

**Southeastern Jurisdiction
Black Methodists for Church Renewal
52nd Annual Meeting**

Memorial Service

**“What’s Going On?”
Charting the Course Through Treacherous Waters**

Oct. 28, 2021

Angella Current Felder, Liturgist

Opening Hymn

“For All The Saints” (first stanza) William W. How, 1864 (words) Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 (music)

For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus be forever blest. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer

Angella Current Felder

When our hearts are overwhelmed, God, lead us to the Rock that is higher – higher than our circumstances, higher than our grief, strong enough to bear our heavy burdens, small enough to be touched and held in our moment of great need.

God, we assemble here in your presence to declare that even in the midst of our great sorrow, you are comforting us, loving us, holding us through this difficult time. You are here speaking to us, your word of hope that assures us a day is coming when death shall be no more.

We gather to honor and to celebrate the legacies of your servants by lifting them up and lighting a candle in their memory.

Celebration of Legacies

Speakers Rev. Dr. Bryon Thomas, lifting up **Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery**
Ms. Mollie Stewart, lifting up **Rev. Gilbert Caldwell**
Rev. Dr. Reginald Lee lifting up **Rev. Dr. William “Bobby” McClain**
Rev. Dr. Sheila Peters, lifting up **Rev. Dr. Elijah McGee**
Rev. Dr. Michael Bowie, lifting up **Rev. Dr. Junius Dotson**
Rev. Dr. Zach Beasley, lifting up **Mrs. Thelma Palmer-Barnes**
Mrs. Josefa Bethea Wall, lifting up **Mr. Wiley Neal & Mr. Cantrell Morten**

The Hon. John Lewis, Rev. C. T. Vivian and others may be lifted from the congregation.

Closing Prayer *

Angella Current Felder

Pour out your Spirit, even now. Minister to your people in this hour. In every hand and heart, reign God. Let your healing waters flow; let your mercy abound here. Take our tears and multiply our joy. Take our silence and magnify your Word in us. We find rest in you, hope in you, and a reason to live in you.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God Perfect in every way, we pray. Amen.

* "Lead Us to the Rock," by Rev. Dr. Stacey Cole Wilson, The Africana Worship Book: Year A, 2006, Discipleship Resources.

Closing Hymn

"For All The Saints" (fourth stanza) William W. How, 1864 (words) Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 (music)

O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gone, But Not Forgotten

Remembering Black UMC leaders among us who have finished their course and joined the Church Triumphant:

Ministers

Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery (1921-2020)

Rev. Gilbert Caldwell (1933-2020)

Rev. Dr. William "Bobby" McClain (1938-2020)

Rev. Dr. Elijah McGee (1948-2020)

Rev. Dr. Junius Dotson (1966-2021)

Laity

Mrs. Thelma Palmer-Barnes (1925-2019)

Mr. Wiley Neal

Mr. Cantrell Morten

We Also Remember

The Hon. John Lewis (1940-2020)

Rev. C.T. Vivian (1924-2020)

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

– 2 Timothy 4:7

Rev. Dr. Lowery, Rep. Lewis and Rev. Vivian were recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, bestowed by President Barack Obama.