

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



REVEREND DOCTOR

Antura Eason-Williams

JUNE 27, 1970 - JULY 18, 2022

SAINT PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
REV. DR. BRAD THOMAS, SENIOR PASTOR
2949 DAVIES PLANTATION ROAD
LAKELAND, TENNESSEE 38002

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 3, 2022
10:00 AM

BISHOP WILLIAM MCALILLY- OFFICIANT
Nashville Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church
CYNTHIA HALEY-MINISTER OF MUSIC
Centenary United Methodist Church

OBITUARY

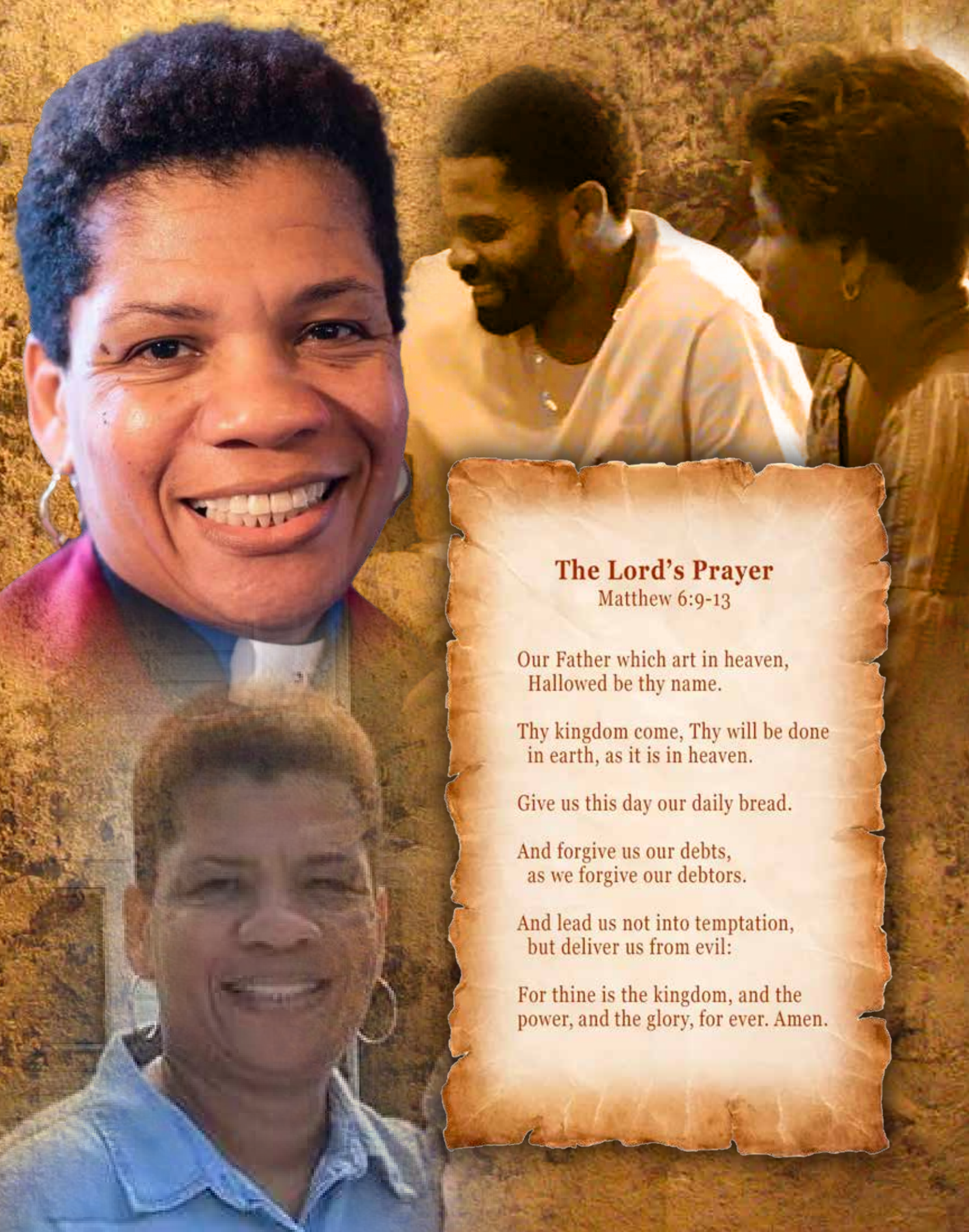
REVEREND DR. AUTURA EASON-WILLIAMS was born June 27, 1970 to Robert Luther Eason and Tommie Dale Reed. Autura graduated from Kirby High School and earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Memphis, Master's degree from Memphis Theological Seminary and Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary.

Autura answered her call to ministry in 1997 and began her career at her home church Centenary United Methodist Church as a youth minister. She was appointed Senior Pastor at Calvary Longview United Methodist Church and Capleville United Methodist Church before becoming the District Superintendent of the Metro District of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church.

An active voice against racism and injustice, Autura was able to successfully minister, build friendships and working relationships across diverse communities in Memphis and the entire Southeast Jurisdiction. She was an active participant in multiple community groups that were designed to enhance the lives of the underprivileged. She served as a founding board member of the Center for Transforming Communities and of US Making it Happen Shalom Zone, facilitated Formation for Ministry classes at Memphis Theological Seminary, coached for Center for Youth Ministry Training, chaired the advisory committee for Belle Forest Community School, and served as the Chair of the Memphis Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Autura served on a number of boards including Wesley Senior Ministries, Lakeshore, Wesley Foundation University of Memphis, Hannah's Hope, United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, New Church Development, and District Committee on Ministry. She has led youth camps, Fall and Spring retreats, confirmation retreats, district and conference United Methodist Women retreats, Church Women United and Key Women events and preached for local church, district, and conference events.

Reverend Dr. Autura Eason-Williams was a daughter, wife, mother, sister, auntie, cousin, friend, mentor and a colleague. She is survived by her husband Darrell Eason-Williams; four children Ayanna, John, Terence Jr. and Gwendolyn; bonus daughters Yakira and India; mother Tommie Dale Reed; three siblings Gwendolyn, Latricia and Thomas; six nieces and nephews Kristin, Eliza, Elena, DeAngelo, Malcolm and Byron Jr.; four great nieces and nephews Torian, Teri-Tess, Kai, and Elliott; and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins. Autura is preceded in death by her father Robert Luther Eason, her grandparents Freddie James and Juanita Eason, Floyd and Gennora Reed, and great niece Tori Black.



The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

A SERVICE OF DEATH & RESURRECTION

THE WORD OF GRACE.....Dr. Brad Thomas

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC*.....Cynthia Haley, Piano
**all who are able are invited to stand*

FAMILY PROCESSIONAL*

GATHERING.....Dr. Brad Thomas

GATHERING HYMN*.....*“How Great Thou Art”*.....UMH #77

LITANY OF LAMENT FOR
REV. DR. AUTURA EASON-WILLIAMS.....Metro District Clergy

CHORAL SELECTION....*“Angels” by Richard Smallwood*...Metro District Chorale
Jessica Merriweather, Solo

PSALM 130.....Kristin Williams

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
Isaiah 40:28-31.....Rev. Dr. Birgitte French

PSALM 23*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON
Revelation 21:1-7.....Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith

CHORAL SELECTION...*“My Tribute” by Andrae Crouch*....Metro District Chorale
Cordara Harper, Solo

GOSPEL LESSON.....John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27... Bishop William McAlilly

HOMILY.....Bishop William McAlilly

CHORAL
SELECTION...*“Let’s Just Praise the Lord” by TD Jakes*...Metro District Chorale

A SERVICE OF DEATH & RESURRECTION

PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS..... Rev. Dr. Cynthia Davis

WITNESS.....Rev. Patricia Freudenthal
Jonathan Lewis
Larry Chitwood
Rev Herbert L. Lester, Jr.

SOLO.....Eva Robertson

WITNESS.....Erv Walker
Karen Munson-Gray & Andrea Merriweather
Tracey Mays, Daryl Lewis & Donnie Hill
Audrey Reed Granger
Charles Eason & Janice Reed Duvall
Williams Family
Gwendolyn Graham, Latricia Eason and Thomas Stone
Ayanna, John, Terence Jr. and Gwendolyn Hampton

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN*.....*"Because He Lives"*.....UMH #364

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*.....UMH #887

COMMENDATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING.....Rev. Dr. Cynthia Davis

THE LORD'S PRAYER*

CHORAL
SELECTION.....*"Goin Up Yonder"* by Walter HawkinsMetro District Chorale
Andrea Merriweather, Solo

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING.....Bishop William McAlilly

RECESSIONAL



PSALM 23

A Psalm of David.

THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.





Acknowledgment

The family of Autura Eason-Williams extends their heartfelt thanks
for your support, prayers and kind expressions of sympathy

Pallbearers

Thomas Stone
Christian Ross
Byron Conner, Jr.
Shaun Eason
Malcolm Eason
Donnie Hill

Committal Service

Paradise Gardens
184 Minnis Drive
Edmondson, AR 72232

Repast

Centenary United Methodist Church
584 E. McLemore Avenue
Memphis TN, 38106

Arrangements

ANTHONY FUNERAL HOME
135 South 16th Street & 200 North 13th Street
West Memphis, Arkansas & Proctor, Arkansas
(870)735-8680 & (870) 735-5040 & (870)735-5194

Programs



901.502.8829