

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

Memorial Service



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



Memorial Service

**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 Convention Center
Cape Town, South Africa**

**Thursday, The Eighth Day of July
Two Thousand Twenty-One
2:45 – 3:15 pm EDT 8:45 – 9:15 pm SAST**

The Order of Service

Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker
Worship Leader

The Moments of Praise

The MCAM Ensemble

The Opening Hymn

Bishop Frederick C. James

Time is Filled with Swift Transition
AME Hymnal No. 513

Time is filled with swift transition, naught of earth unmoved can stand,
build your hopes on things eternal, hold to God's unchanging hand.

*Hold to his hand, God's unchanging hand,
Hold to his hand, God's unchanging hand;
Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God's unchanging hand.*

Trust in Him who will not leave you, whatsoever years may bring,
if by earthly friends forsaken still more closely to Him cling.

Covet not this world's vain riches, that so rapidly decay,
seek to gain the heav'nly treasures, they will never pass away.

When your journey is completed, if to God you have been true,
fair and bright the home in glory your enraptured soul will view.

The Call to Worship

Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram

Leader: Blessed are they who die in the Lord

People: **They will rest from their labor**

Leader: Blessed are they who die in the Lord

People: **Their deeds will follow them**

Leader: Let us remember our colleagues, friends and loved ones as people who have an anchor and a hope

People: **They are precious in the sight of the Lord**

All: **The gift of God is eternal life, Hallelujah and Amen!**

The Prayer

Bishop Paul M. Kawimbe

The Scripture

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (NRSV)

Bishop E. Earl McCloud

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the

voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever.

The Memorial Video Tribute

The Memorial Liturgy

Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker

The names of those to be remembered by the General Conference have been lifted in the Episcopal Address. You are invited to stand to honor those you have known and love. When you hear the phrase, “**Absent from the Body**” everyone is invited to respond by saying: “**Present with the Lord**”.

Bishop: Jesus said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live. Whoever believes in Me shall never die. I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Because I live, you also shall live.”

People: **O God of both the living and the dead, we praise Your Holy Name for all Your servants who have finished their course in faith. Encouraged by their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we pray that we may share with them the inheritance of the saints.**

Bishop: This afternoon we celebrate and remember those who have died since we last gathered together. We give thanks to You O God for our ordained clergy, including Bishops, Presiding Elders and pastors who this year have finished their labors ... Absent from the Body.

People: **Present with the Lord.**

Bishop: We give thanks to You O God, for the spouses of our clergy, former Supervisors of Missions and Children’s Work, and spouse of our General Officer, who this year have finished their labors ... Absent from the Body.

People: **Present with the Lord.**

Bishop: We give thanks to you O, God for our strong and faithful lay Connectional Lay Officers, Lay leaders and laypersons who transitioned since we last assembled...Absent from the Body

People: **Present with the Lord**

Bishop: We give thanks to You O God, for the evangelists, exhorters, deaconesses and their spouses who this year have finished their labors ... Absent from the body.

People: **Present with the Lord.**

Everyone is invited to share aloud the names of persons you want to remember this afternoon.

Bishop: Absent from the Body.

People: **Present with the Lord.**

Bishop: We give thanks to You, O God, for those whom we name in our hearts and who have been faithful to Your call and glorified You with their life and work ... Absent from the Body.

People: **Present with the Lord.**

All: **O God, we thank You for all those remembered here. Let us cherish their memory, celebrate their ministries, continue their work, and live in hope that we shall once gain meet face to face. Amen.**

The Closing Hymn

Bishop Julius McAllister

Sing the Wondrous Love of Jesus

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.

*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 Benediction

Bishop Frank M. Reid III