

ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOURTH SESSION THE WEST TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thursday, 4 October 2018

OPENING WORSHIP

Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch
Worship Leader

The Prelude

The Procession *Come, We That Love the Lord* Hymn No. 520

Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known, Join in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet accord, And thus surround the throne, And thus surround the throne.

REFRAIN

We are marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful, Zion; We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God; But children of the heavenly King, But children of the heavenly King, May speak their joys abroad, May speak their joys abroad.

The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets Before we reach the heavenly fields, Before we reach the heavenly fields, Or walk the golden streets, Or walk the golden streets.

Then let our songs abound, And every tear be dry; We're marching through Immanuel's ground, We're marching through Immanuel's ground, To fairer worlds on high, To fairer worlds on high.

The Doxology

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

The Call to Worship

The Reverend Walter R. Henry

Leader: 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.

Leader: We come to give an account of our discipleship. We praise God for a testimony of faithful service.

People: We visited the sick. We were present with those who mourned. We celebrated with those who rejoiced.

Leader: We heard the cry of the poor and the oppressed. We ministered with benevolence as we called for justice.

People: We praise God as we come to another Annual Conference. We seek justice at our door and around the world. We thank God for our service and our deliverance.

ALL: Let's sing, shout and dance before God. Let's pray, listen and be inspired. Praise God who does not use race, class and gender as markers for oppression. Praise God who calls us to live justly, love kindness and walk in humility. Praise the Lord!

The Hymn of Praise

The Reverend Dr. Errol Thomas
And Are We Yet Alive Hymn No. 304

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 Garry Fair

Almighty and Eternal God, Our Creator! We invite your presence into this Annual Conference. Remind us of our purpose in you. Help us to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Draw us close to you through our personal devotion. Expand our fellowship as we tell the love of Jesus. Give us wisdom and courage to stand for justice and truth.

Anoint us with Your Holy Spirit! Illumine the path of holiness. Make us mindful of those who are suffering loss. Give us hope as we receive your grace and mercy. All honor and glory belong to you. Amen.

The Choral Response

I Need Thee Every Hour (chorus)

I need Thee, O I need Thee, Every hour I need Thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee! (repeat once) Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

The Reverend Dr. Dave L. Adams, Sr.

The New Testament Reading

The Reverend Dr. Janie Dowdy-Dandridge

The Introit

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. (repeat) He has done great things, He has done great things, He has done great things, bless His holy name.

The Decalogue

The Reverend Darrell K. Scott

(An Affirmation of God's Law)

Leader: Let us express our commitment to keep God's law.

People: **God of our salvation, only You are God. We will make no idols.**

We will not invoke with malice your name, O God.

We will remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

We will honor our father and our mother. We will not commit murder.

**We will not commit adultery. We will not steal. We will not be a false witness.
We will not covet anything that belongs to our neighbor.**

Leader: Jesus said: "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."

People: **Jesus also challenged us with a second commandment which is like the first: We shall love our neighbor as ourselves! 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. Amen.

The Selection

Conference Choir

The Prayer

The Reverend Kirk Ridley

The Presentation of the Bishop

Presiding Elder Linda Thomas-Martin

The Presentation of the Preacher

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath

The Sermonic Selection

Conference Choir

The Annual Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Byron C. Moore

The Invitation to Accept Christ

The Reverend George Turks, Jr.

The Announcements

The Benediction

The Reverend Jerry Epperson

The Recession

THE OPENING OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS – ROLL CALL