

Washington Theological Consortium

**Prayer Service for Christian Unity
14th Annual Figel Address, Virtual Event**

Thursday February 3, 2022

6:00pm



WASHINGTON
THEOLOGICAL
CONSORTIUM

Crossroads of Faith, Learning and Dialogue

Prayer Service for Christian Unity
14th Annual Figel Address

The Hope of Pan-African Peoples and the Contradiction of
Visible Unity Deferred:
“Ubuntu” as a Vision for Christian Unity

Thursday February 3, 2022
6:00pm

Prayer Service for Christian Unity

6:00pm

GREETING & WELCOME:

Dr. Larry Golemon, WTC

OPENING HYMN:

Jisu Jang & Accompanist, Jan Phillips, WES

Give Me Jesus

In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise
In the morning, when I rise
Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
Just give me Jesus
When I am alone
When I am alone, ooh
When I am alone
Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
Just give me Jesus
You can have all this world
You can have all this world
Just give me Jesus

CALL to Worship:

Christopher Bonner, HUSD
Grace Casola, VTS

L: In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Brothers and sisters, we are united this day with fellow believers from all the lands of the earth as we gather to pray for the visible unity of the Church. This year, we do so with worship resources prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches. Our texts are inspired by the visit of the Magi to the new-born King, as described in Matthew's Gospel:

L: We observed his star in the East, and have come to worship him. Let us fix our eyes on the star that was seen in the East and allow it to lead us too. We come into God's presence with thanksgiving and joy, bringing all the sick, the suffering, the marginalized, the refugees, and the uprooted before him, knowing God can dispel our darkness with his light. As we pray this day for the unity of the Church, may we and our communities also be lights that guide others to Jesus the Savior.

L: Glory be to you Father Almighty, for you have revealed yourself through your creation and invited all people to stand in your presence. We have seen the star of Jesus in our lives and have come to worship him just as the Magi did. We offer him ourselves today and we ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.

C: Unite us with one another as we come from all directions of the earth, old and young, men and women to bow down before you and offer you homage, our heavenly king. Amen.

FIRST HYMN:

Jihoon Park & Jan Phillips, WES

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

2. My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

PRAYER of Praise & Confession:

Yaa Addison, VTS
Grace Casola, VTS

L: We glorify you, O Lord, creator of heaven and earth, for you have set the lights in the vault of the sky. You separated light from darkness and arranged signs to mark sacred times, days and years. You studded the firmament with stars. How majestic are your works, the heavens declare your glory and the skies proclaim the work of your hands!

C: We glorify you, O Lord.

L: We praise you for you did not abandon us despite our rebellion but sent your Son to brighten our darkness and be our light and our salvation. In him was life, and that life was the light of all humanity. And the light shines in the darkness.

C: We praise you, O Lord.

L: We worship you, O Lord, for you accompany us in the chaos of our life through the power of your Holy Spirit. You light up our paths and give us wisdom and faith in a world of untruth and doubt.

C: We worship you, O Lord.

L: We thank you, O Lord, for you send us into the world to reflect this light around us, in our various churches and diverse cultures and to witness to Jesus, the one true King, offering ourselves to him.

C: We thank you, O Lord.

L: May all the peoples bow before you and worship you. We have often preferred darkness, but you have given us light. Therefore, we come to you confessing our sins

and saying:

C: We confess before you that we have turned away from your ways and disobeyed your ordinances. We have disfigured your good creation and squandered its resources through our consumerist practices. We have polluted your rivers and seas and poisoned your air and soil and contributed to the extinction of many species. *(Silence)*

C: We have acted selfishly towards our brothers and sisters. We have allowed our own needs and desires to prevail over our commitment to justice. We have built walls between us and planted the seeds of distrust towards the other. *(Silence)*

C: We have separated people based on ethnicity, religion and gender and we have claimed Jesus on our side in any war we waged. Forgive all these thoughts and deeds, O Lord, as we come before you in repentance. *(Silence)*

L: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you have sent in the fullness of time to redeem all people, we ask you to have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and transform us into his glorious image so we can shine as a beacon of hope in our troubled world. *(Silence)*

L: Almighty God hears our prayers, has mercy on us and forgives us our sins.

C: Thanks be to God, whom we praise with all our voices.

FIRST Reading:

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NIV)

Yan Liu, CUA

PSALM 8:

Zach Turner, Paulist
Kiasha Sullivan, STVU

L: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

C: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

C: What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

L: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

C: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.

L: All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the path of the seas.

C: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SECOND Reading:

Ephesians 5:8-14 (NABRE)

Br. Basil Borough, PFIC

GOSPELL Reading:
Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

Erroll Moore, JLC

REFLECTION:

Rev. Alyssa Densham, WES

SHARING Christ's Light:

Yaa Addison, VTS

L: A star led the Magi to Christ. Today this star points to the presence of Christ, who has been revealed to us and whose light shines on us. As the Magi followed the star to Bethlehem, we gather under this star today, adding our own stars to the sky, uniting our own gifts and prayers for the visible unity of the Church. As we journey towards that goal, may our lives together give a luminous witness that leads others to know Christ.

PRAYERS of Intercession:

Zach Turner, Paulist
Keith Perkins, WTC

L: With faith and confidence, we come in prayer before God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

L: The Magi came from the East to pay homage and offer special gifts from their cultures and countries. We pray this day for all Christian communities around the world in all of their diversity of worship and tradition: Lord, we ask you to preserve these treasures, particularly in areas of the world where the presence and survival of Christians is threatened by violence and oppression.

C: O Lord, hear our prayer.

L: The early years of our Lord's life were marked by violence and massacres at the orders of the despot Herod. We pray for children living in places in the world where violence continues and where the results are tangible: Strengthen, O Lord, the bonds of unity and mutual love among our churches and help us to cooperate and witness to your holy Name. Inspire us to work without ceasing in order to defend the oppressed and include the marginalized. Encourage us to stand together in the face of tyranny and oppressive regimes as we seek your Kingdom among us.

C: O Lord, hear our prayer.

L: After the visit of the Magi, the holy family experienced migration through the wilderness and became refugees in the land of Egypt. We pray for all refugees and uprooted people in this world: Equip us, Lord, to show hospitality to those driven from their homes, and grant us the spirit of welcome to those looking for a safe haven.

C: O Lord, hear our prayer.

L: The birth of Jesus was good news for all, gathering people from different nations and religious beliefs in worship of the holy child. We pray for our efforts to seek harmony and dialogue with other religions: Lord, give us humility and patience to walk with others with respect on their journey.

C: O Lord, hear our prayer.

L: The Magi returned to their home by a different way. We pray for our churches in this changing world: Lord, help us to find new and creative ways to follow you and to witness to you so that the world may believe.

C: O Lord, hear our prayer.

L: When the Magi saw the holy child, they rejoiced with great joy. Heavenly Father, fix our eyes on him so we do not lose our way. Unite us in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life, and who has taught us to pray, saying:

C: Our Father... (The Lord's Prayers)

SPECIAL ANTHEM:

We Are Not Alone

Wesley Associate Ensemble Singers

SENDING & Blessing:

Yaa Addison, VTS
Kiasha Sullivan, STVU

L: Go now and live as children of the light.

C: For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

L: Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness.

C: Let us wake from sleep and Christ will shine upon us.

L: Peace be to the whole community, and love and faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God. Parting

CLOSING HYMN:

In Christ Alone

Jihoon Park & Accompanist, Jan Phillips, WES

6:35pm

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL FIGEL ADDRESS:

Introduction of our Speaker:

Rev. Dr. Beverly Goines
National City Christian Church

PRESENTATION OF AWARD:

Hon. Anthony Quainton
Chair of the Board of Trustees, WTC

Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith

*The Hope of Pan-African Peoples and the Contradiction of
Visible Unity Deferred:*

“Ubuntu” as a Vision for Christian Unity”

6:45pm

RESPONSE:

Rev. Dr. Herman Browne
Episcopal Church of Liberia

7:25pm

DISCUSSION:

7:35pm

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

Dr. Larry Golemon
Exec. Director, WTC

8:25pm

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Jack Figel
Board of Trustees, WTC

8:30pm

CLOSING REMARKS:

Dr. Larry Golemon
Exec. Director, WTC

Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith is the Senior Associate for Pan-African and Orthodox Faith Engagement. She brings extensive global, national and local experience as a faith and public engagement thought leader, journalist, speaker, broadcaster, scholar, preacher and author. President Clinton, Senator Richard Lugar, former Indiana Governor (VP) Mike Pence and two of her alma maters, Yale University Divinity School and Kent State University have awarded her with high distinctions of leadership. She received her doctorate degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and is former Executive Director/Minister of the Church Council in Greater Indianapolis, Indiana, member of the Home Mission Board for the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., a World Council of Churches (WCC) and National Council of Churches Governing Board Member, a President of Historic Black Churches at one of the widest represented bodies of national churches and their related networks of Christianity in the USA, Christian Churches Together (CCT). Most recently, she was selected to be a member of the Preparatory Working Group for the new United Nations Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.

Our respondent is Dr. Herman Browne of the Episcopal Church of Liberia. He acquired a Bachelor of Divinity (Honors) degree from Kings College, London. He also earned a Ph.D. in systematic theology from the University of London in 1994. He is former President of Cuttington University in Liberia, and currently serves as resident scholar at the Center for Anglican Communion Studies, Virginia Theological Seminary.

Dr. Browne has authored eight theological books: *Theological Anthropology: A Dialectic Study of the Africa and Liberation Traditions*; *50 Things Your Pastor Forgot to Tell You: about God, You and the Bible*; *Grasshoppers No Longer: critical essays in western cultural history, theology and philosophy*; and *A Theologian's Advice: how to avoid sincere, but misguided talk about God*.

The Consortium Ecumenism Award

Through the Ecumenism Award, the Washington Theological Consortium honors Christians who have made a significant contribution to ecumenism through work in ecumenical organizations and dialogue, scholarship in ecumenical theology, or through contributions to ecumenical ministries in worship, education, or social justice ministries.

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*Recipients who also presented the Figel Address

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Especially Grace Casola

Jan Phillips & the Wesley Associate Ensemble Singers

Jack Figel, for his Ecumenical Vision & Support

Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Award Recipient & Speaker

Rev. Dr. Herman Browne, Guest Speaker

The Staff of the Washington Theological Consortium

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