

EMANUEL 9 MEMORIAL SERVICE OF REPENTANCE — REMEMBERING JUNE 17, 2015



Rev. Sharonda
Coleman-Singleton, 45
mother of three, pastor,
track coach



Tywanza Sanders, 26
recent college graduate
barber, son



Rev. Clementa Pinckney, 41
father of two, pastor,
state senator



Cynthia Hurd, 54
Charleston County Public
Library Manager



Rev. Daniel
Simmons Sr., 74
Retired pastor, father
of two, grandfather
of four



Rev. Depayne
Middleton-Doctor, 49
pastor, mother of four



Susie Jackson, 87
mother, grandmother,
choir singer



Ethel Lee Lane, 70
retired custodian,
mother of four, grandmother
of seven, great-grandmother
of four



Myra Thompson, 59
mother, bible study
teacher

PRELUDE

“Deep River” arr. Adolphus Hallstork

Justin Fitch, Luther Place Church

WELCOME

Thank you everyone who has gathered here tonight.

And we honor all our guests including The Rev. Christopher L. Zacharias, Pastor John Wesley AME Zion Church and The Rev. William Lamar IV, Pastor Metropolitan AME Church.

GATHERING HYMN

“If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers”

with Kyra Reumann-Moore, soprano
O WALY WALY (“Though I May Speak”)

If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
And don't live out a faith that dares,
And don't take on the ways of death,
Our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.

If we just dream of what could be
And do not build community,
And do not seek to change our ways,
Our dreams of change are false displays.

If we just sing of doing good
And don't walk through our neighborhood
To learn its hope, to ease its pain,
Our talk of good is simply vain.

God, may our prayers and dreams and songs
Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs —
That works for peace and justice, too.
Then will our prayers bring joy to you.

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A CONFSSIONAL LITANY AND LAMENT COMMEMORATING NINE WHO WERE SLAIN AT MOTHER EMANUEL AME CHURCH

They were doing
what we are called to
as they engaged in bible study.

It was Wednesday night— a stranger walked in,
and these people welcomed him and prayed together:
the Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson,
Ethel Lee Lance, the Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders,
the Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons, the Rev. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson,
and the honorable state senator and pastor of the church, the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney.

This stranger wanted to ignite a “race war,” he said, after he shot and killed them,
denying them the very humanity he claimed for himself,
claiming rights and privileges associated with “whiteness.”

Now we are grieved, once again in pain,
burning and anguished, lamenting the horror of evil unleashed.
And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Sorrow and heartache have come to us.
Death and mourning have visited us.
We feel far from you, O God, and distant from one another.
And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Evil besets us in our land.
We acknowledge that our nation is socialized in ways that promote and normalize colonialization.
We cry out against the horrors and agonies of racism.
And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

The privileged of our nation have benefited from practices that dehumanize indigenous peoples.
We have claimed as “discovery” lands that were not ours.
These lands have been stolen and the nations, that were the original occupants of these lands, slain.
And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

We deny your presence, O God.
Present generations,
the children whose ancestors were kidnapped and sold into slavery,
those forced to labor not on their own behalf,
still suffer and struggle to live in freedom,
while the children of colonizers live out of “white privilege,”
denying the fullness of your presence in all people.
And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Assaults born of greed and murder continue propping up white privilege
that is institutionalized in our church and nation,
preventing us from recognizing the twin evils of racism and nationalism still perpetuated among us.
And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

Open our eyes, O God, open our hearts.
Open our ears, O God, open our minds.
Help us to behold one another as you behold us.
Help us to be more firmly rooted in the practices of the gospel—so that, when we pray,
the way we live will make real the dream of your beloved community within and among us.
And so we cry out,
Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

With the help of your mercy and grace, lead us to think, believe, and change.
May your gospel's transforming power by the working of the Holy Spirit be present in us,
in our churches, in our nation and all the nations of the earth.
May it be so.
And the people said, "**Amen.**" **Amen.**

SONG

"Senzeni Na"
South African anti-apartheid folk song

Kyra Reumann-Moore,
Pastor Karen Brau, Justin Fitch,
Justin Harrison, Tyler Saunders

Senzeni na?
Sono sethu,
ubumnyama?
Sono sethu
yinyaniso?
Sibulawayo
Mayibuye i Africa
What have we done?
Our sin is that we are black?
Our sin is the truth
They are killing us
Let Africa return

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

SERMON "Well, who are you?"

The Rev. Angela Shannon

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Precious Lord"

Justin Harrison

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993. Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877

METRO D.C. SYNOD REMARKS

Bishop Leila Ortiz

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessions to mark the commemoration of the Emanuel Nine

For the church

God, our truth, through the ages you have spoken through prophets. Stir up in your church a passion for your word revealed in Jesus, that following the witness of the Emanuel Nine, your church studies the scriptures, shows hospitality, prays without ceasing, and embodies prophetic justice in community. Embolden church leaders and all the baptized to remember the lives of the Nine, repent of racism and white supremacy, and renew our commitment to your word revealed most fully in Jesus, our way, truth, and life. In your great mercy, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations

Mighty and loving God, we pray for our nation and the plague of racism that threatens, destroys, and kills. Root out white supremacy wherever it takes hold. Release its grip on those lured by its false promises. Bring to repentance all who continue to benefit from prejudice and hatred, both hidden and revealed. Plant in our hearts and nation a willing spirit open to truth-telling and healing. In your great mercy, **receive our prayer.**

For those who are oppressed and victimized

Immanuel, God with us, you embrace in love those who cry out to you. Lift up all whom hatred has cast down (especially ...); embolden those who need courage to speak and act against oppression (especially ...); sustain those who are weary from efforts that bring no end to injustice (especially ...). Comfort parents weeping for children, children who have been separated from parents, and families in crises of any kind. Restore hope where it has been lost, so that all may trust your love that reaches to the depths of pain and suffering. In your great mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Thanksgiving for the saints

We give you thanks, Holy God, for the faithful life and witness of Clementa, Cynthia, Daniel, DePayne, Ethel, Myra, Sharonda, Susie, and Tywanza, the Emanuel Nine. May such faith and witness inspire all followers of Jesus Christ in paths of justice, courage, and self-giving love. In your great mercy, **receive our prayer.**

CHARGE TO THE SYNOD

Bishop Leila Ortiz

SENDING SONG

“Amazing Grace”

Justin Fitch, organ

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725 – 1807, alt., sts. 1 – 4' anonymous, st. 5.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Work for justice.

We will work for justice. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on *Amazing Grace*” by J. Christopher Pardini

Justin Fitch, organ

MUSICIANS:

Kyra Reumann-Moore has sung in the Luther Place Church choir since 2017 as well as with the Cathedral Choral Society since 2015. She also founded and serves as music director for local a cappella group Chord of Appeals. Originally from Philadelphia, in her day job Kyra is an Engagement Manager at the World Resources Institute, working to support public-private partnerships for sustainable development around the world.

Hailing from a small town in Tennessee, **Tyler Saunders** has had the opportunity to travel across the world, spreading the beauty of music. Tyler holds an M.M. in Vocal Performance from Austin Peay State University and an M.A. in history from the Université de Montréal, where he focused on how music was used in the ritual ceremonies of Ancient Greece. He is now the Director of Music for Wesley United Church in Montreal, QC, and one of his personal ministries is using music to spread the joy and love of Christ to his community.

Originally from Bartlett, IL, **Justin Fitch** has been serving as the Director of Music Ministries at Luther Place Church since 2017. He holds a Master of Music degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Maryland and enjoys teaching piano and voice lessons in the Greenbelt area. *“Music is a gateway to one of the greatest spiritual connections we can have – through it, we are able to connect, build, and strengthen community. I am honored to have the responsibility of leading, encouraging, and sharing music in and through the church.”*

Maryland native **Justin Harrison** currently sings at Fourth Presbyterian church and looks forward to his summer as an Apprentice Artist at Charlottesville Opera, where he will cover Lumiere in Beauty and the Beast. He holds a Master of Music in Opera Performance from the Maryland Opera Studio and is the 2nd place winner of the Mary E. Singletary Vocal Arts Competition for Emerging Artists. A frequent concert soloist, his repertoire includes Handel's Messiah, Voices from the Killing Jar (Soper), Seven Last Words (Dubois), Fauré's Requiem, BWV 8: Liebster Gott..., and Ravel's Don Quichotte à Dulcinée.

WORSHIP LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS:

The Rev. Karen Brau – *Chair, Metro D.C. Racial Equity Team and Senior Pastor Luther Memorial Church, Washington, DC*

The Rev. Renata Eustis – *Senior Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Washington, DC*

Ted Steege, M. Div. – *Member of Racial Equity Team*

Jackson Droney – *Interim Vice-President, Metro D.C. Synod*

The Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch – *Executive Director, Domestic Mission, ELCA*

The Rev. Heidi Eickstadt – *Interim Pastor at Christ Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA*

The Rev. Dr. Erin Swenson-Reinhold – *Assistant to the Bishop, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod*

The Rev. Tom Knoll – *Senior Pastor, First Trinity Lutheran Church, Washington, DC*

Malachi B. – *Congregation Member, All Saints Lutheran Church, Bowie, MD*

The Rev. Angela Shannon – *Pastor, All Saints, Bowie, MD*

The Rev. Leila Ortiz – *Bishop, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod*

The Rev. Lamar Bailey – *Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod*

The Rev. Margrethe Kleiber – *Interim Pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church, Washington, DC*

The Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos – *Director for Theological Diversity and Engagement, ELCA*

The Rev. Dr. Andrea Walker – *Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Washington, DC*

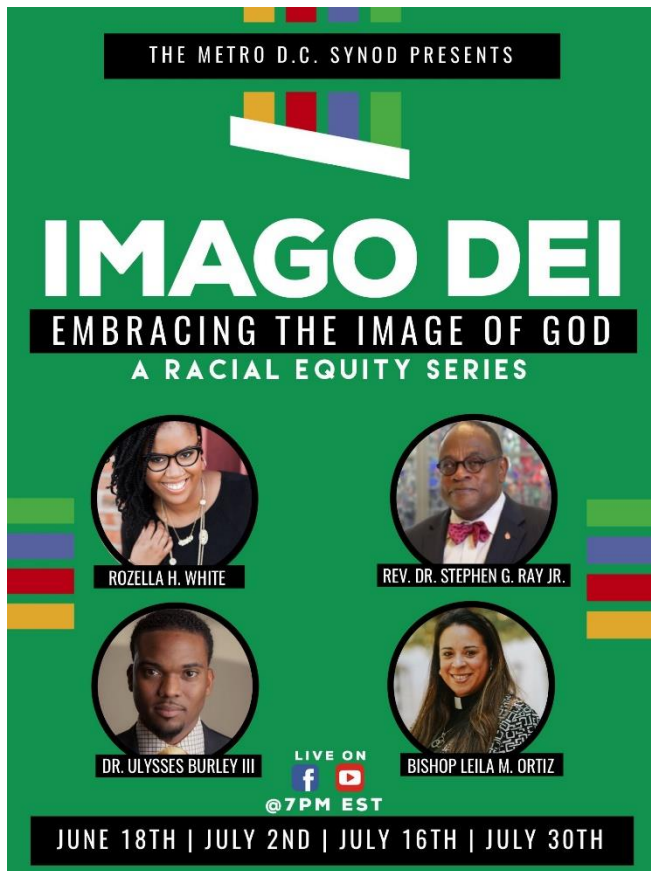
The Rev. LeeAnn Schray – *Associate Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Washington, DC*

Katharyn Wheeler – *Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod*

Kelly Champagne – *Communications Coordinator, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod*

Katie Simbala – *Creative Director, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod*

Join us for



During this time of crisis, we are called, as people of God, to listen and to learn from our siblings in Christ of Black/African American/African/Hispanic descent.

Although we wish to immediately be deployed into action to rectify the wrongs of white supremacy, white privilege and racism, it is essential that we self-reflect, especially those of us struggling with a response to racism, and listen to our colleagues and communities most impacted by these sins.

The Metro D.C. Synod and Racial Equity Team are providing an opportunity for people of all ethnicities, especially white allies, to attend a new Racial Equity series of listening sessions over the next six weeks.

During the initial session, **to be held on Thursday, June 18 at 7:00 PM**, you will hear from:

- **Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr** – President of [Chicago Theological Seminary](#) and President of the Society for the Study of Black Religion.
- **Dr. Ulysses Burley III** – Founder of [UBtheCURE](#), a proprietary consulting company on the intersection of Faith, Health, and Human Rights.
- **Rozella H. White** – author of *Love Big: The Power of Revolutionary Relationships to Heal the World* and owner of RHW Consulting
- **Bishop Leila M. Ortiz** – first Latinx Bishop of the Metro D.C. Synod, ELCA

Then, each presenter will host a conversation every two weeks to dive deeper into their own area of expertise – Lutheran theology and African American religion, health and public policies, and community organizing and leadership development.

Register Today for the series <http://metrodcelca.org/imagodei/>

Save these dates for the upcoming sessions:

- July 2nd at 7:00 PM – Lutheran Theology and African Religion with Rev. Dr. Steve G. Ray, Jr
- July 16th at 7:00 PM – Public Health and Policies with Dr. Ulysses Burley III
- July 30th at 7:00 PM – Community Organizing with Rozella H. White

REMEMBER: this series is not putting the work of ending racism back into the hands of our siblings of color. We each have to act everyday in ways that are anti-racist, but the Church must also provide space for us to listen and allow our siblings to prioritize our energy and actions as allies.