

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

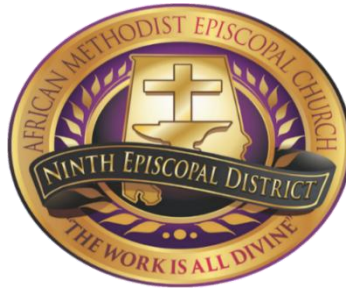
**SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE
SOUTHWEST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Annual Conference Theme:

Always Moving Forward with Excellence Philippians 3:13-14

Quadrennial Theme:

The Work Is All Divine Romans 8:28



The Closing Worship Service

Friday, October 24, 2025

Two o'clock in the Afternoon

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister

Episcopal Supervisor

Convening with

*Samuel Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
717 West Pritchard Avenue - Mobile, Alabama 36610*

The Reverend Vernon McLeod, Host Pastor

The Reverend Charles Lewis

Host Presiding Elder

Mobile District

The Reverend Antonio Thomas

Associate Host Presiding Elder

Camden District

The Closing Worship Service

Friday, October 24, 2025

2:00 p.m.

The Reverend Antonio Thomas, Worship Leader
Presiding Elder of the Camden District

THE GREAT 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 or Thee, that we fail not man nor Thee!

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let search for Thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

THE DOXOLOGY

Choir and Congregation

Hymn No. 647 [Tune: Old 100]

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. G. Dianne Lewis

- Leader:** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
- People:** Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
- Leader:** Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- People:** With trumpets and the sound of the horn; make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
- Leader:** Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.
- People:** Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy.
At the presence of the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth.
- Leader:** Here we are Lord! We have come into your house praising your faithfulness,
giving thanks for your mercy, and seeking your soul-feeling joy.
- People:** Thank you for creating us and giving us life and breath today.
Thank you for your son Jesus Christ, our Savior, and for the Holy Spirit whose presence unites us as your people.
- All:** Let us sing praises unto the Lord who has never failed us yet!!

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

The Reverend Cleitis Walker

Hymn No. 1 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

O for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!

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

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

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

He speaks and listening to His voice, new life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor, believe.

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

THE PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

**Conference Choir
and Congregation**

"I Pray for You"

I pray for you, you pray for me and watch God change things. (2x)

THE INVOCATION

The Reverend Brandon Thornton

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

**Conference Choir
and Congregation**

Hymn No. 460

"More Love to Thee, O Christ"

More love to Thee, O Christ, More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee;
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, More love to Thee!

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

The Conference Choir

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES
Psalm 1

The Reverend Benjamin Lightner

THE EPISTLE
James 3:13 – 4:3-7

The Reverend Grandville Anderson

THE GOSPEL (All Standing)
Mark 9:30-37

The Reverend Jerry Robinson

THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE

Hymn #69 [Tune: Woodworth]

"From All That Dwell"

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 (SUMMARY)

The Reverend Chico Thompson

Hear what Christ our Savior says, "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. 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 PATRI

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

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

The Conference Choir

THE MISSION OFFERING

The Reverend John Dees, Jr.

"I Just Want to Praise You"

Words and Tune by Arthur Tannous

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

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP

The Reverend Charles Lewis
*Presiding Elder,
Mobile District*

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
*Presiding Prelate,
Ninth Episcopal District*

THE SERMONIC HYMN

The Reverend Mia Cole

Hymn No. 83

O Thou, in Whose Presence

O Thou, in whose presence my soul takes delight,
On whom in affliction I call;
My comfort by day, and my song in the night,
My hope, my salvation, my all!

Where dost Thou, dear Shepherd, resort with Thy sheep,
To feed them in pastures of love?
Say, why in the valley of death should I weep,
Or alone in this wilderness rove?

O why should I wander an alien from Thee,
Or cry in the desert for bread?
Thy foes will rejoice, when my sorrows they see,
And smile at the tears I have shed.

He looks! and ten thousands of angels rejoice,
And myriads wait for His word;
He speaks! and eternity, filled with His voice,
Re-echoes the praise of the Lord.

Dear Shepherd, I hear, and will follow Thy call;
I know the sweet sound of Thy voice;
Restore and defend me, for Thou art my all,
And in Thee I will ever rejoice. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Bishop Gregory V. Eason, Sr.
*The 148th Elected and Consecrated
Bishop of the African Methodist
Episcopal Church
Presiding Prelate,
Twentieth Episcopal District*

THE INVITATION TO RECEIVE CHRIST

The Reverend John Dees, Jr.

"Just Come"

By Joseph W. Pace, II

There's nothing better than knowing Jesus,
He will pick you up and turn your life around.

Chorus:

You ought to know Him, get to know Him, right now, today, just come.

There's nothing better than knowing Jesus, He gets sweeter as the days go by.

Chorus

Bridge:

Come on, come on, come on. Come on, come on, come on; right now, today, just come.

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

The Stewardship Committee

THE RESPONSE

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

THE UNFINISHED ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS

The Report of the Statistician

The Conference Resolution

The Commissioning Service

Friday, October 24, 2025

THE HYMN

Hymn #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!

Arm me with jealous care, as in Thy sight to live,
And O, Thy servant, Lord, prepare, a strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray, and on Thyself rely
Assured, if I my trust betray, I shall forever die. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

THE PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

I Peter 5:2-3

Matthew 28:19-20

THE DISPATCHING HYMN

Hymn #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

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

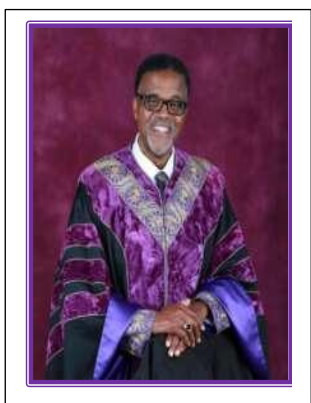
Hymn No. 45

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

God be with you till we meet again; By His counsels’ guide, uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you: God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
Till we meet, till we meet; God be with you till we meet again. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.



***Bishop Gregory V. Eason, Sr.
The 148th Elected and Consecrated
Bishop of the African Methodist
Episcopal Church
Presiding Prelate,
Twentieth Episcopal District***

Bishop Gregory V. Eason, Sr. was elected and consecrated the 148th bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2024 at the 52nd Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Ohio.

Bishop Eason was assigned to the Twentieth Episcopal District, comprised of the following Annual Conferences: Malawi North, Malawi South, Malawi Central, Northeast Zimbabwe, Southwest Zimbabwe, and Central Zimbabwe.

Bishop Eason was born in Metter, GA, and is the son of Reverend William and Mrs. Geneva Eason. He graduated from East Georgia College in Swainsboro, Georgia in 1981, and Magna cum Laude from Morris Brown College, Atlanta, GA, in 1983. He continued his education and was conferred the Master of Divinity degree from Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA, in 1986. He received his Master of Theology degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, in 1988, where his thesis was titled, "Suffering, Liberation and Violence: A Study of God's Presence in the History of Black America." Bishop Gregory V. Eason, Sr. received his Doctorate of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in May 2011. His project dissertation was titled, "Radical Hospitality, Re-envisioning a Downtown Historic Congregation."

Bishop Eason's denominational service in the A.M.E. Church includes: President, Connectional Council for the A.M.E. Church; Vice Chairperson, Trustee Board Atlanta North Georgia Annual Conference; Chairperson, Search Committee for President/Dean, Turner Theological Seminary, ITC; Chairperson, Georgia Annual Conference Board of Examiners; and Chairperson, Atlanta North Georgia Annual Conference Board of Examiners, where he was responsible for training new ministers for ordination in the A.M.E. Church. Bishop Eason currently serves as a board member of the World Methodist Evangelism Institute, and Dean of the Atlanta North Georgia Conference Board of Examiners.

Bishop Eason's pastoral ministry in the 6th Episcopal District started at Saint Mark, Wadley and Hickman Tabernacle in Augusta, GA. Bishop Eason also served as pastor of Saint James, Thomson; Saint James, Monticello; Saint Philip, Savannah; Flipper Temple, Atlanta; Big Bethel, Atlanta; Saint Paul, Atlanta, and Flipper Temple AME Church in Atlanta.

Bishop Eason serves on the board of several organizations and colleges including: The Regional Council of Churches of Atlanta; Morris Brown College Trustee Board, and the Trustee Board of Turner Theological Seminary and Interdenominational Theological Center.

He has contributed to several publications and productions. Among some of his writings and published works are, "Looking at AIDS Through the Eyes of God" (A.M.E. Church Review, 1990); "Dreams and Nightmares" (A.M.E. Church Review, 1995); Evidence of Transformative Ministry (A.M.E. Church Review, 2012); "A Small Boy with a Big Fish," an article in the African

American Study Bible, and a joint venture of The Congress of National Black Churches and Zondervan Publishing House. He has also served as a commentator for "This Far by Faith: African American Spiritual Journeys," a joint production of Blackside, Inc. and the Faith Project, which aired on PBS Television.

Bishop Eason has been bestowed many honors including being inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Board of Preachers at Morehouse College; a member of The International Society of Theta Phi, ITC; The Bishop Henry McNeal Turner Image Award for Outstanding Community Service, Turner Theological Seminary; and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Bishop Eason is the husband of Mrs. Linda Tyson Eason. They are the blessed parents of the late Carmen Jovonne Eason and Gregory V. Eason, Jr.