

**A SERVICE CELEBRATING THE ASSIGNMENT OF  
BISHOP ROBIN DEASE**



**TO THE NORTH GEORGIA EPISCOPAL AREA  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**





Bishop Robin Dease is the episcopal leader of the North Georgia Conference. She was elected bishop by the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church and consecrated November 4, 2022. Her first assignment as bishop is to the North Georgia Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church and she began service in North Georgia on January 1, 2023.

Bishop Dease grew up in Brooklyn, New York, one of 13 siblings. She graduated from Claflin University in Orangeburg in 1992. She earned a master of divinity degree and a doctor of ministry degree in stewardship from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

She joined the South Carolina Conference in 1992, became a full-time local pastor in 1998 and was ordained an elder in 2001. She has served as pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Johns Island (1998-2008), John Wesley United Methodist Church in Greenville (2008-2012), and St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church in Hilton Head (2021-2022). She also has served as superintendent of the Hartsville District (2013-2021), and in 2012, was interim chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Claflin.

Bishop Dease has been involved in numerous denominational and conference boards and committees, served on the 2012, 2016, and 2020 General & Jurisdictional Conference delegations, has served as an Upper Room Spiritual Formation Leader, and has been active in organizations in the communities where she has served (Ministerial Alliance, Chamber of Commerce, United Way Faith Based Committee, Rotary, and more).



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BISHOP ROBIN DEASE  
TO THE NORTH GEORGIA EPISCOPAL  
AREA OF THE UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

Sunday, January 8, 2023

4 o'clock

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Long  
*Chair of the Black Clergywomen's Fellowship*

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Beth LaRocca-Pitts  
*Host Pastor*

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

The Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas  
*District Superintendent of the Central South District*

CHORAL INTROIT

*Sanctus*

NL Norden

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high. Amen.*

CALL TO WORSHIP from Philippians 4

The Rev. Sandra Skinner

*North Georgia Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members*

**Leader:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!

**People:** May our gentleness be known to everyone because the Lord is near.

**Leader:** Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,

**People:** Whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,

**Leader:** Let us think about these things.

**All:** And may the God of peace be with us.

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

UMH 57

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

UMH 881

Dianne Spencer

*Lay Leader for the Central South District*

\*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 71

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

PRAYER

Natalia and Kelly Cruz

THE FIRST LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

The Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis

*President of Gammon Theological Seminary*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup> so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Leader:** The Word of God for the people of God.

**People:** Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

*I Open My Mouth*

Andre Thomas

Mass Choir

*Done made my vow to the Lord. Never turn back, O Lord, I'll never turn back. I will go! I shall go to see what the end will be. I open my mouth to the Lord, and I won't turn back. I will go! I shall go to see what the end is gonna be. If you don't believe that I've been redeemed, just follow me down to Jordan's stream.*

INTRODUCTION OF THE BISHOP

The Rev. Dr. Terry Walton

*Executive Assistant to the Bishop*

The Rev. Susan Landry

*Dean of the Cabinet*

Bishop Robin Dease, you have been consecrated to be a shepherd and servant, and you have now been assigned as bishop of the North Georgia Area of The United Methodist Church. Who will present Bishop Robin Dease for welcome to this area?

Mathew Pinson and the Rev. Dr. Phil Schroeder  
We, the North Georgia Conference representatives of the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy, do certify that Bishop Robin Dease was duly elected a bishop of The United Methodist Church at the 2022 Jurisdictional Conference, and has been assigned by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy to the North Georgia Area. We, therefore, present to this congregation Bishop Robin Dease to be welcomed to the area to which she has been assigned.

## THE COVENANT SERVICE

Nate Abrams

*Conference Lay Leader*

Deloris Carhee & The Rev. Laurie Moeller

*Conference Episcopacy Committee*

The Church is the community of those called by God, justified by grace, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We who are baptized into Christ's death and raised with Christ in the resurrection are living members of the body of Christ who return thanksgiving to God in ministries of worship, nurture, witness, and service.

A bishop has been ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament and to represent Christ's servanthood in a special ministry of oversight.

A bishop is called to guard the faith, to seek the unity, and to exercise the discipline of the whole Church; and to supervise and support the Church's life, work, and mission throughout the world.

As a servant of the whole Church, the bishop is called to preach and teach the truth of the gospel to all God's people; to lead the people in worship, in the celebration of the Sacraments, and in their mission of witness and service in the world, and so participate in the gospel command to make disciples of all nations.

The bishop is to lead and guide all persons entrusted to her supervision; join in the consecration of bishops, ordain deacons and elders, and commission other ministers for service to the Church and to the world; and provide for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the congregations committed to her care.

Let the shepherd who has been called now affirm these ministries in our midst.

**Bishop Dease:** With God's help, I promise faithfully to hear and to proclaim God's Word, and rightly administer the Sacraments, as your pastor and servant.

**People:** With God's help, we promise to join with you in the life of praise and thanksgiving, and in the faithful use of the means of grace that God has given us.

**Bishop Dease:** By the grace of Christ, I promise to be among you as a teacher of the faith, a pastor of souls, and a means to the unity of the body of Christ.

**People:** By the grace of Christ, we promise to join with you in the life of learning, in the nurturing of God's people, and in the seeking of that oneness in Christ which is Christ's gift to us.

**Bishop Dease:** In the power of the Holy Spirit, I promise to be for you a means of reconciliation and healing, that all those who are burdened or oppressed may be made whole and able to rejoice in the new life in Jesus Christ.

**People:** In the power of the Holy Spirit, we promise to be, with you, faithful witnesses, serving justice, showing mercy, and in all things proclaiming the acceptable year of the Lord.

**Leader:** Let the people say, "Amen."

**People:** Amen and amen!

#### PRESENTATION OF SIGNS OF EPISCOPAL MINISTRY

*Representatives of the people of God present signs of the episcopal office to the bishop.*

#### **Bishop Alfred Norris and Bishop Woodie White:**

Bishop Robin Dease, take this pastoral staff,  
and be upheld and sustained by Christ the Good Shepherd  
as you exercise the ministry of a shepherd among us in Christ's name. **Amen.**

Bishop Robin Dease, take this Bible,  
and proclaim fearlessly the prophetic Word  
in the cause of justice and peace for all people. **Amen.**

Bishop Robin Dease, take this water,  
be renewed in your baptism and renew us in ours. **Amen.**

Bishop Robin Dease, take this bread and cup,  
and keep us in communion with Christ and his Church. **Amen.**

Bishop Robin Dease, take this towel and basin,  
and be among us as one who serves. **Amen.**

Bishop Robin Dease, take this stole,  
and be our pastor, preacher, and teacher;  
encourage and support all baptized people in their gifts and ministries,  
and pray for them without ceasing. **Amen.**

Bishop Robin Dease, take this Book of Discipline,  
guard the faith, seek the unity,  
exercise the discipline of the whole Church,  
and supervise the Church's life, work,  
and mission throughout the world. **Amen.**

Bishop Robin Dease, take this gavel,  
and preside in our Annual Conference;  
appoint pastors and deacons to their ministries,  
and guide us in our common mission of love and justice,  
witness and service. **Amen.**

**Nate Abrams:**

Bishop Robin Dease, these are the signs of your ministry  
among the people of the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist  
Church.

Faithfully administer discipline, but do not forget mercy,  
that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear,  
you may receive the never-fading crown of glory.

**Bishop Dease:**

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Head of the church,  
I gladly assume, with you and among you,  
this ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Order,  
of pastoral supervision, government, and service.  
Strengthened by the love of God  
and the remembrance of my consecration to the episcopacy,  
I am resolved to serve faithfully and well  
the congregations and people of the North Georgia Conference  
as bishop, pastor, and friend.



People:

On behalf of the congregations and people,  
we receive you, Bishop Robin Dease,  
with joy and thanksgiving, as our bishop and pastor.  
We pledge to you our prayers, our loyalty, and our support  
as you lead us in the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us all.

WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

Dr. Walton: Let us welcome our bishop!

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION                      Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack, *President of Claflin University*  
The Rev. Dawn Hand, *President of the National United Methodist Black Clergywomen*  
Bishop Jonathan Holston, *Bishop of The South Carolina Episcopal Area*

\*HYMN                      **Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**                      UMH 400

OFFERTORY PRAYER                      Elijah John McCoy-Washington  
*Youth Delegate to Annual Conference*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM                      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling;*                      Mack Wilberg  
Mass Choir

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art. Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast. Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be. End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty. Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive. Suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love. Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee. Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.*

\*Doxology                      UMH 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here  
below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise  
Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*GOSPEL LESSON                      John 17:11-21                      The Rev. Minho Chung

SERMON                      I Dream a Church                      Bishop Robin Dease

## RESPONSE

### *Common Ground*

Dee Wilson and Matt Maher

Mr. Atticus Hicks, Mr. Cleveland Jones, The Rev. Tavares Stephens

*Child of God be at peace. Open hands let go of everything. Christ in us all around. Calvary a hill with level ground. I hear a voice calling out, Tear down the walls between us. Make way for love to heal us. Show us the way of Jesus, where He is found, in common ground. Church of God now's the time. There's a mountain that we have to climb. Broken hearts all around, suffering this is our common ground. My brothers' blood is crying out. Tear down the walls between us. Make way for love to heal us. Show us the way of Jesus, where He is found, in common ground. Where do we stand if not together? Nowhere. Reach out your hand in there and out there, 'cause there are no strangers to God. There are no outcasts with us. There are no orphans to the Father of love. Tear down the walls between us. Make way for love to heal us. Show us the way of Jesus, where He is found, in common ground.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

Bishop Dease and Bishop Larry Goodpaster

## INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of pow - er and might.  
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - - - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection, you have birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

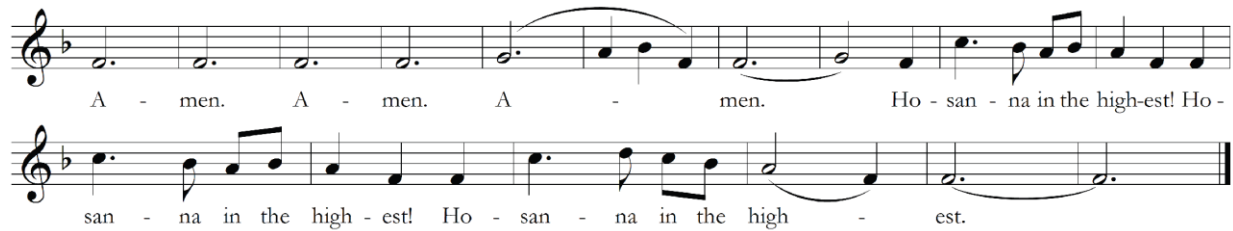
When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.



A - men. A - men. A - men. Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Now with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.**

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ANTHEM

*Many Gifts, One Spirit*

Allen Pote

Mass Choir

*Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice. Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice. O, God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above. In our differences unite us in the circle of your love. O, God, remind us we are not alone. Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne. Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand. We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands. O, God, remind us we are not alone. Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne. Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul into the beauty of a rainbow. Give us life, Lord, make us whole.*

ANTHEM

Beloved

Written and Performed by Atticus Hicks and The Rev. Tavares Stephens

with EPiC (Emphatic Praise Inspirational Choir)

*You came, that we might study war no more. You came, to be the love that still transforms. And You came, to fill our souls with hope and peace. You came, and in your mercy set us free. You came. God of goodness, and mercy, of hope that never ends. God of love and God of justice, our broken world You mend. Beloved, we call You beloved. You are beloved, we call you beloved. You prayed, that we would let Your glory shine. You prayed, for communion so divine. You prayed, we would walk with You as one. You prayed, that this world we'd overcome. You prayed (that we would be) People of goodness, of mercy, of hope that will transcend. Love justice, walk humbly, love the stranger as our friend. Beloved, You call us beloved. We are beloved, You call us beloved. Let us love one another, because love is of God. Everyone, born of God is called to be love. Let us see one another as children of God. In our seeing and our being be transformed by love. Beloved (You are in us) we call you beloved (As we are in You). Beloved (You are in us) You call us beloved (As we are in You).*

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING Wesleyan Covenant Prayer Dr. LaRocca-Pitts

**I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen**

\*CLOSING HYMN

For Everyone Born



- 1. For eve- ry- one born a place at the ta- ble
- 2. For young and for old, a place at the ta- ble,
- 3. For all who have breath, a place at the ta- ble,
- 4. For you and for me, a place at the ta- ble,



for eve- ry -one born, clean wa- ter and bread,  
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
 a co- ve- nant shared, a wel- com- ing space,  
 though woun- ded and sore, with need to for -give,

a shel-ter, a space, a safe place for gro-wing  
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin-kled,  
 a rain-bow of race and gen-der and co-lor  
 in an-ger, in hurt, a mind-set of mercy,  
 for eve-ry-one born, a star ov-er-head,  
 for young and for old, the right to be-long,  
 for all who have breath, the cha-lice of grace,  
 for you and for me, a new way to live,  
 And God will de-light when we are cre-a-tors of jus-tice and  
 joy, com-pas-sion and peace: yes,  
 God will de-light when we are cre-a-tors of jus-tice,  
 jus-tice and joy.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, New Zealand  
 MUSIC: Brian Mann, USA

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\*BENEDICTION

Bishop Dease

RECESSIONAL



