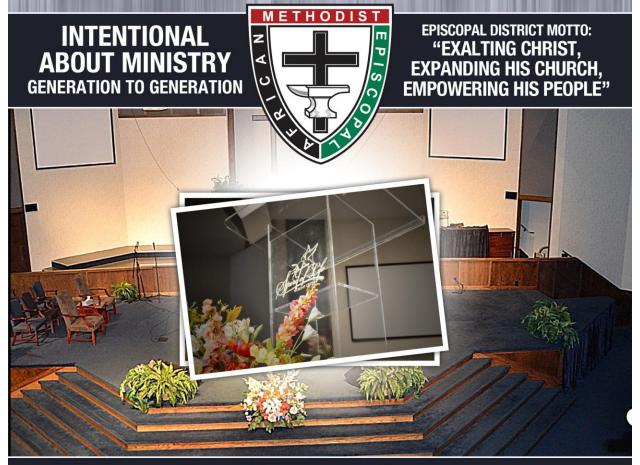
137TH SESSION OF THE EAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE



WORSHIP GUIDE

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REVEREND MARK L. GRIFFIN,
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OCT 23-26 2012 BISHOP
ADAM JEFFERSON RICHARDSON,
PRESIDING PRELATE
MRS. CONNIE SPEIGHTS RICHARDSON,
EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR
REVEREND JIMMIE B. KEEL,
HOST PRESIDING ELDER

ASSOCIATE PRESIDING ELDERS
REVEREND ELIZABETH YATES
REVEREND TONY HANSBERRY

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

East Annual Conference

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The Opening Service

Tuesday, October 23, 2012 Seven O'Clock in the Evening Presiding Elder Jimmie B. Keel, Presiding

The Great Processional......(#5 AMECH, Diadem) Bishop, Presiding Elders, Ministers and Choirs

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall, Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall, ye ransomed from the fall, Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall, the wormwood and the gall, Go spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball, on this terrestrial ball, To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall, we at His feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.

(Words by Edward Perronet; Tune by James Ellor)

The Doxology.......Choir and Congregation

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.

The Call to Worship...... The Reverend Mark L. Griffin

Minister: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within your gates, O Jerusalem. (Ps. 122:1)

People: For a day in Your 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. (Ps. 84:10)

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good. (Ps. 122:9)

People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God. (Ps. 92:13)

Minister: Blessed are they that dwell in Your house. Lord, I have loved Your habitation, the place where Your honor dwells. (Ps 26:8)

People: For the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him. (Hab. 2:20)

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. (Ps. 19:14)

People: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises. (Ps. 98:1, 4)

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 is sight appear.

What troubles have we seen, what conflicts have we passed, Fightings 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 Introit to Prayer.......Choir and Congregation Refrain He's so real, real in my soul today! He has washed all of my sins away. Jesus' love just bubbles over in my soul, in my soul. Some people doubt the Lord. They don't believe in His word. They try to make you think that God is dead. He's done so much for me. One day He set me free. And, and now I want the world to know. (Words and Music by Charles H. Nicks, Jr.) Thank You, Lord, Thank You, Lord, Thank You, Lord, I just want to thank You, Lord, You've been so good, been so good, You've been so good, I just want to thank You, Lord. The Scripture Readings From the Hebrew ScripturesPsalm 91:9-16The Reverend Dr. William Simmons From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise; Let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every 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. (Isaac Watts) The Decalogue The Reverend F. D. Richardson, Jr. Leader: Hear the Commandments of GOD to GOD's people: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of bondage; you shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself any idol. You shall not invoke with malice the name of the LORD your GOD. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. Honor your father and mother. You shall not commit murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not be a false witness. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. People: Lord have mercy upon us, and write these laws upon our hearts. People: 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! Leader: Hear what Christ our Savior says, You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. 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, (Henry W. Greatorex) The Gifts for Missions...... The Reverend Harry L. Dawkins All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

The Litany......The Reverend Mattie Riley Hayes

Leader: Ours is a historic Faith, principles etched in Creeds to remind us of our theological orthodoxy, to keep us aware of our connections to biblical foundations and truths, and our unique faith traditions. Yet, in an age of modern technology, precision scientific instruments to monitor the weather and seismic activity, and new social networking devices that have made communications easy enough to start a friendship, or to start a revolution to topple tyrants – we still have need of Creeds – reevaluated and reaffirmed for the present age.

People: The Ancient of Days is the Maker of heaven and earth and physics and chemistry and biology; light still travels at the speed of 186,273 miles per second, just as it did the moment our Creator said, "Let there be light!" And the entire electromagnetic system began traveling at the same speed. The Ancient of Days is still God.

Leader: In the past few weeks: The earth shook in our part of the world, torrential rains fell, ferocious winds howled, and the waters rose and surged to seek its own level. The nation remembered our collective sadness, now a decade old, but the memory still hangs over us like a pall. A grateful nation extols the ultimate sacrifice paid by the men and women in uniform, but the War has only produced more sadness for the families and friends of the warriors. Violence, apathy and despair have become endemic among too many of our youths, leaving a trail of sadness where there had been so much promise.

People: God our Father speaks: "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and will heal their land." The Promise of God still stands.

Leader: In the past few months: Our neighbors have experienced heat unbearable, the earth scorched and parched, failed crops, landscapes and forests devoured by fire, and life-savings and investments literally gone up in smoke.

People: Christ our Redeemer speaks: The signs do not necessarily tell of the end, but the definition of neighbor has been enlarged. Sometimes our neighbor lives as far away as Japan and Malawi, and sometimes as near as Haiti, Vermont, and Virginia and next door. The Word of God still stands.

Leader: In the past few days: we have suffered a stubborn global economy, jobs scarce, fears rife, hope dismal, politics mean, while cooperation and compromise seem to be forgotten concepts in harsh and discordant political partisanship. Veiled hate and shrill rhetoric fill the airways. It's called a "philosophical difference" to make it seem respectable; it also sells papers and boosts television ratings. We try not to take it personally, but we have seen some of this before.

People: Holy Spirit our Comforter testifies: "Perfect love casts out fear." "God has not given you and me the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind." The Love of God still stands.

Leader: In the past few hours: some politicians have taught us at least one thing about cooperation: nothing much gets done without it! It's a lesson that even applies to our congregations.

People: With iPads, iPods, iPhones, Cell Phones in hand, we reaffirm the essential orthodoxy of African Methodism: God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, Holy Spirit our Comforter, Humankind our Family. Radio, Television, Streaming, Facebook, Twitter, Email, Texting, Snail Mail and the Oral Tradition are great tools through which we may witness to the reality of a loving God, the teaching and sacrifice of a loving Savior, Jesus Christ, and the empowering presence of Holy Spirit, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God," and "the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever."

(A Litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.)

The Worship Through Music...... The East Conference Mass Choir

The Presentation of the Bishop Presiding Elder Tony D. Hansberry The Presentation of the PreacherBishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr. The Sermonic Hymn...... (#283 AMECH)...... The Reverend Wendell Webster I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice, and it told Thy love to me: But I long to rise in the arms of faith, and be closer drawn to Thee. Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where Thou has died: Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to Thy precious, bleeding side. Consecrate me now to Thy service Lord, by the power of grace divine; Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in Thine. O the pure delight of a single hour that before Thy throne I spend, When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend! There are depths of love that I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea; There are heights of joy that I may not reach till I rest in peace with Thee. (Words by Fanny J. Crosby, Tune by William H. Doane) Let the church say amen, let the church say amen; God has spoken, so let the church say amen. Let the church, say amen; If you believe the word, let the whole church say amen. God has spoken, so let the church say amen; Lift your hands, lift your hands. God has spoken, so let the church say amen; God has spoken, so let the church say amen. Let the church say amen; Let the church... everybody... say amen. God has spoken, So let the church say amen; Let the church say amen. To what His plans are... let the church say amen. To what His words say; God has spoken Let the church say amen. Make this your response (amen); to whatever He says (amen); From the healing of your body (amen); To the raising of the dead (amen). No matter how you're feeling (amen); Or how your world is reeling (amen). Battle on through the night (amen); Cause you're going to win the fight (amen). Even in the valley (amen); Or standing at your Red Sea (amen). Continue to say (amen); Cause your help is on the way (amen) When your dream is about to die (amen); Knowing that God is not a man (amen). He just can't lie (amen); In spite of what (amen). What the devil does (amen); Know you've got a word (amen). That has come from above (amen); Faith must be (amen). Must be what you say (amen); So open your mouth (amen). And say amen today (amen); Cause God has spoken. I heard Him when He said it; let the church say amen. From the Preachers (amen); To the Stewards (amen); All of the sisters (amen); All of the brothers say (amen); God has spoken, Let the church say amen. (Andraé Crouch) The Worship in Giving The Conference Finance Committee

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day He arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty: from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

The Ecumenical Service

Wednesday, October 23, 2012

Eleven-thirty in the Morning

The Reverend F. D. Richardson, Jr., Presiding

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. Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live. People: I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Leader: O magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt God's name together. People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! The Opening Hymn...... (#139 AMEC, Hudson)...... The Reverend Martin Kohn Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die? Would He devote that sacred head for such a one as I? Refrain At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, And the burden of my heart rolled away. It was there by faith I received my sight, And now I am happy all the day! Was it for crimes that I had done He groan upon the tree? Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree! Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in, When the Christ the mighty Maker died for man, the creature's sin. But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do. (Words by Isaac Watts: Tune by Ralph E. Hudson) The Prayer of Invocation...... The Reverend Sha'Reef Rashad Jesus, I'll never forget what You've done for me! Jesus, I'll never forget how You set me free! Jesus, I'll never forget how You brought me out! Jesus, I'll never forget; no never! How can I forget what You've done for me? How can I forget how You set me free? How can I forget how You brought me out? Jesus, I'll never forget; no never! The Reading of Scripture The Reverend Pearce Ewing The Presentation of the PreacherBishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr. The Sermonic Hymn (#97 AMECH)...... The Reverend Joy L. Gallmon We praise Thee, O God! for the Son of Thy love, For Jesus who died, and is now gone above. Refrain Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Hallelujah! Amen; Hallelujah! Thine the glory, Revive us again. We praise Thee, O God! for the Spirit of light, Who has shown us the Savior, and scattered our night. All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain, Who hath borne all our sins, and has cleansed every stain. Revive us again; fill each heart with Thy love; May our souls be rekindled with fire from above.

The Sermon......The Reverend Dr. Gary L. Williams First Baptist Church of Mandarin Jacksonville, Florida Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry; While on others Thou art calling, do not pass my by Refrain Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry, While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by. Let me at Thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief; Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief. Trusting only in Thy merit, would I seek Thy face; Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by Thy grace. Thou the spring of all my comfort, more than life to me; Whom have I on earth beside Thee? Whom in heaven but Thee? (Words by Fanny J. Crosby; Tune by William H. Doane)

The Sons of Allen "Mighty Men of Valor" Men's Night Celebration

Wednesday, October 23, 2012 Seven O'Clock in the Evening

The Reverend James McGriff, Presiding

How to reach the masses, those of every birth, For an answer Jesus gave the key; "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, Will draw all men unto Me."

Refrain

Lift Him up, Lift Him up, Still he speaks from eternity; "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, Will draw all men unto Me."

Oh! The world is hungry for the Living Bread, Lift the Savior up for them to see; Trust Him and do not doubt the words that He said, "I'll draw all men unto Me."

Don't exalt the preacher, don't exalt the pew, Preach the gospel simple full and free: Prove Him and you will find that promise is true, "I'll draw all men unto Me."

Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought, Let the world in you the Savior see; Then all will gladly follow Him who once taught, "I'll draw all men unto Me."

(Words by Johnson Oatman, Jr., Tune by B.B. Beall)

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.

The Call to Worship......The Reverend Charles E. Graham

Leader: It is truly a good and marvelous thing when brothers live together in peace and unity! It is as wonderful as oil poured on the head; like the dew falling upon us... and the Lord has promised to bless His people with life forevermore. (Psalm 133)

People: We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord. Praise the Risen Savior! Praise the Lord!

Leader: We have come to celebrate that we are a *new creation!* The past is forgotten, and everything is new! God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world. He has given us the work of sharing this message of peace. We are dressed in His righteousness alone. We are men – restored, redeemed, and renewed. (2 Cor. 5:17-19)

People: We are here with our families, who join with us to say, Praise the Risen Savior! Praise the Lord!

Leader: We have come on this special men's night celebration, as the Sons of Richard Allen and sons of the Most High God. Grateful for His grace, we rededicate ourselves to the living Christ. We pledge faithfulness to our God and to our families. We rededicate ourselves to service in the Church – giving our time, our talent and our treasure. As people of faith, we pledge to make a positive difference in our communities, and to be a blessing to the next generation.

People: Come let us worship the Lord our God, as we stand to say, Praise the Risen Savior! Praise the Lord!

(A Call to Worship by Bishop Adam J. Richardson)

I've a message full of love, Hallelujah! A message, O my friend for you; 'Tis a message from above, Hallelujah! Jesus said it and I know 'tis true.

I will tell you how I came, Hallelujah! To Jesus, when He made me whole; 'Twas believing on His Name, Hallelujah! I trusted and He saved my soul.

I will tell you how I came, Hallelujah! To Jesus, when He made me whole; 'Twas believing on His Name, Hallelujah! I trusted and He saved my soul.

(Words by William P. Merrill, Tune by William H. Walter)

The Prayer of Invocation The Reverend Roger Williams		
The Worship Through Music		
John 1:35-42 (NKJV) Brother Bruce Johnson		
The Summary of the Decalogue		
The Benevolent OfferingBrother Joey Smith		
The Presentation of the PreacherPresiding Elder Elizabeth Yates		
The Sermonic Hymn		
Rise up, O men of God! The kingdom tarries long. Bring in the day of brotherhood and end the night of wrong.		
Rise up, O men of God! The church for you doth wait, Her strength unequal to her task; rise up, and make her great!		
Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod. As brothers of the Son of Man, rise up, O men of God! (Words by William P. Merrill, Tune by William H. Walter)		
The Sermon		
The Invitation to Christian Discipleship		
Lord, keep my body strong so that I can do no wrong. Lord, give me grace just to run this Christian race to a building not made by hand.		
I'm just a stranger here, trav'ling through this barren land. Lord, I know there's a building somewhere, a building not made by hand. (Words and Tune by Eddie Williams)		
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The Service of Ordination & The Service of Holy Communion

Thursday, October 25, 2012
Eleven O'Clock in the Morning
The Reverend Michael L. Mitchell, Worship Leader

The Processional

The Doxology

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.

The Call to Worship

The Reverend Michael L. Mitchell

Leader: Awesome God, Holy and Reverend is Your name! We praise You for Your glorious and

mighty acts in Creation, Salvation, and Liberation.

People: In Creation, You made us; in Salvation, You saved us; in Liberation You delivered us.

Leader: Awesome God, we worship and adore You for Your gracious call upon our lives through Your

Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ: in Your Church, in the world; in the ministry of proclamation, pastoral care, and the myriad means of outreach – that the world may know Jesus and be

reconciled to You.

People: To ministry You have called us, and into the world You have sent us - to be Your

ambassadors of love, liberation, reconciliation and empowerment for Your people. Our

soul shouts, Thank You! Holy and Reverend is Your name!

(A Call to Worship by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.)

The Opening Hymn

(#219 AMECH, Duke Street)

The Reverend Mandella Smith

Go forth ye heralds, in my name, Sweetly the gospel trumpet sound; The glorious jubilee proclaim, Where're the human race is found.

The joyful news to all impart, And teach them where salvation lies, With care bind up the broken heart and wipe the tears from weeping eyes.

Be wise as serpent where you go, Be harmless as the peaceful dove, And let your heaven-taught conduct show that you're commissioned from above.

Freely from Me ye have received, Freely, in love, to others give; Thus shall your doctrines be believed, and, by your labors, sinners live. (Words by John Logan, Tune by John Hatton)

The Invocation

The Reverend Charles Graham

Almighty God, favor us with Your holy presence in this historic and sacred moment. Your word declares that through Your divine providence You have appointed diverse orders of ministers in Your Church. For such an occasion we have assembled. Behold these Your servants, now called to this most sacred and Holy Office. Replenish them so with the truth of Your doctrine and adorn them with the innocence of life, that they may faithfully serve You, and through Your Holy Spirit, edify Your Church, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

The Choral Response

(#580 AAHH)

I love You. I love You Lord, today Because You care for me in such a special way. And yes I praise You. I lift You up. I magnify Your name. That's why my heart is filled with praise.

My heart, my mind, my soul belong to You. You paid the price for me way back on Calvary. And yes I praise You. I lift You up. I magnify Your name. That's why my heart is filled with praise. (William F. Hubbard)

The Scripture Reading

The Reverend Dr. Alesia Ford Burse

1 Timothy 3:8-13; 1 Timothy 5:17; Ephesians 5:15-17, 20-21; Ephesians 6:11-13

Likewise must the Deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a Deacon, being found blameless. Let the Deacons be the mate of one spouse, ruling their children and their own homes well. For they that have used well the office of a Deacon will purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. Even so must their spouses be grave, not slanderers, but sober, faithful in all things.

Let the elders that rule be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.

See then that you walk circumspectly not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves to one another in the fear of God.

Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

The Introit to the Decalogue

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

The Summary of the Decalogue

The Reverend Fred Wallace

And he said to Him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like unto it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

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.

The Worship in Giving

The Conference Finance Committee

The Presentation of the Bishop

Presiding Elder Elizabeth Yates

The Presentation of the Preacher

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

The Sermonic Hymn

(#555 AAHH)

The Reverend Atticus Taylor

It may be in the valley, where countless dangers hide; It may be in the sunshine, where I in peace abide; But this one thing I know – If it be dark or fair, If Jesus is with me, I'll go anywhere!

Refrain

If Jesus goes with me, I'll go, anywhere!
'Tis Heaven to me, Where-e'er I may be if He is there.
I count it a privilege here, His cross to bear.
If Jesus goes with me, I'll go – anywhere!

But if it be my portion to bear my cross at home; While others bear their burdens beyond the billow's foam, I'll prove my faith in Him – Confess His judgments fair, If Jesus goes with me, I'll go anywhere!

It is not mine to question, the judgments of my Lord; It is but mine to follow the leadings of His word; But if I go or stay, or whether here or there, I'll be with my Savior, Content anywhere! (C. Austin Miles)

The Ordination Sermon

Bishop John Hurst Adams

87th Elected & Consecrated Bishop African Methodist Episcopal Church, Retired

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship (#551 AAHH)

The Reverend Kennetta Carter

"Yes, Lord! Yes, Lord!" From the bottom of my heart to the depths of my soul,

"Yes, Lord!" Completely yes! My soul says, "Yes!"

I Love you! I love you! From the bottom of my heart to the depths of my soul, I love you! I really do. My soul says, "Yes!"

(Sandra Crouch)

The Liturgy for the Ordination of Deacons

The Reverend Tan Moss:

Bishop Richardson, we present these persons to be admitted Itinerant Deacons.

Bishop: Take heed that the persons whom you present to us be apt and meet, by their godly conversation, to

exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church.

The Reverend Tan Moss:

I have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

Helen Delores Jackson & Ronald Gertrel Williams

Bishop:

Members of the Conference, if there be any of you who know any impediment or crime in any of these persons presented to be ordained Itinerant Deacons for which they ought not to be admitted to this office, come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take upon you the Office of the Ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promotion of His glory, and the edifying of God's people?

The Ordinands: I trust so.

Bishop: Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

The Ordinands: I do believe them.

Bishop: Will you diligently read and expound the same to the people whom you may be appointed to serve?

The Ordinands: *I will.*

Bishop: It appertains to the office of a Deacon to assist the Elder in Divine Service. And especially when the elder

administers the Holy Communion, to help in the distribution thereof and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youths, and in the absence of the Elder, to baptize. And furthermore, it is the office of the Deacon to search for the sick, poor, and impotent, that they may be visited and relieved. Will

you do this gladly and willingly?

The Ordinands: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you frame and fashion your own life and the lives of your families according to the doctrine of

Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples of the flock of

Christ?

The Ordinands: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following

with a glad mind and will their godly admonition?

The Ordinands: I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.

The Act of Diaconate Ordination

Bishop: Take authority to execute the office of an Itinerant Deacon in the Church of God, in the name of the

Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The Congregation: Amen.

Bishop: Take authority to read the Scriptures, and to preach the same in the Church of God.

The Congregation: Amen.

The Rev. Harry Dawkins:

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning, and you yourselves like unto those who wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding; that when He comes and knocks, they may open unto Him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when He comes shall find watching.

Verily I say unto you that He shall gird Himself, and make them sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if He shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

The Liturgy for the Ordination of Elders

The Rev. Marvin Zanders, II:

Bishop Richardson, we present unto you these persons to be admitted Itinerant Elders.

Bishop: Take heed that the persons whom you present to us be apt and meet, by their godly conversation, to

exercise their ministry duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church.

The Rev. Marvin Zanders, II:

We have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

The Reverend Wendell Carl Webster

Bishop:

Members of the Conference, these are they whom we purpose this day, God willing, to ordain Itinerant Elders, for after due examination we find not the contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and that they are persons meet for the same. But if there be any of you who know any impediment or crimes in any of them, for which they ought not be received into this holy ministry, come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

You have heard, as well in your private examinations as in the exhortation which was just made to you, and in the writings of the Apostles, of what dignity and of what great importance this office is, whereunto you are now called. And now again we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you remember how high a dignity and to how weighty an office you are called; that is to say to be messengers, watchers, and stewards of the Lord, to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family,

to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and of His children who are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever.

The Rev. Victor Cole:

Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance what great treasure is committed to your charge. For, they are the sheep of Christ which He bought with His death, and for whom He shed His blood. The church and congregation, whom you may be privileged to serve, are His Spouse, and His Body.

The Rev. Ruby Lowe:

And if it should happen the same church or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue. Wherefore consider within yourselves the end of the ministry towards the children of God, towards the Spouse and Body of Christ, and see that you never cease your labor, your care, and diligence until you have done all that lies in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge unto that agreement in the faith, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there may be no place left among you, either for error in religion or for viciousness in life.

The Rev. Rita Love:

Forasmuch then as your office is both of so great excellence, and of so great difficulty, you surely see how great care and study you ought to apply yourselves, as neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit, you cannot have a mind and will thereunto of yourselves; for that will and ability are given of God alone. Therefore you ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for His Holy Spirit. And seeing that you cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work pertaining to the salvation of humankind, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same, consider how studious you ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures and in framing the manners both of yourselves and of them that pertain unto you, according to the rules of the same Scriptures, and for this selfsame cause how you ought to forsake and set aside as much as you may all worldly care and studies.

Bishop:

We have good hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things long before now; and that you have clearly determined by God's grace to give yourselves to this office whereby it has pleased God to call you, so that as much as lies in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God the Father by the mediation of our Savior Jesus Christ, for the Heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit, that by daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures you may wax riper and stronger in your ministry, and that you may so endeavor yourselves, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to fashion them after the rule and doctrine of Christ that you may be wholesome and goodly examples and patterns for the people to follow.

And now that this present congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties, you shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and His Church, shall demand of you touching the same.

Bishop:

Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the order of Elder?

The Ordinands: I do so believe.

Bishop:

Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing, as required of necessity to salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be conducted and proved by Scripture?

The Ordinands: I am so persuaded and have determined by God's grace.

Bishop: Will you then give faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine and sacraments and discipline of

Christ as the Lord has commanded?

The Ordinands: I will do so, by the help of the Lord.

Bishop: Will you be ready with faithful diligence always to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange

doctrine contrary to God's word, and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations, as well to

the sick as to the whole within your charge as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

The Ordinands: I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you be diligent in prayer and in reading the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the

knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

The Ordinands: I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you be diligent to frame yourselves and your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make

both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of

Christ?

The Ordinands: I shall apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you maintain and set forth, as much as lies in you, sweetness, peace, and love among all Christian

people, and especially among them that are or may be committed to your charge?

The Ordinands: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you reverently obey your chief ministers unto whom is committed the charge and government over

you, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, submitting yourselves to their godly

judgments?

The Ordinands: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Almighty God, who has given you this will to do all these things, grant also unto you strength and power

to perform the same that He may accomplish His work which He has begun, through Jesus Christ our

Lord. Amen.

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire **And lighten with celestial fire**;

Thou the anointing Spirit art Who doth thy sevenfold gifts impart

Thy blessed unction from above **Is comfort, light, and fire of love.**

Enable with perpetual light **The dullness of our blinded sight;**

Anoint and cheer our soiled face With the abundance of Thy grace.

Keep far our foes; give peace at home; Where Thou art guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son, And Thee of both to be but one!

That through the ages all along **This may be our endless song**;

Praise to Thy eternal merit, **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

The Revered Dr. Melvin Kennerly:

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, who of Your infinite love and goodness towards us have given us Your only and most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redemption by His death and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world His Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Teachers, and Pastors by whose labor and ministry He gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of Your holy name; for these so great benefits of Your eternal goodness, and for that You have vouchsafed to call these Your servants here present to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of humankind, we render unto You most hearty thanks.

The Rev. Joy Gallmon:

We praise and worship You, and we humbly beseech You by the same blessed Son to grant unto all, who either here or elsewhere call upon Your name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto You for these and all Your other benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of You and Your Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that as well by these Your ministers as by them over whom they shall be appointed Your ministers and Your holy name may be forever glorified and Your blessed kingdom enlarged through the same, Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

The bishop, with seven elders, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of every one that receives

The Order of Itinerant Elder

The receivers humbly kneeling and the bishop saying:

Bishop:

The Lord pour upon You the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an Itinerant Elder in the Church of God, now committed unto you by the imposition of our hands. And be a faithful dispenser of the word of God and of His holy sacraments in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Congregation: Amen.

Then shall be delivered to each of them, kneeling, the Bible into their hands, saving:

Bishop:

Take authority to preach the word of God and to administer the holy sacraments in the congregation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Congregation: Amen.

The Rev. Jacqueline Dupree Pugh:

Most merciful Father, we beseech You to send upon these Your servants Your heavenly blessings that they may be clothed with righteousness and that the word spoken by their mouths may never be spoken in vain. Grant, also, that they shall deliver out of Your most Holy Word, or agreeably to the same, as the means of our salvation; and that in all our words and deeds may seek Your glory and the increase of Your kingdom through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Service of Holy Communion

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

Chief Celebrant

The Communion Hymn

(#137 AMECH)

The blood that Jesus shed for me, Way back on Calvary,

The blood that gives me strength from day to day, It will never lose its power.

Refrain

It reaches to the highest mountain; It flows to the lowest valley;

The blood that gives me strength From day to day, it will never lose its power.

It soothes my doubts and calms my fears, And it dries all my tears; The blood that gives me strength from day to day, It will never lose its power. (Andraé Crouch)

The Bidding:

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

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 Consecration

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

(Bishop, Presiding Elders, Board of Examiners, the Ordinands, their families, the congregation)

The Lord's Prayer

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 Bishop John Hurst Adams

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and your 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 East Conference Lay Organization "Building On Our Global Legacy of Christ-Centered Leadership and Training" 1912-2012

The Lay Witness Service Thursday, October 25, 2012

Seven O'Clock in the Evening

Sister Peggy Johnson, Worship Leader

The Organ Prelude		
The Processional (#520 AMECH) "We're Marching to Zion" Program Participants		
Praise G	choir and Congregation od from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen	
The Call to Wor	shipSister Sarah Roberts	
Leader: People:	Almighty God, we worship and adore you – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Today in our worship we long for a glimpse of your glory, seen perfectly in Christ, our Lord.	
Leader: People:	Jesus prayed that we, the church, would be one. Just as He and the Father are one.	
	Today we offer our praise and prayer together. As one body, in Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.	

The Opening Hymn.......(#582 AMECH, Zion: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah)....... Brother Reginald Robinson The Lay Hymn

In harmony, let us glorify God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

ALL:

Laymen now have thus assembled, in Thy blessed name O God. Guide us in our true endeavor, light the pathway that we trod; Give us strength to ever labor for Thy cause. Give us strength to ever labor for Thy cause.

We are banded one in union, to fulfill Thy just command. May we be Thy true disciples, holding to Thy mighty hand. Give us blessings from the fountain of Thy love. Give us blessings from the fountain of Thy love.

As we walk this Christian journey, let us keep our armor bright, Let our works be pure and holy that we stand within Thy sight; Laymen soldiers, strong in unity and love. Laymen soldiers, strong in unity and love.

May we stand before Thine altar, pledging Lord to work for Thee. In the vineyard, in the pastures let us Lord Thy pilgrims be; Let us lift the cross forever to the skies. Let us lift the cross forever to the skies.

(Words by Francis A. Waltson; Tune by Thomas Hastings)

More love to Thee O Christ, More love to thee! Hear Thou the prayer, I make on bended knees; This is my earnest plea; More love, O Christ to thee. More love to Thee. More love to Thee! Amen. The Worship Through Music...... East Conference Choir The Scripture Reading From the Hebrew Scriptures Psalm 133 Sister Tricia Pough The Epistle Ephesians 4:1-16..... Sister Maria Pearson The Introit.......Choir and Congregation From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise; Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land, by every tongue. The Litany of Service......Brother Sister Ruth Carter Written by Patricia H. Wright – Eleventh Episcopal District Leader: Heed the message from the Holy Bible: "I beseech you therefore, brethren (and sisters) by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is vour reasonable service." People: O Lord we are your vessels; may we be of service to You. Leader: In the words of Senator Margaret Chase Smith "My creed is that public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation with full recognition that every human being is entitled to courtesy and consideration." People: O Lord we are your vessels, may we honor our fellow man with our service. In the words of American labor leader Walter Reuther, "There is no greater calling than to Leader: serve your fellow men. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well." People: O Lord we are your vessels, may we contribute greatly to those who are weaker so that together we all will become stronger in Your service. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." People: O Lord we are your vessels, may we be great in serving others with humility. Leader: In the words of President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund, Marian Wright Edelman, "Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time." People: O Lord we are your vessels. Let us take up the charge that is before us and offer ourselves freely to be used by God and the community. Leader: In the words of President Barack Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Leadership and Training. Hear what Christ our Savior saith: Thou shall love the Lord thy God With all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and Great commandment and the second is like unto it. Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. "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." All things come of Thee, O' Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen. The Presentation of the PreacherBishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr. "I Need Thee Every Hour!" I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord; No tender voice like Thine can peace afford. Refrain: "I need Thee, O I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee; O bless me now, my savior, I come to Thee." I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby; Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh. I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain; Come quickly and abide, or life is vain. I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will; And Thy rich promises in me fulfill. I need Thee every hour, most Holy One; O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son. (Words by Annie S. Hawks, Tune by Robert Lowry) The Message The Reverend Gillard Glover The Invitation to Christian Discipleship....... The Reverend Jessie Steele All things come of Thee, O' Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen. Remarks......Brother Aaron Jones, Jr., Conference President Brother Charlie Nichols, Episcopal President Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr. Presiding Prelate, 11th Episcopal District The Lay Benediction - "May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity; that we may live together, not as man over man, but as Lay persons working with God."

The clarion call has sounded. The charge is ours to take up. O Lord, May we bravely

forge ahead, strong in unity and love, to Building on Our Global Legacy of Christ-Centered

ALL:

The Memorial Service

Friday, October 26, 2012 Ten-Thirty in the Morning

The Reverend Willie McLaurin, Presiding

The Assurance Sister Effie Sims

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, from henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Even so, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them. *Revelation 4:13*

Since the close of our last Annual Conference, seats have become vacant, family circles have been broken, and congregations have diminished in number by the visitation of the angel of death. Hearts have been made sad, tears have been shed, homes have been draped in crepe, and grief has been the daily companion of loved ones left behind. Yet, by faith, we have learned "not to sorrow as those who have no hope." Today we pause to remember colleagues and loved ones who have run ahead of us to the great Coronation in the Heavenly City beyond the celestial shore.

The Song of Hope...... (#364 AMECH)...... The Reverend Linton Cason

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.

Refrain

On Christ the solid rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand; All other ground us sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound. O may I then in Him be found! Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before His throne.

(Words by Edward Mote; Music by William Bradbury)

Holy God, Gracious and Eternal, we honor and adore You as Lord, Sovereign and Mighty. We are grateful for the time You have permitted us to spend with loved ones, friends and colleagues. We are grateful and glad for the lessons we learned, for the memories shared and for encouragement received in our relationships with those who are now "absent from the body." By Your mercy, we are also thankful for the blessed hope of immortality through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Responsive Reading...... (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)...... The Reverend Malinda Samuel

Leader: But we would not have you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, concerning them that fall asleep; that you sorrow not, even as the rest, which have no hope.

People: For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Leader: For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the coming of the Lord, shall in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep.

People: For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Leader: Then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

People: Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Leader: Brothers and Sisters, these are they who have run the race and finished their course this Annual Conference Year. We thank the Lord for their labor and faithful witness.

(The deceased ministers and spouses)

(The deceased lay persons who were delegates at the last Annual Conference)

The Prayer The Reverend Dorcas Jackson

O God, we thank and praise You for the love, life and labor of our deceased colleagues and loved-ones. We thank You for their faithful witness in word and deed. Allow us to be inspired to emulate what was good in them that we too might see Your face in the land of Perfect Day. We pray in the name of Him who took the sting from death and victory from the grave, even Jesus Christ, our Savior and Resurrected, Reigning, and Ruling Lord. Amen.

The Song of Triumph and Hope (#511 AMECH)...... Sister Joyce Phillips

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus; Sing His mercy and His grace; In the mansions bright and blessed, He's prepared 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.

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

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 24, 25)

(A Memorial Service: Written by Bishop Adam J. Richardson)

The Closing and Commissioning Service

Friday, October 26, 2012 Six-Thirty in the Evening Presiding Elder Elizabeth Yates, Worship Leader

The Processional (#62 AMECH, Diadem)...... Bishop, Presiding Elders, Ministers, and Choirs

God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power; Crown Thine ancient Church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom; grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn Thy Christ assail His ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wisdom; grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure Thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to Thy control; Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom; grant us courage, lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal

Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be Armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set us free. Grant us wisdom; grant us courage, that we fail not man nor Thee....!

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; Let the search for Thy salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom; grant us courage, serving Thee whom we adore...

(Words by Harry Emerson Fosdick; Tune by John Hughes)

The Call to Worship......The Reverend Mary F. Davis

Minister: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within your gates, O Jerusalem.

People: For a day in Your 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.

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek Your good.

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

Minister: Blessed are they that dwell in Your house. Lord, I have loved Your habitation, the place where

Your honor dwells.

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

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your 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, sing praises.

Come, Thou Almighty King, help us Thy name to sing, Help us to praise! Father all glorious, o'er all victorious, Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!

Come, Thou incarnate Word, gird on Thy mighty sword, our prayer attend; Come and Thy people bless, and give Thy word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend!

Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear, In this glad hour: Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power!

To Thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be, Hence, evermore: Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore!

(Words, Anonymous; Tune by Felice de Giardini)

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His word; Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

(Words by Louisa M. R. Stead, Tune by William J. Kirkpatrick)

O for a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by every foe,

That will not tremble on the brink of any earthly woe.

That will not murmur nor complain beneath the chastening rod,

But, in the hour of grief and pain will lean upon its God.

Lord, give us such a faith as this; and then, what e'er may come,

I'll taste, e'en now, the hallowed bliss of an eternal home.

(Words by William H. Bathurst, Tune by Henry W. Greatorex)

The Scripture Readings

The Introit to the DecalogueChoir and Congregation

From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise;

Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land by every tongue.

The Summary of the Decalogue......The Reverend Godfrey Taylor

Hear what Christ, our Savior says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The Gloria PatriChoir and Congregation

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.

The Benevolent Offering The Reverend Ida Rawls Elmore

I just want to praise You, Forever and ever and ever, For all you've done for me, Blessings and glory and honor, They all belong to You, Thank you Jesus for blessing me.

(Maurette Brown-Clark)

The Responsive Reading...... The Reverend Mary Alice Murphy

We are members of a long tradition – of prophets and people – who would dare to speak for God. As people of faith, many of our ranks often experienced and exercised influence on the culture, and some who also suffered greatly for pronouncements spoken and actions taken in the name of God. Integrity has been their watchword; fidelity to God their true calling. Their walk with God has been consistent; their study of the things of God conscientious and continuous. Their eyes were open to the political and social realities of the day; observers of paradigm shifts, and cultural trends that possessed the power and potential to lead the people away from God to the detriment of community (while some would call it progress). Their ears, like antennae, perched to hear from God, the inspired word fit for the moment. Vigilance has been standard operating procedure. Their mouths open with relevant speech: rebuke, reminder, repentance, repair, renewal, revival, faith, hope, and love.

People: Let the prophet – and the people – be reminded of our calling.

Leader: Like Moses standing in the gap to avert the wrath of God for a people who fell into sin even on their march to liberation and possibility; like the priestly intercession of Jesus praying for his

disciples on His way to Calvary and a new covenant that included redemption and salvation.

People: Let the prophet – and the people – feel the urge to pray – for others.

Leader: Like Elijah who challenged the apostasy of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel; like Nathan who

spoke with David about his "secret" and its impact on two families and a nation; like Jesus

before Pilate responding to a presumption of alleged power, a mere empty suit.

People: Let the prophet – and the people – feel compelled to speak truth to power.

Leader: Like Jeremiah and Jesus who saw what they saw - injustice, corruption, debauchery,

exploitation of the vulnerable, meanness in the human spirit, and a rejection of right and the

Way - and wept.

People: Let the prophet - and the people - care deeply enough to lament.

Leader: Like Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones, and John on the Isle of Patmos - environs of death

and privation – envisioned the audacity of hope as a thing to be grasped.

People: Let the prophet - and the people - be alert to the voice of God and the lessons of hope all

around us.

Leader: Like Hosea who paid a humiliating price with his own domestic choices to demonstrate the

essence of God's love; like Jesus who paid the ultimate price for the redemption and

reconciliation of humankind

People: Let the prophet – and the people – lead as living testimonies of love and forgiveness.

Leader: Like Malachi, alert to the demands and the generosity of God and solemn regard for the

Storehouse; and the regard of Jesus for the believer with the blessings of "good measure,

pressed down, shaken together and running over" -

People: Let the prophet –and the people – show commitment deep enough to cheerfully give.

Leader: The living Christ stands among us, transcending millennia as Prophet, Priest and King. He is

our Savior and our bright exemplar of prophetic speech and pastoral ministry. Children were safe in his company. Women found in Him an empathetic advocate. Men found in Him fraternity and model. Potentates found Him to be one they could count on to tell them the truth. As Jesus saw the need, He healed the sick, fed the hungry and ate with sinners. Around

us now are homelessness, hunger, hurt and cynicism.

People: Let the prophets - and the people - be inspired to act.

(A Litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.)

The Worship through Music......The East Conference Mass Choir

The Sermonic Hymn.......(Tune #80 AMECH, Metropolitan)......The Reverend Cynthia Bailey

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.

And soon arrive where love provides An everlasting rest. (Words by William Bathurst, Tune by John T. Layton) The Sermon......Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr. Presiding Prelate, 11th Episcopal District The Invitation to Christian Discipleship....... (#513 AMECH)...... The Reverend James O. Houston Time is filled with swift transition; naught of earth unmoved can stand, Build your hopes on things eternal, hold to God's unchanging hand. Refrain Hold to His hand, to God's unchanging hand; Hold to His hand, to 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 heavenly 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 sol will view. (Words by Jennie Wilson, Tune by F. L. Eiland) The Stewardship Responsive Reading The Reverend Gillard Glover Leader: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and those who dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1) People: Give and it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. (Luke 6:38) Leader: Each of us should give what we have decided to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7) People: Therefore we affirm: Let the Lord's People, bring the Lord's money, to the Lord's house, on the Lord's Day and receive the Lord's blessing. All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

Thus, while Thy Word our footsteps guides, Shall we be truly blest,

The Unfinished Annual Conference Business

The Commissioning Service Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

The Hymn

(#242 AMECH)

A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify, A never dying soul to save And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill; O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will! (Charles Wesley)

The Presentation of Certificates to Conference Officers

The Prayer for Guidance

The Reading of the Scripture

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:2-3)

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world." (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Hymn

(#220 AMECH, Retreat)

"Go preach my gospel," saith the Lord. "Bid the whole earth my grace receive. Explain to them my sacred word: Bid them believe, obey and live.

"I'll make my great commission known, and ye shall prove my gospel true. By all the works that I have done and all the wonders ye shall do.

"Go, heal the sick; go, raise the dead; Go cast out devils in My name; Nor let my prophets be afraid, Tho' some reproach and some blaspheme.

"While thus ye follow my commands I'm with you till the world shall end; All power is trusted in my hands; I can destroy and can defend."

He spake, and light shone round His head, on a bright cloud to heaven He rode.

They to the farthest nation spread the grace of their ascended God.

(Words by Isaac Watts, Tune by Thomas Hastings)

The Reading of Appointments

The Doxology

The Benediction

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.