

52nd Quadrennial Session
of the
GENERAL CONFERENCE
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Opening Worship Service



Bishop James L. Davis
Chair, General Conference Commission

Bishop Silvester S. Beaman
Program Chair

Bishop Errenous E. McCloud Jr.
Host Bishop

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.
Senior Bishop

Bishop Frank M. Reid III
President, Council of Bishops



Opening Worship Service

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

**Greater Columbus Convention Center
Columbus, Ohio**

**Wednesday, The Twenty-first Day of August
Two Thousand Twenty-Four
10:00 am EDT**

The Order of Service
Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.
Worship Leader

The Moments of Praise

Third Episcopal District Choir

The Proclamation *(from the rear of the Hall)*

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

“Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.”

I Chronicles 16:3-24

The Great Procession

**Connectional Officers, Judicial Council,
General Officers, Bishops**

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

AME Hymnal No. 5, *Diadem*

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

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

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

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

The Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

AME Hymnal No. 647

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

The Call to Worship

**Bishop James L. Davis
Second Episcopal District
Chair, General Conference Commission**

Bishop: I was glad when they said unto me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Our feet shall stand within Thy gates, O Jerusalem!

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

Bishop: Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek Thy good.
People: Those that dwell in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Bishop: Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house, Lord, I have loved Thy habitation, the place where Thy honor dwelleth.
People: For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Bishop: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.
People: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, and sing His praises.

The Opening Hymn

**Bishop Errenous E. McCloud
Third Episcopal District, Host Bishop**

And Are We Yet Alive
AME Hymnal No. 304

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

Preserve 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,
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 Invocation

**Bishop Frank M. Reid III
Eleventh Episcopal District
President, Council of Bishops**

The Choral Response

Let It Breathe on Me
AME Hymnal No. 295

*Let it breathe on me, Let it breathe on me.
Let the breath of God now breathe on me.
Let it breathe on me, Let it breathe on me,
Let the breath of God now breathe on me.*

The Anthem

Third Episcopal District Choir

The Scripture Lessons

The Old Testament

**Bishop Clement W. Fugh
Fifth Episcopal District**

“For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile” Jeremiah 29:11-14 (NSRVUE)

The Epistle

**Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath
Ecumenical and Urban Affairs**

“I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:3-6 (NSRVUE)

The Gospel

**Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr.
First Episcopal District**

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock^f I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:13-18 (NSRVUE)

The Choral Preface to The Decalogue *From All That Dwell*
AME Hymnal No. 69

**Bishop John F. White
Fourth Episcopal District**

*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

Hear what Christ Our Savior saith: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like 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
AME Hymnal No. 626

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

The Gospel Selection

Third Episcopal District Choir

The Litany

**Bishop Harry L. Seawright
Ninth Episcopal District**

The Pandemics, The Promise, The Plan: A Litany
Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

Leader: We have come to Columbus as the church *gathered*. Till yesterday, we were the church *scattered*, situated on five continents in 39 countries. We have gathered under the theme, “The Pandemics, The Promise, The Plan.” We arrived with our historic theological mantra, spoken in many tongues, “God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, Holy Spirit our Comforter, Humankind our Family.”

People: **A thousand afflictions to vex our souls, yet we are the Church first things First — we are called to Worship.**

Leader: In the Pandemic, we could not meet. We stood by yawning graves waiting to receive the remains of loved ones, friends and colleagues. Never once did we think to say, “This is the work of a *hoax*.” The Pandemic was real — airborne — as easy to contract as inhaling — breathing what was expected to be fresh air.

People: **A thousand afflictions to vex our souls, yet we are the Church, we are called to Pray.**

Leader: The Pandemic has been real, relentless and nearly intractable — and so are racism, fascism, ageism, xenophobia, hate, gun violence, police brutality, gender discrimination, voter suppression, economic disparities, and War. Metaphorically, they are in the air we breathe. Some have whispered, “*I can’t breathe.*” Together, they are killing our institutions, our relationships, our trust.

People: **A thousand afflictions to vex our souls, yet we are the Church; we are called to Civic and Political Engagement.**

Leader: The retelling of the big lie and living in denial will not change the facts in America: teaching true history is being stifled; Gang Violence and Anarchy are rife in Haiti, and so is Human Trafficking, and the Displacement of thousands in Central Africa, Human Suffering in Gaza, abject poverty apparent in too many places. Democracy is endangered. Climate change is real.

People: **A thousand afflictions to vex our souls, yet we are the Church, we are called to Vigilance; we are called to Vote.**

Leader: We confess that our fellowship has been fractured. Some feel betrayed and injured, a circumstance with the potential to tear us apart, fragmented and feeble. Was the Vision given to our venerable founder merely myopic?

People: A thousand afflictions to vex our souls, yet we are the Church, we are called to Hope.

Leader: We are the heirs of Richard and Sarah Allen, and a great cloud of witnesses who preceded us since 1787 and 1816. We are beneficiaries of their vision and mantra of Salvation, Liberation and Education, a global ministry under the banner of Jesus, the Living Lord, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

People: A thousand afflictions to vex our souls, yet we are the Church, we are called to Stand for the cause of Justice, in every corner of the world; we are called to Go.

Leader: "In the world you will have tribulation," Jesus said, "but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." "Do not be afraid. Lo, I am with you."

People: A thousand afflictions may vex our souls, yet we are the Church, we are called to Witness. "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God *through us.*" (2 Corinthians 1:20)

The Offering for Missions

**Bishop David R. Daniels
Seventeenth Episcopal District**

*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.*

The Presentation of the Preacher

**Bishop Reginald T. Jackson
Sixth Episcopal District**

The Sermonic Selection

Third Episcopal District Choir

The Quadrennial Sermon

**Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe
Fourteenth Episcopal District
President, General Board**

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

**Bishop Michael L. Mitchell
Twelfth Episcopal District**

The Offertory

**Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr.
Seventh Episcopal District**

The Offertory Response

*All Things Come of Thee
AME Hymnal No. 644
All things come of Thee, O Lord.
and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.*

The Announcements

**Bishop Silvester S. Beaman
Fifteenth Episcopal District
Secretary, Council of Bishops**

The Doxology

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

Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker
Eighth Episcopal District

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

The Benediction

Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield
Thirteenth Episcopal District

The Recessional

Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford, Sr.
Nineteenth Episcopal District

Siyahamba “We are Marching in the Light of God

*Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwen-,
Khanyen' kwenkhos',
Siyahamba, hamba,
Siyahamba, hamba,
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwen-,
Khanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamba, hamba,
Siyahamba, hamba,
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.*

*We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of,
The light of God,
We are marching, marching,
We are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of,
The light of God,
We are marching, marching,
We are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God.*