



13TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY

2020 Annual Conference

Old Landmarks -UNCHARTED TIMES

*So that this may be a sign among you. When your children
ask in time to come, "What do those stones mean to you?"*
Joshua 4:6

146th Session of the
West Tennessee Annual Conference
Opening Worship

October 9, 2020
7:00 pm

Jeffrey N. Leath
Presiding Bishop

Susan J. Leath, MD
Supervisor, Women's Missionary Society

The Reverend C. Robert Finch
Associate Presiding Elder, North Memphis District

The Reverend Dr. Dave L. Adams, Sr.
Associate Presiding Elder, Paris Jackson District

The Reverend Linda F. Thomas - Martin
Associate Presiding Elder, South Memphis District

The Reverend Colleen P. Gibson
Associate Presiding Elder, Millington District

St. John AME Church, Memphis
Host Church

The Reverend Errol M. Thomas, Jr., M.D.
Host Pastor



146th SESSION
THE WEST TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Friday, 9 October 2020

OPENING WORSHIP

Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch
Worship Leader

The Greeting

Host Presiding Elder Finch

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

Dr. Errol Thomas & Sis. Carolyn Strickland

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.

Response: 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.

Response: 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.

Response: 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: Praise God for old landmarks in these uncharted times. May we be empowered to cry for justice; fearless to serve in crisis; motivated to vote as moral citizens; and respectful of God's creation and creatures. Praise the Lord!

The Hymn of Praise 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 Rev. Sabrina Transou

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 Old Testament Reading

Sister Lovie Jacocks

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision

for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

The New Testament Reading

Sister Adria Richardson

Romans 8:22-28

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

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 Revs. David & Joy W. Yancy

(An Affirmation of God's Law)

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

Response: **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

Wilson Chapel Praise Ensemble
Heal the Land

The Prayer

The Reverend Dr. Janie Dowdy-Dandridge

The Sermonic Selection

Wilson Chapel Praise Ensemble
Order My Steps

The Annual Sermon

The Reverend Garry L. Fair

The Invitation to Discipleship

The Announcements & The Bishop's Word

The Benediction

The Annual Conference Preacher



The Reverend Garry Fair

Wilson Chapel AME Church
Memphis, Tennessee

The Reverend Garry Lewis Fair is the pastor of Wilson Chapel AME Church in Memphis. He graduated from Lambuth University and UT Memphis College of Allied Health Physical Therapy Program. He received many collegiate and community awards. He did graduate studies at the University of Memphis in

Healthcare Administration and later worked toward his MDiv degree at Memphis Theological Seminary.

Prior to accepting his call to ministry, he was actively involved in the community with the National Civil Rights Museum, Big Brothers of Memphis, minority recruitment committees with UT Memphis Physical Therapy Program and the Shelby State PTA program. He is a noted singer and has sung with several community music groups. He has been employed as a Homecare Physical therapy Supervisor for over 35 years with several agencies in the Nashville, Jackson, and Memphis communities.

He is married to his soulmate and partner in ministry Rev. Angela Ward Fair. They have 33 years in ministry together serving as pastors, class leaders, Stewards, teachers, and ministry leaders in several churches. They have 2 wonderful adult children and are expecting their first grandchild soon. They love to travel and have led a tour group to the Holy Land and traveled extensively worldwide. Together, they have also pastored Mt. Zion, White's Chapel, Greenwood and Spring Chapel AME Churches in the West Tennessee Annual Conference.

His favorite scripture is Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His Purpose."



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