reverend Father/Mother in God, we present to you _____, the 140th person to be consecrated a Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Presenters: Reverend Father/Mother in God, we present to you _____, the 141st person to be consecrated a Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Bishop:

Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr.

Brothers and sisters, since the Holy Scriptures command that we should not be hasty in laying on hands and admitting any person to government in the Church of Christ, which He has purchased with no less price than the effusion of His own blood, before we admit you to this administration, we will examine you in certain articles to the end that the congregation present may have a fair trial, and bear witness how you are minded to behave yourself in the church of God.

Bishop: Are you persuaded that you are truly called to this ministration according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Bishops-Elect: **I am so persuaded.**

Bishop: Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined, out of the same Holy Scriptures, to instruct the people committed to your charge, and teach and maintain nothing as required of necessity to eternal salvation but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the sacred Scriptures?

Bishops-Elect: **I am persuaded and so determined by God's grace.**

Bishop: Are you ready with faithful diligence to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrine contrary to God's Word, and to use both private and public exhortations, to call upon and encourage others to do the same?

Bishops-Elect: **I am ready, the Lord being my helper.**

Bishop: Will you maintain and set forward, as much as shall lie in you, quietness, love, and peace among all people; and such as shall be unquiet, disobedient, and criminal, correct and punish according to such authority as you have by God's Word and as shall be committed unto you?

Bishops-Elect: I will do so, by the help of God.

Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram

Bishop: Will you be faithful in ordaining or laying hands upon others?

Bishops-Elect: I will do so, by the help of God.

Bishop: Will you show yourself gentle and merciful for Christ's sake to the poor and needy people, and to all strangers destitute of help?

Bishops-Elect: I will so show myself, by God's help.

Then the bishop shall say:

Bishop: Almighty God our Heavenly Father, who has given you a good will to do all these things, grant also to you strength and power to perform the same; that God may accomplish in you the good work which God has begun; that you may be found perfect and blameless in the last day through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

THE VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

Bishop Frank M. Reid III

Leader: Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire

People: And lighten with celestial fire;

Leader: Thou the anointing Spirit art

People: Who doth thy sevenfold gifts impart

Leader: Thy blessed unction from above

People: Is comfort, light, and fire of love.

Leader: Enable with perpetual light

People: The dullness of our blinded sight;

Leader: Anoint and cheer our soiled face

People: With the abundance of Thy grace.

Leader: Keep far our foes; give peace at home;

People: Where Thou art guide, no ill can come.

Leader: Teach us to know the Father, Son,

People: And Thee of both to be but one!

Leader: That through the ages all along

People: This may be our endless song;

Leader: Praise to Thy eternal merit,

People: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Prayer of Consecration

Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie

Bishop: Lord, hear our prayer.

Bishops-Elect: And let our cry come unto You.

Bishop: Let us pray:

Almighty God, most merciful Father, who of Your infinite goodness has given Your only and dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer and the author of everlasting life; who, after He had made perfect our redemption by His death and was ascended into heaven, poured down His gifts abundantly upon His followers, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to the edifying and making perfect His church, grant, we beseech You, to these your servants such grace that they may be evermore ready to spread abroad Your Gospel, the glad tidings of reconciliation with You, and use the authority given them not to destruction but to salvation, not to hurt but to help; so that as wise and faithful servants giving to Your family their portion in due season, they may at last be received into everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord who, with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, world without end. Amen.

Then the bishop and elders present shall lay their hands upon the head of the bishops-elect kneeling, if able, the bishop saying:

Bishop: The Lord pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work of Bishop in the Church of God, now committed to you by the imposition of our hands, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And remember that you stir up the grace of God which is given by the imposition of our hands; for God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and soberness.

Then the Bishop shall deliver to the Bishop-elect the Bible, saying:

Bishop: The Bible is the ancient book of the Church and serves as the heart of a Christian's private devotion in life. Among the symbolic treasures presented to you on this day of your consecration is the Holy Bible. Receive the Holy Scriptures; from them feed the flock committed to your care. Amen.

Bishop: Give heed to reading, exhortation, and doctrine. Think upon the things contained in this book. Be diligent in them, that the increase coming thereby may be manifested to all people. Take heed to yourself, and to your doctrine; for by so doing you shall both save yourself and them that hear you. Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf; feed them, devour them not. Hold up the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcasts, seek the lost; be so merciful that you may not be too remiss; so minister discipline that you forget not mercy, that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear you may receive the never fading crown of glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then the Bishop shall deliver to the Bishop-elect the Pectoral Cross, saying:

Bishop: The cross serves as a constant reminder to faithfully and joyfully proclaim Christ crucified by Word and Sacrament, prayer and praise, deed and silence, in season and out. Receive the cross as a sign of our Savior's suffering, death, and resurrection, and as a symbol of your Servant Life. Amen.

The People Chant Aloud: Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Bishop shall administer the Lord's Supper. Before the Benediction, the following prayer shall be said with the newly consecrated Bishops and all others present:

The Prayer:

Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield

Most merciful Father, we beseech You to send down upon these Your servants Your heavenly blessings and so imbue them with your Holy Spirit that they, preaching Your word, may not only be earnest to reprove, beseech and rebuke with all patience and doctrines, but also may be to such as believe wholesome examples in word, in conversation, in love, in faith, in chastity, and in purity, that faithfully fulfilling their course at the latter day may receive the crown of righteousness laid up by the Lord, the righteous Judge, who lives and reigns one God with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Bishop Paul J. M. Kawimbe

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all evermore. Amen. (*Philippians 4:9*)

The Communion Hymn

Kneel at the Cross

Bishop Paul J. M. Kawimbe

Kneel at the cross, Christ will meet you there,
Come while He waits for you;
List to His voice, leave with Him your care And begin life anew.

*Kneel at the cross, leave every care;
Kneel at the cross, Jesus will meet you there.*

Kneel at the cross, there is room for all
Who would His glory share;
Bliss there awaits, harm can ne'er befall Those who are anchored there.

Kneel at the cross, give your idols up,
Look unto realms above;
Turn not away, to life's sparkling cup; Trust only in His love

The Service of Holy Communion

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.
Chief Celebrant

The Solicitation

You that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbor, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways; draw near with faith to receive the Holy Sacrament, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, in the presence of His church.

The General Confession**Bishop E. Earl****McCloud**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Your Divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of Humiliation**Bishop Julius H. McAllister Sr.**

We do not presume to come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs under Your table. But You are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood that our sinful souls and bodies may be made clean by His death and washed through His blood, and that we may ever more dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

The Prayer of Consecration**Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of Your tender mercy did give Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made thereby His oblation of Himself, once offered, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in His holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that His precious death until His coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech You, and grant that we, receiving these Your creatures of bread and wine, according to Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; who in the same night that He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you." Likewise, after supper He took the cup and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, "All of you drink this, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of Me." Amen.

The Sharing of the Elements

**The Prelude Sentence and The Lord's Prayer Hymn No. 634
Sr.**

Bishop Julius McAllister,

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who are in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bishop Harry L. Seawright

God of grace, we give You praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing
Richardson**

Bishop Adam J.

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of His son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

The Closing Business Session

Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield
Presiding

The Final Report of the Episcopal Committee

The Assignment of Bishops

The Closing Hymn

Bishop John F. White

God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again

AME Hymnal No. 45

God be with you till we meet again; By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you: God be with you till we meet again.

*Till we meet, till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet; God be with you till we meet again.*

God be with you till we meet again; 'Neath his wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; When life's perils thick confound you,
Put His arms unfailing round you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again. Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threat'ning ways before you: God be with you till we met again.

The Adjournment Sine Die

The Benediction

Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford

The Recessional

The Episcopal Assignments

2021 — 2024

Episcopal District	Bishop	Retirement Date
First	_____	_____
Second	_____	_____
Third	_____	_____
Fourth	_____	_____
Fifth	_____	_____
Sixth	_____	_____
Seventh	_____	_____
Eighth	_____	_____
Ninth	_____	_____
Tenth	_____	_____
Eleventh	_____	_____
Twelfth	_____	_____
Thirteenth	_____	_____
Fourteenth	_____	_____
Fifteenth	_____	_____
Sixteenth	_____	_____
Seventeenth	_____	_____
Eighteenth	_____	_____
Nineteenth	_____	_____
Twentieth	_____	_____
Ecumenical Office	_____	_____