

Seventeenth Session of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference



Worship Service Programs

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister
Episcopal Supervisor

The Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn L. Denson
Host Presiding Elder,
Montgomery-Selma District

YPD CONFERENCE

CHOSEN, CALLED & READY

A Generation Walking in Purpose - Isaiah 6:8



17th Session of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference YPD

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Wilson Chapel Host Church -Revered Mia Cole – Host Pastor

Antioch A.M.E. Church- Host Church- Reverend Emma Francine Constance- Host Pastor

Spenser Chapel A.M.E.-Host Church-Reverend LaDarrell Thames– Host Pastor

Reverend Antonio Thomas- Host Presiding Elder

Reverend Julius McAllister, Jr. Presiding Prelate

17th Session of the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference

YPD Program

AGENDA

8:00 AM - 9:00AM Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM -Praise & Worship

Worship Through Dance – Total Praise Bethel AME Church

Opening Song-Choir and Congregation

Prayer- Angel Rivers -Antioch AME Church

Scripture Alexander Graham- St Thomas AME Church

Closing Song-Choir and Congregation

9:30 AM - 9:40 AM - Greetings

Host Pastor - Reverend Emma Francine Constant

Host WMS President- Raven Dodson

Host YPD Director- Coretta Leggett

Host YPD President - Haley Jones

Host Conference WMS President - Rose Mary Larmar

Host Conference YPD Director -Michele Wilson

Host Conference YPD President - Christian Jones

Host Presiding Elder- Reverend Antonio Thomas

Presiding Prelate. Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

9:45 AM-9:55- Monique Gonzalez Memorial Service-Carson Baker/Samuel Chapel AME

10:00AM Breakout Sessions:

Mother Sunbeams (2-6) Dorcas George

Allen Stars (7-12) Philonese Reed and Brandy Black

10:10 AM - 10:55 AM - Business Session:

Call to Order, Adoption of the Agenda-President Christian Jones

Rules of Order - Parliamentarian Elijah Washington

Roll Call

Reading of the Minutes Lyric Hetherington Secretary

Financial Report - Jada Hunt

Statistical Report

Registration Report

Credential Report

Nomination Report

10:45 AM Election of Delegates

10:55 AM 12 & under Reconvene to the General Body

11:00AM - 11:15 AM

Compassionate Care Project

Recognition of Self Denial Winner

Ethel Whittaker Christian Debutant and Master Cotillion

Southwest Alabama Lay Scholarship recipient

Summary of Workshops - Allen Stars

Order of Service

11:30 AM

Worship Leader Angel Rivers

Opening Hymn.....Choir and Congregation

Prayer.....Jakayla Taylor Episcopal Historiographer/Statistician

Scripture..... Mason Robinson Bethel AME Church

Selection..... YPD Conference Choir

Introduction of Speaker.....Morgan Peterson-Local YPD Director; Bethel AME Church
Past President-Bethel AME Church

Selection..... YPD Choir

Message..... Reverend Sabrina Wilson
Itinerate Elder
St. Phillips A.M.E. Church
Atlanta, Georgia

Invitation to Christian Discipleship..... Reverend Mia Cole
Pastor, Wilson Chapel A.M.E. Church
Grove Hill, Alabama

Offering

Closing Remarks.....SWAC YPD Director Michele Wilson
Episcopal YPD President Jamia Eaves
Episcopal YPD Director Debra Scott Weathespoon
Episcopal WMS President Sheryll Whiting
Episcopal Supervisor Deana Young McAllister
Presiding Prelate, Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr

Missionary Benediction

In the name of the Triune God,

May the spirit of Christian mission enter every heart

May the spirit of Christian mission enter every heart

This we ask in Jesus's name. Amen



ABOUT OUR SPEAKER.....

Reverend Sabrina Wilson

Sabrina Wilson Reverend Sabrina Wilson, native of Mobile, AL, is the daughter of Horatio and Michele Greene Wilson. She is a graduate of John L. LeFlore High School where her love for acting was ignited. She enrolled at the University of Montevallo where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Performing Arts. She moved to Atlanta to pursue an acting career and had the pleasure of performing in several stage plays and doing background work for comedian Rickey Smiley. Her acting career took a shift when she answered the call to preach. Her journey continued in Atlanta when she made Saint Philip A.M.E. Church her home and currently serves under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Anton G. Elwood, Sr.

She received her license to preach at Saint Philip while serving under the leadership of Reverend William D. Whatley. Reverend Wilson has been a part of the AME Church her entire life. From an early age she has been actively involved in the work of the church, serving in the YPD, youth ministries, choir, usher board, praise team, and as Sunday School superintendent at Bethel A.M.E Church in Mobile. These activities helped to develop her love for Christ and service. Reverend Wilson's commitment to ministry shines through her ongoing pursuit of personal growth and development.

She graduated with her Master of Divinity in the Fall of 2024 from Candler School of Theology. Reverend Wilson, since then, has obtained three Certificates of Advanced Professional Studies from Howard University School of Divinity in the Spring and Fall of 2025 in addition to the Spring of 2026. Outside of serving in her local church, Reverend Wilson passionately serves in outreach ministry with two local non-profit organizations providing resources and pastoral care to those in marginalized communities. Her hard work and aspiration to enact change in the lives of others can be seen in her work as the Operations Coordinator at Toco Hills Community Alliance and the administrator of The Conversation Atlanta. Reverend Wilson stands on the biblical principle of being the hands and feet of Jesus to one day hear the , “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.” (Matt 25:40)



Southwest Alabama Conference
Women's Missionary Society
17TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Night in White

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 • 6:00 P.M.

Theme:

“From the Well to a Witness: Come and See”

Biblical Foundation: John 4:29



HOST CHURCHES

Antioch AME Church, Gainestown, AL
Spencer Chapel AME Church, Fulton, AL
Wilson Chapel AME Church, Grove Hill, AL

HOST SITE

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
714 Savannah St • Mobile, Alabama 36603

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate
The Reverend Antonio Thomas, Host Presiding Elder, Camden District
The Reverend Charles Lewis, Presiding Elder, Mobile District
Sister Jessica Thomas, Camden District Consultant
The Reverend Dr. G. Dianne Lewis, Mobile District Consultant
The Reverends Emma F. Constant, LaDarrell Thames, & Mia Cole, Host Pastors
The Reverend Brandon Thornton, Host Site Pastor
Sister Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor
Sister Sherryl Whiting, Episcopal WMS President
Sister Debra Weatherspoon, Episcopal YPD Director
Sister Jamia Eaves, Episcopal YPD President
Sister Rosemary Lamar, Conference WMS President
Sister Michele Wilson, Conference YPD Director
Brother Christian Jones, Conference YPD President

Our Night in White Speaker

***Sis. Debra Scott Weatherspoon, Ninth
Episcopal District YPD Director
Samuel Chapel AME Church, Mobile***



Mrs. Debra Scott Weatherspoon is a woman of unwavering faith, an accomplished educator, a dedicated servant leader, and a passionate advocate for children and young people. Guided by her love for God and a genuine desire to serve others, she has devoted her life to making a difference through education, leadership, mentorship, and community service. Whether serving through her work, sorority, or community, she approaches every assignment with purpose, compassion, and a spirit of excellence.

She is the daughter of the late Leo Scott Jr. and Rev. Dr. Cleo Yates Scott. She has been married to Maurice Weatherspoon for 37 years, and they are the proud parents of three sons and blessed with seven grandchildren.

An educator for 24 years, Mrs. Weatherspoon has served as both a Reading Specialist and Mathematics Specialist and is currently pursuing Class A certification in Instructional Leadership. She earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Mobile, graduating cum laude. A lifelong learner, she holds certifications in reading and mathematics and is certified in the Science of Reading in Elementary and Early Childhood education. She is especially passionate about advocating for students with special needs and ensuring that every child receives the instruction, support, encouragement, and opportunities necessary to succeed. Her commitment to educational excellence has been recognized through honors including Robbins' Teacher of the Year and Metro Reading Council Reading Teacher of the Year. Her academic achievements include membership in Alpha Theta Chi Collegiate Honor Society and Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, as well as Dean's List honors. Each recognition reflects a journey grounded in lifelong learning and a sincere desire to positively impact students and educators.

A proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Mrs. Weatherspoon embraces its commitment to sisterhood, scholarship, leadership, and service to all mankind. Continuing her journey of community service, she has recently embarked upon a new opportunity as a Board Member of the newly formed Community Unity in Action Nonprofit Organization, where she looks forward to helping strengthen communities and uplift individuals and families.

Mrs. Weatherspoon is a faithful member of Samuel Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she has served as Steward and formerly a Pastor's Aide Board Member, President of the Mada Mixon Missionary Society, and Class Leader.

Her heart for young people is especially evident through her service to the Young People's and Children's Division (YPD) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. After serving as the Southwest Alabama Annual Conference YPD Director, she now serves as the Ninth Episcopal District YPD Director. She is committed to nurturing the spiritual growth of young people, developing future leaders, encouraging Christian service, and creating opportunities for youth to discover and use their God-given gifts.

Beyond her many responsibilities, Mrs. Weatherspoon enjoys traveling, family, and the peace found in quiet moments of reflection. Her life and service are guided by Colossians 3:23–24 (KJV) "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Mrs. Weatherspoon believes that leadership is more than a position. It is an opportunity to serve, inspire, empower, and leave a lasting impact. She continues to walk in faith and purpose, striving through every opportunity God provides to uplift others, empower the next generation, and glorify Him through a life of service.

The Conference WMS Worship Experience

*Sis. Kenesia T. Cade, Presiding
Southwest Alabama Conference 1st Vice President*

The Musical Prelude

Musicians

The Doxology

The Call to Worship **“From the Well to a Witness—Come and See”** Sis. Sharon Kennedy
Mt. Sinai AME Church, Lower Peachtree

Leader: Jesus met a Samaritan woman at the well and offered her living water.

People: Lord, meet us at the wells of our lives and fill us with Your living water.

Leader: Jesus saw her completely—her struggles, her disappointments, and her deepest needs—yet He spoke to her with truth, grace, and compassion.

People: Lord, thank You for knowing everything about us and loving us still.

Leader: She came to the well carrying an empty vessel, but she left with a heart overflowing with hope.

People: Fill us, Lord, until Your love overflows through our words, our service, and our witness.

Leader: She left her water jar behind and hurried into the city with a testimony.

People: Help us release everything that keeps us from answering Your call.

Leader: She did not allow her past to silence her voice.

People: Remind us that our stories can become testimonies of Your mercy and transforming power.

Leader: She declared, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?”

People: Give us the courage to invite others to come and see Jesus for themselves.

Leader: Because one woman was willing to speak, an entire community came to encounter Christ.

People: Use our voices to bring hope to our homes, churches, and communities.

Leader: As women called to missionary service, we accept the responsibility to pray, serve, teach, encourage, and proclaim the Gospel.

WMS: We will serve with willing hands, compassionate hearts, and faithful spirits.

Leader: Where there is hunger—

People: Send us to provide nourishment.

Leader: Where there is loneliness—

People: Send us to offer companionship.

Leader: Where there is injustice—

People: Send us to speak truth and seek what is right.

Leader: Where there is sorrow—

People: Send us to bring comfort and hope.

Leader: Where people do not know Christ—

People: Send us to share His love and invite them to come and see.

Leader: We have been refreshed by the living water.

People: Now we will become vessels through which that water flows.

Leader: We have encountered the Savior.

People: Now we will become His witnesses.

Leader: We have heard His call.

People: Now we will go and tell.

All: From the well to a witness, we rise with renewed faith and purpose. We will share what Christ has done, serve those in need, and invite the world to come and see. May our lives testify that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. Amen.

The Hymn of Praise *“Hymn #351: Just a Little Talk with Jesus”*

Sis. Veronica Robinson
Conference Worship Director

The Invocation

Sis. Ethel Whittaker
Antioch AME Church, Gainestown

The Prayer Response “Spirit of the Living God”

The Worship in Song

Samuel Chapel Mass Choir

The Scripture “John 4:29”

Life Member Sis. Annye DuBose Owens
Spencer Chapel AME Church, Fulton

The Welcome

Sis. Rosemary Lamar
Southwest Alabama Conference President

The Missionary Offering

Amount \$10

Area Chairpersons/Ushers

The New Members Pinning Ceremony

Supervisor Deana Y. McAllister
Episcopal President Sherryl S. Whiting
Conference President Sis. Rosemary Lamar
Conference 3rd Vice President Sis. Barbara Hartley

The Pinning Ceremony Hymn

Hymn ***“This is My Mission” (Tune: Blessed Assurance)***

1. *Blessed with His goodness, Blessed with His Love, Blessed with His Showers, that come from Above. Blessed with His sunshine, Blessed with His air, I'll go on helping everywhere.*
2. *God give the courage, Faith leads the way, Onward we travel happy today. Thinking of*

others, willing to share, Taking God's message, everywhere.

3. *Remembering others, when'ere I pray, Looking to Jesus, He is the way; Onward I travel, Him by my side I'll never falter, He is my guide.*

Chorus: This is my Mission, this is my prayer. Helping the needy, everywhere. This is my Mission, this is my prayer. Helping the needy, everywhere.

3rd Vice President: I, Sis. Barbara Hartley, Membership and Recruitment Chairperson of the Southwest Alabama Conference Branch, am happy to present for pinning and confirmation of our new members of the Women's Missionary Society.

Supervisor: Listen and heed the words of Jesus in John 15:16, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit; fruit that will last.

As Missionaries, you have been appointed:

- To witness to the unsaved
- To love the unloved
- To visit the sick and shut in
- To carry the good news to the imprisoned and outcast
- To fight for justice and equality in our communities
- To feed the hungry and house the homeless
- To practice love and reconciliation in a broken world.

Episcopal President: Be aware that each of you stands here as a sign of your solemn Commitment to be agents of God's mission and purpose through your life and service in the Women's Missionary Society.

Conference President: This ceremony symbolizes the crown that awaits you if you are willing to take up the cross by giving of yourselves in ways that exemplify the love of Jesus for the world.

Supervisor: Are you ready and willing to meet the hard challenges of Missionaries in a chaotic world?

Response by New Members: God being my helper, I am ready and willing.

Supervisor: May God empower and strengthen us all for the journey and may the spirit of Christian missions abide in every heart.

Presenting our Newest Missionaries

*Sis. Rosemary Westry
Sis. Vickie Ayler Williams*

The Presentation of the Messenger

Sis. Michele G. Wilson
Southwest Conference YPD Director
Bethel AME Church, Mobile

The Worship in Song

Samuel Chapel Mass Choir

The Message

Sis. Debra Weatherspoon
Ninth Episcopal District YPD Director
Samuel Chapel AME Church, Mobile

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Emma Francine Constant
Pastor Antioch AME Church, Gainestown

The Offering

Amount **\$25**

Sis. Theresa White, Conference Treasurer
Financial Officers

The Remarks

The Missionary Benediction: *“In the Name of the Triune God, may the spirit of Christian missions enter every heart, may the spirit of Christian missions enter every heart, this we ask in Jesus’ Name. Amen”*

Sermon Notes

Sermon Topic _____

Sermon Scripture_____

Sermon Notes

[illegible]

African Methodist Episcopal Church Ninth Episcopal District

SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Theme:

*"Impact: Transforming Lives, Strengthening Churches, and
Changing Communities John 15:8*

Quadrennial Theme:

The Work Is All Divine Romans 8:28



The Opening Worship Service and The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Ten thirty in the Morning

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate

**Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor
Host Churches**

Antioch AME Church, Reverend Emma F. Constant, Pastor

Spencer Chapel AME Church, Reverend LaDarrell Thames, Pastor

Wilson Chapel AME Church, Reverend Mia Cole, Pastor

Host Site Church

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

714 Savannah Street

Mobile, Alabama 36603

The Reverend Brandon Thornton, Host Site Pastor

The Reverend Antonio Thomas

Host Presiding Elder

Camden District

The Reverend Charles Lewis

Associate Host Presiding Elder

Mobile District

The Opening Worship Service

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

10:30 a.m.

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

THE MUSICAL PRELUDE

THE GREAT PROCESSIONAL

Hymn No. 52

"Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside:
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, Songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

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 LaDarrell Thames

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

The Reverend Emma F. Constant

Hymn No. 304 [Tune: ST. THOMAS SM]

"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,
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

The Reverend Mia Cole

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

Choir and Congregation

"Thank You Lord"

Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord,
I just want to thank you Lord!

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

The Conference Choir

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES
Psalms 121

The Reverend Rosalind Amos

THE EPISTLE
I Corinthians 3:5-11

The Reverend Grandville Anderson

THE GOSPEL (All Standing)
Luke 10:1-2, 17-20

The Reverend Cleitis Walker

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 Ivory James

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 MISSION OFFERING

The Reverend Dr. G. Dianne Lewis

THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC

The Conference Choir

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 Leo Taylor

Hymn No. 272
"Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior"

Pass me not O gentle Savior
Here my humble cry
While on others thou art calling
Do not pass Me by

Refrain
Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Let me at a throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief,
Kneeling there in deep contrition;
Help my unbelief
Refrain

Trusting only in Thy merit,
Would I seek Thy face;
Hear my wounded, broken spirit
Save me by Thy grace.
Refrain

Thou, the Spring of all my comfort,
More than life to me;
Whom have I on earth beside Thee?
Whom in heav'n but Thee
Refrain

THE ANNUAL SERMON

Reverend Benjamin Lightner
*Pastor, St. John AME Church
Kushla, Alabama*

THE INVITATION TO RECEIVE CHRIST

The Reverend Brandon Thornton

“Let the Church Say, Amen”

Let the church say, Amen. Let the church say, Amen.
God has spoken, so let the church say, Amen.

THE WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

The Stewardship Committee

THE RESPONSE

“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 Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
Chief Celebrant*

The Solicitation

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 the 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 people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word and deed against Your Divine Majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Your tender mercy did give Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made thereby His oblation of Himself, once offered, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in His holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that His precious death until His coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech You, and grant that we, receiving these Your creatures of bread and wine, according to Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; Who in the same night that He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, Take, eat, this is My body which is broken for you. 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 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Reverend LaDarrell Thames

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Reverend Twilla Burns

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 BENEDICTION

Reverend Lightner

***THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT***

***Seventeenth Session of the
Southwest Alabama Annual Conference***

***Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church,
714 Savannah St Mobile, Alabama 36603***

Sons of Allen Worship Service

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.



Brother Terry L. Jones Sr., Southwest Alabama Annual Conference Sons of Allen
President/Coordinator

Reverend LaDarrell Thames, Camden District Coordinator,

Reverend Keith Robinson, Mobile District Coordinator,

Reverend Brandon Thornton, Bethel AME Church, Host Pastor

Reverend Antonio Thomas, Host Presiding Elder, Camden District

Reverend Charles Lewis, Associate Presiding Elder, Mobile District

***Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate, 9th Episcopal District***

Order of Worship

The Worship Leader

Bro. Leon Turner

THE DOXOLOGY

Hymn No. 647

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brother Keith McCrae

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Our feet have been standing in your gates, O Jerusalem!

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

Leader: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

People: They are planted in the house of the Lord, They flourish in the courts of our God.

Leader: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.

People: But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock 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!

OPENING HYMN

Hymn No. 283

"I Am Thine, O Lord"

THE INVOCATION

Brother Rondell Rhone

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

"He is Lord"

THE SCRIPTURE

Reverend Grandville Anderson

THE SELECTION

Southwest Alabama Conference SOA Choir

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP **Reverend LaDarrell Thames**

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP **Reverend LaDarrell Thames**

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER
Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate, 9th Episcopal District

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER
Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate, 9th Episcopal District

THE SERMONIC SELECTION Southwest Conference SOA Choir

THE SERMONIC SELECTION Southwest Conference SOA Choir

THE MESSAGE Presiding Elder Antonio Thomas

THE MESSAGE Presiding Elder Antonio Thomas

THE INVITATION **Reverend Leo Taylor**

THE INVITATION **Reverend Leo Taylor**

THE HYMN OF INVITATION Hymn No. 272
“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”

THE HYMN OF INVITATION Hymn No. 272
“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”

THE OFFERING Conference Finance Committee

THE OFFERING Conference Finance Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE REMARKS

Brother. Terry L. Jones Sr.
Co-Coordinator Sons of Allen, 9th Episcopal District

Brother Robert Turner
Co-Coordinator Sons of Allen, 9th Episcopal District

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.
Presiding Prelate, 9th Episcopal District

THE REMARKS

Brother. Terry L. Jones Sr.
Co-Coordinator Sons of Allen, 9th Episcopal District

Brother Robert Turner
Co-Coordinator Sons of Allen, 9th Episcopal District

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THE BENEDICTION **Presiding Elder Antonio Thomas**

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African Methodist Episcopal Church Ninth Episcopal District

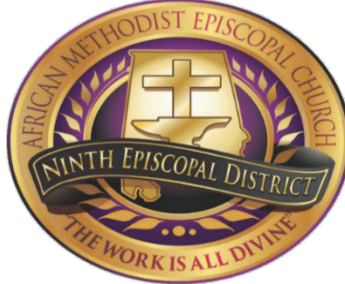
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Theme:

*"Impact: Transforming Lives, Strengthening Churches, and Changing
Communities" John 15:8*

Quadrennial Theme:

The Work Is All Divine Romans 8:28



The Mid-Day Worship Service ***Women In Ministry ~ Hour of Power*** ***Thursday, October 22, 2026*** ***Noon***

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor

Host Churches

Antioch AME Church, Reverend Emma F. Constant, Pastor
Spencer Chapel AME Church, Reverend LaDarrell Thames, Pastor
Wilson Chapel AME Church, Reverend Mia Cole, Pastor

Host Site Church

Bethel African Methodist Church
714 Savannah Street
Mobile, Alabama 36603
The Reverend Brandon Thornton, Host Site Pastor

The Reverend Antonio Thomas
Host Presiding Elder
Camden District

The Reverend Charles Lewis
Associate Host Presiding Elder
Mobile District

The Mid-Day Worship Service

Women In Ministry ~ Hour of Power

Thursday, October 22, 2026

12:00 p.m.

The Reverend Kimberly Martin, Worship Leader

The Musical Prelude

The Doxology

The Call to Worship

The Reverend Donna James

- Leader:** I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"
Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!
- People:** For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather
be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
- Leader:** For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.
- People:** They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.
- Leader:** O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.
- People:** But the Lord is in His Holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.
- Leader:** Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your
sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer.
- All:** O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.
I will sing of loyalty and justice to you, Oh Lord, I will sing.

The Hymn of Praise

The Reverend Twilla Burns

**Women in Ministry Choir
and Congregation**

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 God's unchanging hand;
Hold 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.
Refrain

Covet not this world's vain riches,
That so rapidly decay;
Seek to gain the heavenly treasures:
They will never pass away.
Refrain

When your journey is completed,
If to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in glory
Your enraptured soul will view.
Refrain

The Invocation

The Reverend Emma F. Constant

The Choral Response

**Women in Ministry Choir
and Congregation**

"Somebody Prayed for Me"

Somebody prayed for me, had me on their mind, took the time to pray for me.
I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed,
I'm so glad they prayed for me.

The Scripture Reading

The Reverend Mia Cole

The Worship Through Music

Women in Ministry Choir

The Presentation of the Bishop

The Reverend Samantha Lightner

The Presentation of the Preacher

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

The Sermonic Hymn

The Reverend Lela

Tunstall

Hymn No. 378

**I Am Weak, and I Need Thy Strength
(Lead Me, Guide Me)**

I am weak and, I need Thy strength and power To help me
Over my weakest hour; Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain

*Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray; Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
Refrain

I am lost, if you take your hand from me;
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
Refrain

The Sermon

The Reverend Donna James
Saint James African Methodist
Episcopal Church
Prichard, Alabama

**The Invitation
to Christian Discipleship**

The Reverend Dr. G. Dianne Lewis

“I Surrender All”

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.

Remarks

The Reverend Monique Summers
Ninth Episcopal District President,
Women in Ministry

Remarks from the Bishop

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Jr.

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 Announcements

The Reverend Mia Cole

The Benediction

Reverend James

THE 17th SESSION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026
6:00 PM

CONNECTIONAL LAY THEME:
Reviving the Connection:
Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask or Think
Ephesians 3:20-21

CONFERENCE LAY THEME
“Can YOU do your part?”
1 Corinthians 3:6



BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH
714 SAVANNAH STREET
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36603

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor
The Reverend Antonio Thomas, Host Presiding Elder
The Reverend Charles A. Lewis, Associate Presiding Elder
The Reverend Brandon Thornton, Bethel A.M.E. Church, Host Pastor
The Reverend Emma F. Constant, Antioch A.M.E. Church, Host Pastor
The Reverend LaDarrell Thames, Spencer Chapel A.M.E. Church, Host Pastor
The Reverend Mia Cole, Wilson Chapel A.M.E. Church, Host Pastor
Mr. Robert L. Turner, 9th District Lay President
Mrs. Betty W. Davis, Southwest Conference Lay President

YGLESIAS BUSH HOLLINS



Yglesias Hollins began her journey of faith through African Methodism at a young age at Metropolitan AME Church. She is currently a devoted member of St. Philip AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia, where she serves as Vice President of her Local Lay Organization. Her longstanding commitment includes previous roles as President, Secretary, and Director of Public Relations. She also serves on the Trustee Board. In 2021, she was instrumental in launching St. Philip's inaugural Juneteenth celebration and assists with Social Action Committee initiatives focused on amplifying Black voter engagement.

At the presiding elder district level, Yglesias is the Financial Secretary of the Atlanta East District Lay Organization, having formerly served as Treasurer. She is deeply committed to fiscal transparency, regularly delivering quarterly financial updates to ensure the organization's programs are well-funded and sustainable.

Her leadership extends to the Conference, Episcopal and Connectional levels, where she has chaired the Atlanta-North Georgia Conference Layperson of the Year Banquet, served as Co-Chair of the Connectional Lay Organization's Scholarship Banquet, and led the Sponsorship Committee for the Sixth Episcopal District's hosting of the 39th Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization in July 2025.

Professionally, Yglesias is Director of Community Development at The Coca-Cola Company and Program Director for The Coca-Cola Foundation. In these roles, she oversees grant-making and compliance, cultivates strategic partnerships across Atlanta, and manages the Employee Disaster Relief Fund, and Coca-Cola Employee Matching Gifts Program. With 28 years at The Coca-Cola Company, she has been a cornerstone of the Global Community Affairs team, consistently taking on roles of increasing responsibility and impact.

Her civic engagement includes board service with Communities in Schools of Atlanta, where she is the immediate past board chair and contributes to both the Program and Resource Development Committees. Under her leadership, the organization exceeded its fundraising goals. She also serves on the board of Veritas School of Social Sciences and was the 2023 Honorary Chair of the Women With Heart Luncheon, supporting heart disease awareness and the Scholarship Fund at Morehouse School of Medicine. Additionally, she supports ALS patients and families through her work on the fundraising committee of The Goode Foundation.

In recognition of her contributions, she has been recognized with the Coca-Cola Woman of Achievement Award; the Saint Philip, Atlanta East District and Atlanta-North Georgia Conference Layperson of the Year Award; Veritas School of Social Sciences Rodney Bullard Hero Award; Atlanta Business League Woman of Influence (2023 & 2024); Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta Changing the World Award, and the Saint Philip Distinguished Service Award.

She holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Alabama and is the proud mother of two adult daughters.

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

BRO. TERRY L. JONES, SR., WORSHIP LEADER

The Processional

The Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

The Call to Worship

Sis. Theresa White

Leader: I was glad when they said to 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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

Bro. Rhondel Rhone

The Laymen's Song

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

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

As we walk this Christian journey, let us keep our armor bright.
Let our words 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 Invocation

Bro. James Rivers

The Choral Response

“Thank You, Lord”

Congregation &
Southwest Conference Choir

The Scripture

Ephesians 3:20-21 & I Corinthians 3:6

Sis. Vanessa Taylor

The Preface to the Decalogue

Hymn #69

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

The Summary of the Decalogue

Sis. Sharon Kennedy

The Worship through Music

Southwest Conference Choir

The Litany

Written by CLO DOLA Patricia H. Wright, 11/2025

Sis. Charlotte Craig

Leader: We are Reviving the Connection of Faith. We celebrate what is visible today, and we acknowledge that there are innovations, opportunities, and blessings awaiting us in the future with possibilities so vast that they are beyond our current imagination.

People: Exceedingly, abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.

Leader: We are Reviving the Connection of Gratitude. We are grateful to a God who blesses us not just with sufficiency, but with abundance – providing far more than we dare to ask, hope, or dream. This spirit of thankfulness fuels our optimism and unites us in grace.

People: Exceedingly, abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.

Leader: We are Reviving the Connection of Blessings. The advancement of science over the last century has eclipsed what our ancestors ever dared to dream. And much the same way, Lord, your blessings and the potential of them abound beyond our wildest expectations and imagination.

People: Exceedingly, abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.

Leader: We are Reviving the Connection of our Ancestors. Generation after generation we continue to witness the evidence of grace and favor, a testament to God’s enduring power which transcend both time and space.

People: Exceedingly, abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.

ALL: We are Reviving the Connection! Standing hand in hand, on one accord, searching God’s Word, seeking God’s will and serving God’s people, surrounded by God’s love whose plans for us are Exceedingly, Abundantly Above ALL That We Can Ask or Think.

The Memorial	Sis. Cassandra Hughley
The Introduction of the Challenger	Sis. Mary Morton Millsap
The Worship through Music	Southwest Conference Choir

The Challenger
Sis. Yglesias Bush Hollins
6th Episcopal District

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship	Rev. Charlotte Greene
The Invitational Hymn	Congregation & Southwest Conference Choir
The Financial Appeal	The Stewardship Team
The Acknowledgement of Visitors/Announcements	Sis. Kimberlye Simmons Scott
The Presentation of Awards	Sis. Betty W. Davis
The Remarks	Sis. Brenda Hunter Bro. Robert L. Turner Supervisor Deana Young McAllister Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr.

The Affirmation of 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 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 Ghost, the church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

The Doxology	“Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow”
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The Lay Benediction

“May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity, that we may live together
not as man over man, but as Lay persons working with God.”

THE SOUTHWEST ALABAMA CONFERENCE LAY HISTORY
(Formerly, The Central Alabama Conference Lay Organization)

“As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” John 9:4

The Central Alabama Conference Lay Organization was organized in 1960 at Quinn Chapel AME Church in Uniontown, Alabama. It was renamed the Southwest Alabama Conference during the Episcopal District Planning Meeting in 2009 due to realignment, with two districts: the Camden and Mobile Districts.

The first elected president was Brother James F. Kidd, a teacher and farmer from Lower Peach Tree, Alabama, and a professor of social science at Daniel Payne College in Birmingham, Alabama. Professor Kidd served as president from 1960 to 1977. He also served as treasurer of the 9th Episcopal District Lay Organization.

Noted members serving alongside President Kidd included Brothers Solomon Parker, David Jackson, Jessie L. Dennis, Thomas E. Greene, Andrew M. Hayden, E. Hardaway, and Sisters Lynda Malone, Mary F. Carroll, and Ruby Edwards.

Brother Andrew M. Hayden, the second conference president, served from 1978 to 1987. In 1968, he was the first African-American elected to the City Council of Uniontown, Alabama, and in 1972, he was elected mayor of Uniontown, serving for 24 years. He also served two terms in the state legislature representing House District 72.

To make the work more effective and because of the long distance traveled across this vast conference, it had to be divided into areas. The area officers were: Sister Hattie Dillard, Selma Area President; Brother Rhondell Rhone, Grove Hill Area President; Brother James C. Lucas, Mobile Area President.

Brother Thomas Green was elected conference president from 1987 to 1991. He was elevated to the episcopal presidency in 1991 and faithfully served until 1999. Brother Greene also held positions at the connectional level as Second and First Vice President.

As the organization grew, other laypersons became actively involved in the organized lay organization, driven by a thirst for knowledge about the African Methodist Episcopal Church. These included Brothers Cleveland Stokes, Rhondell Rhone, James Lucas, Hezekiah Days, J.H. Williams, Sisters Willie A.J. Brown, Mary Stewart, Ruby Edwards, Birdia Pritchett, Hattie Dillard, Mary Turner, Sandra Kennedy, Clara Russell, Amanda McCants, and Odessa Chatman.

Others who served as president included Brothers Rondell Rhone, Cleve Stokes, Gary Hart, and Sister Betty W. Davis. District Presidents were Sisters Sandra Kennedy-Owes and Kenecia Cade, Brothers Cleve Stokes, Gary Hart, and Terry Jones, Sr.

The Southwest Alabama Lay Organization has a long history of positively impacting the African Methodist Episcopal Church and its community. We continue to thrive thanks to the dedication and commitment of laypersons who tirelessly work to boost participation in church programs through teaching, training, and preparing the next generation for greater service.

“The HISTORY of The African Methodist Episcopal Church in Alabama”, Birmingham, AL: Banner Press, 2000

APPLICATION OF THE CHALLENGE

HEARING GOD'S WORD IN THE CHALLENGE

SCRIPTURE: _____

TITLE: _____

POINTS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



African Methodist Episcopal Church Ninth Episcopal District

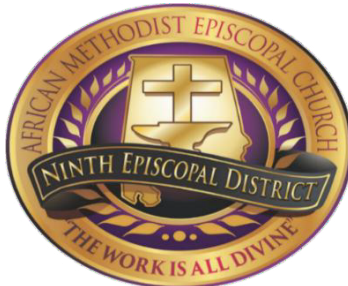
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE SOUTHWEST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Annual Conference Theme:

*"Impact: Transforming Lives, Strengthening Churches, and
Changing Communities" John 15:8*

Quadrennial Theme:

The Work Is All Divine Romans 8:28



The Closing Worship Service

Friday, October 23, 2026

Two o'clock in the Afternoon

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate

Mrs. Deana Young McAllister, Episcopal Supervisor

Host Churches

Antioch AME Church, Reverend Emma F. Constant, Pastor

Spencer Chapel AME Church, Reverend LaDarrell Thames, Pastor

Wilson Chapel AME Church, Reverend Mia Cole, Pastor

Host Site Church

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

714 Savannah Street

Mobile, Alabama 36603

The Reverend Brandon Thornton, Host Site Pastor

The Reverend Antonio Thomas

Host Presiding Elder

Camden District

The Reverend Charles Lewis

Associate Host Presiding Elder

Mobile District

The Closing Worship Service

Friday, October 23, 2026

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 Vernon McLeod

- 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 Kimberly Martin

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 INVOCATION

The Reverend John Dees, Jr.

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 111

The Reverend Samantha Lightner

THE EPISTLE
Ephesians 5:15-20

The Reverend James Allen

THE GOSPEL (All Standing)
Luke 10:1-7

The Reverend Donna James

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 Gladys Figures

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 Willie Burns

"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 BISHOP SPEAKS

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

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER

Brother Robert Turner

THE SERMONIC HYMN

The Reverend Dr. Melvin Hitchens

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

Reverend Dr. Robert Turner
Pastor, Empowerment Temple
African Methodist
Episcopal Church
Baltimore, Maryland

THE INVITATION TO RECEIVE CHRIST

The Reverend Keith Robinson

"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

Reverend Dr. Turner

Reverend Dr. Robert Turner
Pastor, Empowerment African
Methodist Episcopal Church
Baltimore, Maryland



Rev. Dr. Robert Richard Allen Turner is an ordained clergyman in the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, author, community leader, and nationally recognized advocate for justice, reparations, and prophetic civic engagement. His work brings together faith-based leadership, academic excellence, public service, and grassroots activism.

A cum laude graduate of the University of Alabama Honors Program, Dr. Turner earned a degree in Political Science with a minor in Spanish. He became the first Black Chief of Staff of the University of Alabama Student Government Association and was named the university's 2004 Most Outstanding Male Student. He later earned a Master of Divinity from Turner Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. His doctoral dissertation introduced the term "Prophetic Civic Engagement," identifying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a model of faith-driven civic leadership.

Dr. Turner has pastored A.M.E. congregations in Alabama, Oklahoma, and Maryland. As pastor of Vernon A.M.E. Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he became a prominent advocate for justice surrounding the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, including efforts to excavate suspected gravesites and pursue healing and closure for descendants of the victims. He also championed the historic Greenwood District, once known as Black Wall Street. During his tenure, Vernon A.M.E. Church experienced significant membership growth, restoration of areas and artifacts damaged during the massacre, the creation of a Prayer Wall, and expanded community outreach, including feeding hundreds of people in need.

Since September 2022, Dr. Turner has served as pastor of Empowerment Temple A.M.E. Church in Baltimore, Maryland, where he has continued to grow the congregation and mobilize members through ministries focused on children and youth, daily feeding and clothing, social action, education, and health.

Dr. Turner is the author of *Creating a Culture of Repair*, a groundbreaking work described as the longest list of reparatory ideas in the world. The book was nominated for a Foreword INDIES Award and accepted by the United Nations Office of Human Rights. His missionary ministry has taken him throughout the United States and abroad, including service and research in Kenya and Egypt, with additional missionary and research work in Cuba.

Born July 29, 1982, in Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, to Robert Lewis Turner and Ruth Birdsong Turner. Dr. Turner is married to Shere Gandy Turner. They have two sons, Robert Richard Allen Turner II and Malcolm Robert Martin Turner. A lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., he enjoys spending time with the Lord, reading, fellowship, exercise, and time with family and friends.

Rev. Dr. Robert Richard Allen Turner continues to use his pulpit, scholarship, and public platform to advance justice, reparations, community empowerment, and a prophetic vision for civic engagement. He is the recipient of numerous honors recognizing his contributions to ministry, academics, and community leadership.