Day of Remembrance and Lament
October 15, 2019

Marking 400 Years Since Enslaved Africans Were Brought to These Shores

Gladiolus, flower of remembrance
Black-Eyed Susan, flower of justice
Bittersweet, flower of truth
Day of Remembrance and Lament  
October 15, 2019

8:30 a.m. Plenary – Ending Racism: Confronting our Past – Legacies of Slavery

Opening Devotions: Rev. Dr. Teresa (Terri) Hord Owens  
General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Keynote Address: Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson  
Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, New York  
Chairman, Conference of National Black Churches

10:30 a.m. – Service and Ceremony at Continental Park  
Ft. Monroe (Hampton), VA

Order of Service at the Gazebo

Procession Dr. Melanie Hill – Violinist  
Post-Doctoral Fellow, African American Literature  
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Call to Worship Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate  
Mid Atlantic Episcopal District, AME Zion Church  
Chair of the Board, National Council of Churches

Opening Sentences Rev. Dr. Brenda Girton-Mitchell  
Minister of Stewardship, Metropolitan Baptist Church  
Co-Chair ACT Now Advisory Committee

Leader: Today we gather to remember and lament a tragic past, to revisit the present and the work it brings – for some repentance, for all healing. We gather to celebrate resilience and to name with anticipation God’s preferred future.

Response: Hear us, O God.

Leader: Hear us this day and inspire us to action.

Response: AMEN!

Invocation Mr. Jordan Tune  
Morehouse Class of 2022, Community Service Chair

Statement of Occasion Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr., Senior Bishop  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Welcome Dr. Jim Winkler  
General Secretary/President, National Council of Churches
Greetings
Mayor Donnie Tuck, Hampton, Virginia
Senator Lionell Spruill, Sr., 5th District Virginia Senate
Kim Bobo, Executive Director, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

Sacred Music
Dr. Melanie Hill, Violinist

Introductions
Nicholas Anton, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Co-Chair ACT Now Advisory Committee

Speakers
Dr. Agnes Abuom, Moderator, World Council of Churches
Dr. Ruby Sales, Civil Rights Activist, Founder of Spirit House Project

Leader: In early 1619, on the Western Coast of Africa, there was abundant joy and life.

All: We remember.

Leader: Can you hear the laughter of the children? Do you see the youth stepping and dancing? Do you hear the drumming?

All: We remember.

Leader: From 1501-1867, more than 12.5 million African citizens were captured, sold, transported to the Americas and enslaved.

All: We remember.

Leader: Let us go to the place where the first more than 20 beloved children of God were brought ashore.

Procession to Historical Marker, led by 21 persons carrying gladiolus, flowers of remembrance.

Order of Service at the Marker
(Speakers listed on Participants Page.)

Leader: In the summer of 1619, after the war of resistance in Angola, 350 imprisoned Angolans were put on a ship called the San Juan Bautista, bound for Vera Cruz, Mexico. Their spiritual resilience kept some of them alive despite horrific torture while others perished.

All: We remember.

Leader: While at sea, two English ship privateers, the White Lion and the Treasurer, attacked the San Juan Bautista and robbed 50-60 enslaved Angolans from the ship. They then sailed to Virginia where the White Lion arrived at Point Comfort, Virginia, in August. John Rolfe, a prominent planter and merchant (and formerly the husband of Pocahontas), reported that '20 and odd Negroes' were 'bought for victuals.'

All: We remember.

1 Adapted from “Lament and Hope” A Pan-African Devotional Guide Commemorating the 2019 Quad-Centennial. Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, editor. (source https://historicjamestowne.org/history/the-first-africans/) . P. 4
Leader: The majority of the Angolans were acquired by wealthy English planters. The Africans were sold into bondage though Virginia had no clear-cut laws sanctioning slavery until 1705. From 1619 to 1705, the records show that Africans fought and resisted enslavement primarily through the courts.

All: We remember.

Leader: Today we remember more than 20 African persons, each a child of God, whose spirits still live on.

All: Ashe²

Twenty-one flowers of remembrance are laid at the marker. With each one, the leader says, “A child of God.” The people respond, “Ashe.”

Sacred Music Dr. Melanie Hill

Leader: O God of creation, we look out over these troubled waters where the trade of human beings made in your image perpetuated 400 years of enslavement, racist subjugation, and mass incarceration of black and brown people in this land.

All: We lament.

Leader: We stand before you feeling so many emotions. (I invite you to describe your feeling now.)

All: We stand before you feeling … grief… rage… shame.

All: We lament.

Leader: O God of the enslaved, subjugated, incarcerated, humiliated, abused, murdered, martyred, and afflicted,

All: We lament.

Leader: O God of the perpetrators and bystanders, we recall your judgement.

All: We beseech you: Stir repentance in the hearts of the privileged.

Leader: From racism so often cloaked in pious words
For the machinations of white supremacy hiding in procedure
From micro aggressions thinly veiled in arrogance
From apologies when they don’t give way to actions³

All: We beseech you – Stir repentance in the hearts of the privileged. Let your healing come.

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² Ashe: (Pronounced “ah-shay”) The Yoruba believe “ashe” is a basic force emanating from the Creator that unites all living and non-living things. Some translate it as “amen” (although that word has more western connotations). https://www.mamalisa.com/?t=es&p=36

³ From a prayer by The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl, Jr., Bishop Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA
Leader: Dear God, enslaved Africans and African-descended people took assets from their past and reinterpreted them in a new context. Their faith reinterpreted Christianity and resulted in the establishment of Black Churches and spirituals theologically centered in a vision of freedom.

All: We celebrate.

Leader: Another asset was their hope, which inspired a vision and fight for freedom, kept them and their descendants fighting for just policies that contributed to the goal of ending hunger and poverty, racism and oppression.

All: We celebrate.

Libations, or ritual pouring, are offered in remembrance and honor of ancestors.

Leader: We remember our ancestors, O God. You created them in your image; they suffered and bled like Your Son, Jesus Christ. We give thanks, dear God, that You are the living testament to their resistance and resilience. May we follow their example and seek what they sought! Help us now, Eternal God, to guide the next generations to end injustice and oppression in any form.

All: AMEN.

Sacred Music

Amazing Grace

Dr. Melanie Hill

Procession to the tree.

Each participant carries a Black-eyed Susan, the flower representing justice.

Order of Service at the Tree

Introductory Words

A Reading from Genesis, Chapter 1 (vs. 11-12):

Leader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God. (Silence for reflection)

A Reading from Psalm 137 (vv. 1-4)

Leader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God. (Silence for reflection)

A Reading from Isaiah, Chapter 11 (vs. 1-4)

Leader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God. (Silence for reflection)

4 adapted from prayer on page 5 of “Lament and Hope”
A Reading from Matthew, Chapter 12 (vs. 33-34, 36):

Leader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God. (Silence for reflection)

A Reading from Revelation, Chapter 22 (v. 1-2)

Leader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God. (Silence for reflection)

Sacred Music

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Dr. Melanie Hill, Violinist

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Making an Altar of Remembrance and Hope

Placing of the flowers

Closing Prayer

You are invited to a time for personal reflection at the waterside, at the Algernourne Tree or nearby before boarding buses for the church.
12:15 p.m. Lunch
First Baptist Church Hampton; 229 N. King Street; Hampton, VA

1:00 p.m. – Keynote Plenary – Sanctuary
Reflection: Dr. Mamie Locke, Senator, Virginia District Two, Professor of Political Science and Dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Hampton University

Keynote: Dr. Ibram Kendi, award-winning author of Stamped from the Beginning and How to Be An Antiracist

2:30 p.m. – Book signing

3:00 p.m. – Ben & Jerry’s “Justice Remixed” Break

3:45–5:45 p.m. – Plenary – Ending Racism: Revisiting our Present – Toward Repentance, Restitution and Repair
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches

4:00 p.m. – Panel of Heads of Communions (12 denominational leaders will discuss what their communions are doing to end racism)

6:00 p.m. – Dinner (no program)

7:30 p.m. – Closing Worship and Ritual of Commitment
Preacher: Bishop Claude Alexander

Laying the flowers of remembrance are:

Dr. Agnes Abuom
Rev. Eddy Alemán
Rev. Aundreia Alexander
Bishop Claude Alexander, Jr.
Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Rev. Dr. Elisha Burke
Rev. Dr. Jean Hawxhurst
Dr. Mamie Locke
Kathryn Lohre
Bishop W. Darin Moore
Rev. Dr. Teresa Hord Owens
Isaac Mar Philoxenos
Dr. Ruby Sales
Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton
Senator Lionell Spruill
His Honor Mayor Donnie Tuck
Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune
Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit
Mrs. Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker
Dr. Jim Winkler
Rev. Charles Wynder
Ceremony of Remembrance and Lament
Program Participants
(In Speaking Order)

Gazebo
Dr. Melanie R. Hill – Violinist; Post-Doctoral Associate, English Department, Rutgers University
Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate, Mid Atlantic Episcopal District, AME Zion, Chair of the Board, National Council of Churches
The Rev. Dr. Brenda Girton-Mitchell, Minister of Stewardship, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Co-Chair ACT Now Advisory Committee
Mr. Jordan Tune, Morehouse Class 2022, Community Service Chair
The Right Rev. Adam Jefferson Richardson Jr., Senior Bishop, African Methodist Episcopal Church
Dr. Jim Winkler, General Secretary/President, National Council of Churches
The Honorable Donnie Tuck, Mayor, Hampton, Virginia
Senator Lionell Spruill, Sr., 5th District Virginia Senate
Kim Bobo, Executive Director, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Nicholas Anton, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Co-Chair ACT Now Advisory Committee
Dr. Agnes Abuom, Moderator, World Council of Churches
Dr. Ruby Sales, Civil Rights Activist, Founder of Spirit House Project
The Rev. Mary Anne Glover, Transitional General Minister, Virginia Council of Churches

Marker
The Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Senior Associate for Pan-African and Orthodox Engagement, Bread for the World, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.
Protodeacon Sergei Kapral, Orthodox Church in America
The Rev. Nathan Hosler, Ph.D., Director, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, Church of the Brethren
Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, Presiding Bishop Fifth Episcopal District, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; President, Churches Uniting in Christ
The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church, USA
Kathryn Lohre; Assistant to the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations & Theological Discernment, former President, National Council of Churches
Judith Roberts, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Program Director for Racial Justice
The Rev. Dr. Alfred Moss, Jr., Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park.

The Tree
The Rev. Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs Associate Professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible, Methodist Theological School in Ohio
The Rev. Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Director, Health, Men, Social Justice; Baptist General Convention of Virginia
Dr. Anne Glynn Mackoul, World Council of Churches Executive Committee, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East” representative at the WCC
Dr. Peter Makari, Area Executive, Middle East/Europe; Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
The Rev. Everdith Landrau, Ecclesial and Ecumenical Relations in the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church USA
LaKesha Womack, Racial and Social Justice Task Force Chair, Churches Uniting in Christ
The Rev. Dr. Roy Medley, General Secretary Emeritus, American Baptist Churches USA; former Chair of the Board, National Council of Churches
The Rev. Marsha Scipio, Associate General Secretary for Missional Initiatives and Partnerships at American Baptist Churches USA