

THE FIRST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
African Methodist Episcopal Church

172nd Session
of the
**NEW
ENGLAND**
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

Theme:
"A Transitioning Church"

*"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?
I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." ~ Isaiah 43:19*

April 11-15, 2023

VENUES:

Historic Charles Street
African Methodist Episcopal Church
551 Warren Street
Roxbury, Massachusetts

Bethel
African Methodist Episcopal Church
40 Walk Hill Drive
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

The Right Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr., Presiding Prelate
Mother Joan Marla McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor
Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace, Host Presiding Elder
Reverend Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr., Host Pastor



172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference

**The Opening
Worship Experience**

Thursday, April 13, 2023
10:00 A.M.

The Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace
PRESIDING ELDER, BOSTON-HARTFORD DISTRICT
WORSHIP LEADER

THE ORGAN PRELUDE.....The Musicians
THE PROCESSIONAL Choir, Ministers, Presiding Elders, Bishop
THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN, No. 5

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

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

THE DOXOLOGY, No. 647

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....The Reverend Dr. Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.

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

People: **For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

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

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

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

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

Minister: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

People: **O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.**

THE OPENING HYMN, No. 304..... The Reverend Viola P. Morris-Buchanan

"And Are We Yet Alive"

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CALL TO PRAYER, HYMN No. 333

"Is Your All on the Altar?"

You have longed for sweet peace, and for faith to increase,
and have earnestly, fervently prayed;
but you cannot have rest or be perfectly blest until all on the Altar is laid.

Would you walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
And have peace and contentment always;
You must do His sweet will to be free from all ill; On the altar your all you must lay.

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid? Your heart does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest,
as you yield Him your body and soul.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION
AND INTERCESSION.....The Reverend Dr. Ellis I. Washington

THE PRAYER RESPONSE

“Thank You, Lord”

*Thank You, Lord; Thank You, Lord; Thank You, Lord;
I just want to thank You, Lord.*

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC The New England Conference Choir

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

The Old Testament *Psalm 121* The Reverend Dr. Sandra G. Whitley

The Epistle..... *I Corinthians 3:5-11* The Reverend Pedro A. Castro, Jr.

The Gospel..... *Luke 10:1-2; 17-20*.....The Reverend Orsella R. Hughes

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE,
HYMN No. 69.....The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

*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 DECALOGUE..... The Reverend A. Iona Smith-Nze

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

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

Minister: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness
of anything that in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath,
or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down
thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a
jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children
unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and
showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep
my commandments.

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

Minister: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the
Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

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

Minister: Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

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

My soul be on thy guard, Ten thousand foes arise; And hosts of sin are pressing hard, To draw thee from the skies.

Minister: Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

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

Minister: Thou shalt not kill.

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

Minister: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

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

Minister: Thou shalt not steal.

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

Minister: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

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

Minister: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write these laws upon our hearts.**

*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!*

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

THE GLORIA PATRI

*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 GIFTS FOR MISSIONS The Reverend Steven A. Cousin, Jr.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

*All things come of Thee, O Lord,
And of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.*

THE RESPONSIVE READING The Reverend Dr. Robert Jackson, Jr.

Minister: We are coming in faith and joy telling of the good news of God's unconditional love. We have been loving and caring, sharing and clothing, feeding and nurturing, counseling and teaching, committed to the health, wholeness and the advancement of our people and communities.

People: **We are the living church of God, the body of Christ. Our faith has carried us into hospitals, prisons, schools, workplaces, broken homes, preaching a liberating gospel.**

Minister: Our world has not been friendly to us. We are living in turbulent, trying, and troublesome times. Our world is facing a redefinition of its culture, its ethics, its mores, its institutions. Our culture is one that favors ease over ethics, success over service, politics over principles.

People: **Ours is a world built on economic power, controlled by military force, dominated by political alliances. Human needs, human interests, social welfare all fall at the expense of the economic, military and political powers "that be."**

Minister: We have been guilty of a religion of comfort and "praise." Our worship shies away from the prophetic words of pain and suffering and lends itself to conformity over conscience. Our crosses are no longer rugged, rather they glitter with diamonds and gold.

People: **Gracious God, forgive our religious feasts and our solemn assemblies that do not cry out for justice and righteousness flowing like rivers and never failing streams.**

Minister: As we praise and worship our God this week, let us never forget that we are the light of Christ and the beacons of hope. Ours is a liberating gospel to those who by circumstances and situations are imprisoned, bound, and shackled.

People: **We are the anointed, and are called to courageously and boldly step out and effect healing, renewal, opportunity, and hope to those in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, domestic violence, gang unrest, drugs and substance abuse, depression, loneliness, economic disparity, and the list goes on.**

ALL: **God, this week, equip us for the challenge to develop new and meaningful ministries. God of Grace, we open ourselves totally to hear from You so that we might do the work of love and mercy in our communities. Open our eyes so that we might see the needs of Your people and open our hearts and souls that ours might be a ministry leading our community, our nation, and our world to wholesome, spiritual, social, political, and financial actions.**

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC The New England Conference Choir

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP The Reverend Ray A. Hammond, M.D.

THE PRESENTATION
OF THE PREACHER The Rt. Reverend Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.

THE SERMONIC HYMN, No. 283 The Reverend Dr. Richard W. Clarke

“I Am Thine, O Lord”

*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.*

*Refrain: Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where Thou has died;
Draw me nearer, 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.*

THE ANNUAL SERMON The Reverend Daylan K. Greer, Sr.
*Pastor, Bethel AME Church
Bloomfield, Connecticut*

THE INVITATION TO
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIPThe Reverend Bernadette Hickman-Maynard
THE INVITATIONAL HYMN

“Let the Church Say Amen”

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.

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING The Conference Finance Committee
THE OFFERTORY PRAYER, No. 646Choir and Congregation

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

*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. Amen.*

THE INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS.....The Reverend Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....The Reverend Felix-Gerard Delatour

Minister: Let us profess before God and one another our common faith.

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 DOXOLOGY

THE BENEDICTIONThe Reverend Daylan K. Greer, Sr.

172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference
The Lay Witness Night



Thursday, April 13, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Empowering the Pew: Giving Service to God thru Pray, Work and Worship
Colossians 3:23-24

Sister Danitra Abron
Historic Charles Street AME Church
WORSHIP LEADER

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE The Musicians

THE PROCESSIONALWorship Participants, Clergy and Bishop

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 529 AAHH

“Come Let Us Worship The Lord”

Come let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Come let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Give Him the honor. Give Him the praise.

Come let us worship the Lord; let’s give Him the praise.

Worship Him. Worship Him. Give my God the glory.

Give my God the glory. Give my God the praise.

Worship Him. Worship Him. Worship Him.

Come let us worship the Lord; Let’s give Him the praise.

THE DOXOLOGY, NO. 647

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Sister Danitra Abron

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

People: For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

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

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

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

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

Minister: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

People: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE, No. 582

THE OPENING HYMN Sister Annie Matthews Haynes
Bethel AME Church, New Haven

The Layman's Hymn

*Laymen now have thus assembled, In Thy blessed name O God.
Guide us in Thy 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 armour 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. Amen.*

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION..... Brother Nickolas Clark-Durham
Historic Charles Street AME Church

THE PRAYER RESPONSE

“My Faith Look Up to Thee”

*My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly thine!*

*May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; my zeal inspire!
As thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire*

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE, HYMN No. 69

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

*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 LAY LITANY.....Sister Sandra Mosby
Bethel AME Church-Bloomfield

Responsive Reading from the pen of P. H. Wright, CLO-DOLA - November 2021

LEADER: We serve a church which spans 39 countries, 5 continents, speaks countless languages, resides in places governed by democracy, aristocracy, and monarchy amid a plethora of cultures and yet believes in THE SAME GOD.

PEOPLE: **We are separated by miles, resources, agendas, political interests and a pandemic. We have been kept TOGETHER through the innovation of technology, the willingness to transform to different ways of thinking, worshiping and witnessing and by the Grace of THAT SAME GOD.**

LEADER: Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms is real life ministry. Reflective of a personal relationship with God, it is a complete renewal or shift of one’s mindset, beliefs and entire way of being and behaving.

PEOPLE: **O LORD, we seek Transformation by the renewing of our minds and hearts so that we may prove what is Your good, acceptable and perfect will.**

LEADER: Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transcends goes beyond borders and boundaries. It is the charge and chance for us to extend ourselves beyond our comfort zone to communicate and create avenues that will span generations, open minds and activate people to engage in an edifying work.

PEOPLE: **O LORD, our prayer is to execute a Transcendent mission that is unparalleled to commitment to any seen or yet to come.**

LEADER: A Global Witness Ministry that Liberates, frees one to be liberal in praise, service and witness in essence, it untethers us from dull traditions that bind our imagination, creativity and innovation, and conversely, loosens our proclivity for boundless greatness.

PEOPLE: **O LORD, we yearn for a Liberating gospel spread across the world so that all of humanity will come to know and exemplify Living a Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates.**

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 THROUGH MUSIC....*"I Trust in God"*.....Sister Sharon Mazyck
Allen AME Church

THE SCRIPTURE*Colossians 3:23-24* Brother Isaiah George
Grant AME Church

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSICThe Conference Choir

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BISHOP.....Sister Linda Gant
New England Conference Lay President

THE PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER..... The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr.
Presiding Prelate

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSICThe Conference Choir

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD Licentiate Omari Aarons
Historic Charles Street AME Church

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP....The Reverend Dr. Gloria Harris-Cater
Malden Mission AME Church

THE INVITATIONAL HYMN, No. 251

"All to Jesus I Surrender"

*All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him. In His presence daily live.*

Refrain: I surrender all, I surrender all.

All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

*All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me, Jesus, take me now.*

*All to Jesus I surrender, Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me, May I know Thy power divine.*

*All to Jesus I surrender, Lord I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power, Let Thy blessing fall on me.*

*All to Jesus I surrender, Now I feel the sacred flame;
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to His name.*

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING..... Conference Lay Finance Committee

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER, No. 646.....The Reverend Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.
Historic Charles Street-AME Church

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

*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. Amen.*

THE REFLECTIONS Sister Linda Gant
President, New England Conference Lay Organization

Sister Cheryl Hammond Hopewell
CLO Corresponding Secretary

President, First Episcopal District Lay Organization

The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr.
Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District

THE DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

THE LAY BENEDECTION (Sung)

*"May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity that we may live together,
Not as man over man, (but as Laypersons working with God 3X). Amen."*

172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference
The Memorial Service

Friday, April 14, 2023
11:00 A.M.

The Reverend Howard M. Jenkins, Jr.
WORSHIP LEADER

THE ASSURANCE

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*

THE CALL TO REFLECTION..... The Reverend Howard M. Jenkins, Jr.

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, Hymn No. 364The Reverend Felix-Gerard Delatour

*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 is 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.*

THE PRAYER The Reverend Dr. Gwendolyn Montgomery

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 the encouragement we 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 / *Thessalonians 4:13-18* The Reverend Charles Cloy

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.**

THE ROLL CALL (*Conference Secretary*)

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 names of deceased bishops, episcopal supervisor,
general and connexional officers)*

(The names of deceased ministers and spouses)

*(The names of deceased lay persons who were delegates
at the last annual conference)*

THE PRAYER The Reverend Dr. Gloria Harris Cater

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 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 OF HOPE

HYMN No. 511 The Reverend Dr. George Walters-Sleyon

*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.*

THE BENEDICTION The Reverend Martha Florestal

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, 24)*

172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference

The Retirement Service

Friday, April 14, 2023
12:00 Noon

The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr.
PRESIDING

THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In the name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, let us into this service of the retirement of preachers from active work in the ministry of the church. Let us pray.

THE INVOCATION

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 PREACHER(S)

(The Secretary of the annual conference will now present the preacher(s) who are at this session retiring from active service.)

Bishop McAllister, the 172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference desires formally to recognize at this session the completion of the active service of (state number) of its ministers. As Secretary of the annual conference, I present to you these faithful minister(s) for this service of recognition and honor, in appreciation of their untiring labors in the Christian ministry.

(The Secretary will then call the names of those to be retired, pausing after each name while the person shall rise and present himself or herself before the Bishop.)

THE RESPONSE

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. Psalm 126:6

THE STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT

The presiding elder, or someone appointed by the Bishop, shall present a brief statement of the ministerial activities of each of the preachers to be retired. It shall include an account of the granting of license, the ordination, and fields served. It shall be filed with the secretary to become part of the minutes of the annual conference.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. *Hebrews 11:1,2*

THE MESSAGE OF TRIBUTE

In paying tribute to the preachers who are retiring from the work of the active ministries, the Bishop may use all or part of the following sentences:

People, the record of your active ministry is written. It is written in the record of God.

Your church is deeply grateful for your ministry and for the care which you have exercised in faithfully fulfilling your vows of ordination. May the precious memories of your years of sacrificial service and fruitful labor be blessed and hallowed.

And now, as you yield your official responsibilities in the active ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, be assured that the years that are yet to be may be filled with good works and become the crown of all your ministry, bringing glory and honor to you and to the church. The congregation of which you will be a member will look to you for spiritual guidance and godly example. Your colleagues in the ministry will continue to seek and respect your counsel. They will annually listen for your answer to the Roll Call of the conference.

THE BENEDICTION

172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference
**The Service of Ordination
and Holy Sacrament**

Friday, April 14, 2023
12:00 Noon

The Reverend Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.
WORSHIP LEADER

THE ORGAN PRELUDE..... The Musicians

THE PROCESSIONALChairman of the Board of Examiners
Candidates for Ordination
Deacons, Elders, Board of Examiners
Host Pastor, Presiding Elders
Presiding Bishop

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN, No. 5

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

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

THE DOXOLOGY, NO. 647

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

THE CALL TO WORSHIP The Reverend Dr. Richard W. Clarke
THE OPENING HYMN, No. 91 The Reverend Theodore N. Hickman Maynard, Ph.D.

“How Great the Wisdom”

*How great the wisdom, power and grace,
Which in redemption shine!
The heavenly host with joy confess
The work is all divine, The work is all divine.
The work is all divine.*

*Before His feet they cast their crowns,
Those crowns which Jesus gave,
And, with ten thousand tongues,
Proclaim His power to save, Proclaim His power to save.
Proclaim His power to save.*

*They tell the triumphs of His cross,
The sufferings which He bore;
How low He stooped, how high He rose,
And rose to stoop no more, And rose to stoop no more.
And rose to stoop no more.*

*With them let us our voices raise,
And still the song renew;
Salvation well deserves the praise
Of men, and angels, too, Of men, and angels, too.
Of men, and angels, too.*

THE INVOCATION The Reverend Dr. Robert A. Jackson, Jr.
THE CHORAL RESPONSE The Choir and Congregation
THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC The Conference
Choir
THE SCRIPTURE READING The Reverend Viola P. Morris-Buchanan

I Timothy 3:8-13; I Timothy 5:17, Ephesians 5:15-17; 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 the office of a Deacon well 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 slanders, 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 rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE, HYMN No. 69 ... The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

*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 DECALOGUE The Reverend Daylan K. Greer, Sr.

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 Conference Finance Committee

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP The Reverend Dr. Ellis I. Washington

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr.

THE SERMONIC HYMN The Reverend A. Iona Smith-Nze

THE ORDINATION SERMON Reverend Dr. Virgil Woods
*Pastor, First AME Church
Gary, Indiana*

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP The Reverend Dr. Sandra G. Whitley

THE INVITATIONAL HYMN

THE LITURGY FOR THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS

The Elder: The Reverend Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.

Bishop McAllister, we present these persons to be admitted Deacons.

Bishop:

Take heed that the persons that 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 Elder: The Reverend Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.

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

(The Names of the Elected Deacons to be Read)

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 Deacons for which they ought not to be admitted to this office, do 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 youth, 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 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 thou authority to execute the office of a 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 thou authority to read the Scriptures, and to preach the same in the Church of God.

The Congregation: Amen.

The Elder: The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough

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 Sacrament of Holy Communion

THE RT. REVEREND JULIUS H. McALLISTER, SR.
CHIEF CELEBRANT

THE COMMUNION HYMN, No. 255

“There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood”

*There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Emmanuel’s veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains, Lose all their all guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.*

*The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away, Wash all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he, Wash all my sins away.*

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 and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling.

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, 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 newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FIRST COLLECT

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Your great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn to You, have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to everlasting life through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

THE SECOND COLLECT

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we shall at all times and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your Holy Name, evermore praising You and saying Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory be to You, O Lord, most high. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF HUMILIATION

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 CONSECRATIONThe Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr.

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. This do in remembrance of Me".

Likewise after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, "Drink all of it, 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 LORD'S PRAYER

THE HYMN OF FELLOWSHIP, No. 525

“What a Fellowship”

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine, Leaning on the everlasting arms:
What a blessedness, What a peace is mine, Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

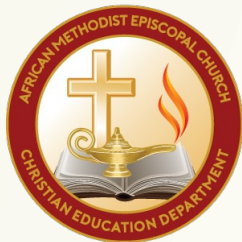
*Refrain: Leaning, leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, Leaning on the everlasting arms:
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

THE DOXOLOGY

THE BENEDICTION The Reverend Dr. Virgil Woods

172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Youth Night

Friday, April 14, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
40 Walk Hill Street
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough
WORSHIP LEADER

Theme: Re-Imagining Relationships. Embracing Wholeness

*"Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the
Son of God and become mature ~ Ephesians 4:13*

THE DOXOLOGY, NO. 647 The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough
Conference Chairperson, Christian Education

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

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

THE CALL TO WORSHIP The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough

Leader: Christian Education is our invitation to equip God's people with the teachings of Jesus, who has commissioned us to go into all the world, making disciples, teaching them to observe all that He commanded (Matthew 28:19)

People: **Help us wise and omniscient God to encourage men and women, boys and girls to seek to know you and to make known the gospel of your Son Jesus Christ.**

Leader: Help us to nurture and instruct in the ways of the Lord, for that is the chief responsibility of the church and family. Grant us grace to fulfill this high calling.

People: **Beginning with the study of Holy Scriptures, may we find one another exploring your love and justice in Church School, Vacation Bible School, Bible Study, Theological Education and all the other opportunities you have given us.**

Leader: Thank you Lord for all those who have taught us your Word and lived a life which made your teaching real for us. We follow the example of Jesus Christ and seek to emulate these persons who rightly taught us and lit the flame of excellence within us.

People: **May the visual images that we use help us to imagine your omnipotence and to affirm our likeness to you.**

Leader: Teach us your ways, O Lord, that we may not lean to our own understanding, but rather trust in you. As we honor and worship you teach us to respect one another.

All: **As the hymn proclaims, "A charge to keep we have, a God to glorify, a never dying soul to save, and fitted for the sky."**
("Christian Education" (African American Heritage Hymnal))

THE HYMN OF PRAISE, No. 221 Sister Tatiana Corbett
Charles Street AME Church, Boston, MA

"How to Reach the Masses"

*How to reach the masses, men of ev'ry 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 the precious Savior up),
Lift Him up, (Lift the precious Savior 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 men will gladly follow Him who once taught,
"I'll draw all men unto Me."*

THE PRAYER..... Brother Braxton Seams Bushnell
Grant AME Church, Boston, MA

THE CHORAL RESPONSE **"Awesome"**

*My God is awesome, He can move mountains.
Keep me in the valley, hide me from the rain
My God is awesome, heals me when I'm broken
Strength where I've been weakened, forever He will reign
My God is awesome, awesome, awesome, awesome (repeat)
My God is awesome.*

THE WELCOME Bethel AME Church, Boston, MA

THE MUSICAL SELECTION Charles Street AME Church Youth Choir
Boston, MA

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Old Testament.....*Joshua 1: 6-11* John George
and William Walters-Sleyon
People's AME Church

The New Testament *Ephesians 4: 11-16* Jazmyn Johnson
Allen AME Church, Hartford, CT

FOUNDER'S DAY WINNERS

AND YOUTH OF THE YEAR The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough
NEC Chair

Grades 1-3	Second Place - Leila Mae Jones , Charles Street, Boston, MA
Grades 6-8	Second Place - Tamera Corbett , Charles Street, Boston, MA
Grades 9-10	Third Place - Jalon Parrish , Allen Chapel, Hartford, CT
Grades 11-12	First Place - Tatiana Corbett , Charles Street, Boston, MA
Grades 11-12	Second Place - Olivia Lawrence , Allen Chapel, Hartford, CT
Grades 11-12	Third Place - Alana Parrish , Allen Chapel, Hartford, CT
Honorable Mention	Grades 6-8 - Jazmyn Johnson , Allen Chapel, Hartford, CT
Honorable Mention	Grades 4-5 - Oriana Lawrence , Allen Chapel, Hartford, CT
Honorable Mention	Multimedia Presentation - Kai Journey Drayton , Charles Street, Boston

THE PRESENTATION BY YOUTH OF THE YEAR Sister Ajahnee Drayton
Charles Street AME Church

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BISHOP Sister Kai Journey Drayton
Charles Street AME Church

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr.
Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District

THE MUSICAL SELECTION Charles Street AME Church Youth Choir
Boston, MA

THE SERMON	The Reverend Howard M. Jenkins, Jr. <i>Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Providence, RI</i>
THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP	Rev. Marcus T. McCullough <i>Conference Director, Christian Education</i>
THE OFFERING.....	The Finance Committee
THE ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	The Reverend Dr. Ray Hammond The Reverend Dr. Gloria White Hammond <i>Host Church</i>
THE REMARKS	The Reverend Dr. Marjorie Jones <i>Conference Director, Christian Education</i>
	The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough <i>Conference Chairperson, Christian Education</i>
	The Reverend Jay B. Broadnax <i>First District Executive Director, Christian Education</i>
	The Reverend Lashonna L. Smith <i>First District Chairperson, Christian Education</i>
	Mother Joan Marla McAllister <i>Episcopal Supervisor</i>
	The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr. <i>Presiding Prelate</i>
THE BENEDICTION.....	The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough <i>Conference Chairperson, Christian Education</i>

172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference
The Sons of Allen Worship Experience



Saturday, April 15, 2023
11:00 AM

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
40 Walk Hill Street
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

The Reverend Khaden V. Nurse, Sr.
WORSHIP LEADER

THE DOXOLOGY, NO. 647

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

THE CALL TO WORSHIP The Reverend Dr. George Walters-Sleyon

THE HYMN, No. 559

“Rise Up O Men of God”

*Rise up O men of God, Have done with lesser things.
Give heart and soul and mind and strength, To serve the King of kings.*

*Rise up O men of God, His 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! Trod where His feet have trod.
As brothers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O men of God!*

THE PRAYER The Reverend Herbert L. Eddy

THE SCRIPTURE READING

The New Testament.....*Psalms 1:1-3*.....Licentiate Dexter Hester
The Old Testament *1 Peter 5:1-5*..... Brother Michael Larkin, Jr.

THE WELCOME Brother TR Jones

THE SONS OF ALLEN PLEDGE Brother Dwayne Anthony, Jr.

We are the Sons of Allen

Striving to reflect God in our lives.

We are the Sons of Allen

We know who we are and we prepare daily for what we will become.

We believe that to be a male

is a matter of birth, But to be a man is a matter of choice.

We choose to strive to be men,

Christlike men who serve their family, Church, and world.

We are the Sons of Allen

Born of a great people, descendants of a great visionary man who has passed onto us a great torch, which we must hold high.

We are the Sons of Allen

Brilliant, Caring, and Courageous. Willing to work hard today, so that we can have a bright future tomorrow.

We are the Sons of Allen

Look deep into our eyes, and you will see your glorious past, and get a glimpse of our marvelous future.

We are the Sons of Allen

Written by Dr. David Hall, St. Paul AME Church, Cambridge, MA

THE SELECTION NEAC Sons of Allen Men’s Ministry Choir

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BISHOP Brother Nicholas Clarke-Durham

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER..... The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr.
Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District

THE SELECTION NEAC Sons of Allen Men’s Ministry Choir

THE SERMON The Reverend Dr. Theodore Nathaniel Hickman-Maynard
*Associate Dean For Ministry Studies
Harvard Divinity School
Cambridge, Massachusetts*

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP The Reverend Andrew E. Kimble

THE INVITATIONAL HYMN, NO. 246

“Come to Jesus”

*Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus just now;
Just now come to Jesus, Come to Jesus just now
He will save you, He will save you, He will save you just now;
Just now come to Jesus, Come to Jesus just now
He is able, He is able, He is able just now;
Just now come to Jesus, Come to Jesus just now
He is willing, He is willing, He is willing just now;
Just now come to Jesus, Come to Jesus just now
Only trust Him, Only trust Him, Only trust Him just now;
Just now come to Jesus, Come to Jesus just now*

THE OFFERING..... Conference Finance Committee

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

*All things come of Thee, O Lord,
And of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.*

THE REMARKS The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr.
Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District

THE BENEDICTION..... The Reverend Dr. Theodore Nathaniel Hickman-Maynard

172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference
**The Conference
Church School**

Saturday, April 15, 2023
2:00 P.M.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
40 Walk Hill Street
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Evangelist Josephine Fulcher Anderson
NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Theme: Jesus Cooks Breakfast

Lesson Scripture: John 21:1-14

The Church School Adventure will begin on the grounds of the church with a "Story Walk" leading into the church for devotions and the teaching and learning experience.

THE WELCOME Evangelist Josephine Fulcher Anderson

THE CHURCH SCHOOL SONG..... "Church School God's Wonderful Tool"
Written by Sister Tona Pickett

THE OPENING PRAYER..... Charles Street AME Church

THE SCRIPTURE READING Bethel AME Church, Jamaica Plain

THE APOSTLE'S CREED Bethel AME Church, Lynn

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 sitteth at 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 sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I believe my AME Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.

THE CLASS INSTRUCTIONS.....Sister Renee Goldsmith
Boston-Hartford District Church School Superintendent

Adult Class

Youth Class - 1

Youth Class - 2

Youth Class - 3

CLASS WRAP-UP: Biblical Trivia

THE OFFERING

THE CLOSING REMARKS.....The Reverend Camille Smith
First Episcopal District Conference Superintendent

The Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace
Presiding Elder, Boston-Hartford District

Mother Joan M. McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor

The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr.
Presiding Prelate

THE BENEDICTION.....Malden Mission AME Church

*We have come. We have studied. We have learned.
So until our next coming together to study God's word,
May His rich blessing reside with you and may His grace
be eternally yours. Amen.*

172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference
**The Closing Worship and
Commissioning Service**

Saturday, April 15, 2023
3:30 P.M.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
40 Walk Hill Street
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

The Reverend Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace
Presiding Elder, Boston Hartford District
WORSHIP LEADER

THE PRELUDE..... The Musicians

THE PROCESSION Choir, Ministers, Presiding Elders, Bishop

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN, No. 62

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

*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,
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 men free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage That we fail not man nor Thee,
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,
Serving Thee whom we adore.*

THE DOXOLOGY, NO. 647

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

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

THE CALL TO WORSHIPThe Reverend Dr. Ellis I. Washington

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

People: **For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

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

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

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

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

Minister: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

People: **O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE, No. 7 The Reverend A. Iona Smith- Nze

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

*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.*

THE CALL TO PRAYER, HYMN No. 440

“ 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

*'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!*

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION
AND INTERCESSION..... The Reverend Mariama White Hammond

THE PRAYER RESPONSE, HYMN No. 364

“My Hope Is Built”

*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 is sinking sand.*

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC The New England Conference Choir

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

The Old Testament *Psalm 111* The Reverend Khaden V. Nurse, Sr.

The Epistle *Ephesians 5:15-20* ... The Reverend Darryl D. Malden, Esq.

The Gospel *Luke 10:1-7* The Reverend Marcus T. McCullough

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE
HYMN No. 69..... The Reverend Charles Cloy

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

*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 DECALOGUE (ABRIDGED) The Reverend Alvin T. Riley, Jr.

Minister: And God spoke all these words, saying: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me.

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

***Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!
E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!***

Minister: 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 first and great 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 GIFTS FOR MISSIONS The Reverend Viola P. Morris-Buchanan

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

“All Things Come of Thee”

*All things come of Thee, O Lord,
And of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.*

THE RESPONSIVE READINGThe Reverend Dr. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Author

Minister: 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 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 operational procedure. Their mouths open with relevant speech: rebuke, reminder, repentance, repair, revival, faith, hope, and love.

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

Minister: 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.**

Minister: Like Elijah who challenged the apostasy of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel; like Nathan who spoke to 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.**

Minister: 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 the right and the Way – and wept.

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

Minister: 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.

Minister: 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.

Minister: Like Malachi, alert to the demands and 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.

Minister: 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 prophet – and the people – be inspired to act.

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC The New England Conference Choir

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER The Reverend Janine A. Dailey

THE SERMONIC HYMN, No. 396 The Reverend Dr. Robert A. Jackson, Jr.

“Close to Thee”

*Thou my everlasting portion, More than friend or life to me,
All along my pilgrim journey, Savior, let me walk with Thee.
Close to Thee, close to Thee, Close to Thee, close to Thee;
All along my pilgrim journey, Savior, let me walk with Thee.*

*Not for ease or worldly pleasure, Nor for fame my prayer shall be;
Gladly will I toil and suffer, Only let me walk with Thee.
Close to Thee, close to Thee, Close to Thee, close to Thee;
Gladly will I toil and suffer, Only let me walk with Thee.*

*Lead me through the vale of shadows, Bear me o’er life’s fitful sea;
Then the gate of life eternal May I enter, Lord, with Thee.
Close to Thee, close to Thee, Close to Thee, close to Thee;
Then the gate of life eternal May I enter, Lord, with Thee.*

THE SERMON The Rt. Reverend Julius H. McAllister, Sr.
*Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church*

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

THE INVITATIONAL HYMN, No. 513

“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”

*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.*

THE WORSHIP IN GIVING The Conference Finance Committee

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER, No. 646

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

*We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone a Trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.*

THE INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

THE UNFINISHED ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS

Conference Stewardship Report

The Resolution(s)

172nd Session of the New England Annual Conference
**The Commissioning and
Appointment Service**

THE RIGHT REVEREND JULIUS H. McALLISTER, SR.

THE HYMN, No. 242

"A Charge To Keep I Have"

*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.*

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 you, 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, No. 220

"Go Preach My Gospel"

*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, Though Greeks reproach and Jews 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.*

THE READING OF APPOINTMENTS

THE DOXOLOGY

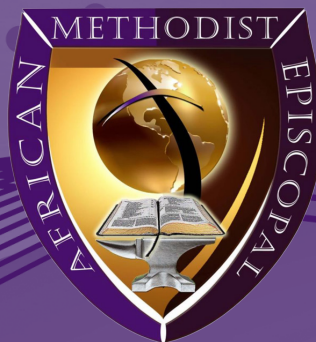
THE BENEDICTION



*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you. ~Matthew 6:33*

**First Episcopal District
Post Conference Convocation
and
Planning Meeting
June 15-17, 2023**

**52nd Quadrennial Session of the General Conference
Columbus, Ohio
August 21-28, 2024**



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