

The Most Reverend James Oglethorpe Patterson, Sr.
Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle
Church of God in Christ, Inc.

1912 – 1989

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

III JOHN 1: 2

National Memorial Service

for

The Most Reverend James Oglethorpe Patterson, Sr.
Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle
of the
Church of God in Christ, Incorporated

Thursday, the fourth day of January
Nineteen Hundred, Ninety
Anno Domini

Twelve O'Clock Noon

Mason Temple Church of God in Christ
950 Mason Street
Memphis, Tennessee

Officiants

The Right Reverend Louis Henry Ford
First Assistant Presiding Bishop and Chief Officiant

The Right Reverend Chandler David Owens
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop

with

The Right Reverend John Dale Husband
The Right Reverend Cleveland Landis Anderson
The Right Reverend Ozro Thurston Jones, Jr.
The Right Reverend Phillip Aquilla Brooks
The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green, Jr.
The Right Reverend J. Neual Haynes
The Right Reverend Charles Edward Blake
The Right Reverend Levi E. Willis, Sr.
The Right Reverend Roy Lawrence Haley Winbush

The Obituary

The Chief Shepherd of our fold has laid down his staff and has pilgrimed beyond the reach of mortal man. On Friday, December 29, 1989, as he beheld the light that beckoned him from that yonder distant shore, **BISHOP JAMES OGLETHORPE PATTERSON, SR.** answered the call.

Bishop Patterson was born July 21, 1912, to the union of the late William and Mollie Patterson in Derma, Mississippi. As a child he was taught divine precepts and given spiritual guidance by his parents. This training was also supported by his sister, Alice, and others who were able to detect a uniqueness about him.

While growing up in Derma, Mississippi; Heath, Arkansas, and eventually Memphis, Tennessee; he received his formal educational training in the public schools of those cities. The majority of his training, however, was received in the Memphis City School system and the Howe School of Religion, which later became a part of the school presently known as LeMoyne-Owen College.

The godly principles instilled in this servant led him to commit his life to Christ as a young man. Shortly thereafter, he met Deborah Mason, who would later become his wife and mother of their children, James Oglethorpe, Jr. and Janet Laverne.

In the early thirties, Bishop Patterson acknowledged his call to the Gospel Ministry and later was ordained an elder in 1935 by the late Bishop A. B. McEwen, Sr. A year later he received his first charge as pastor of the church at Gates, Tennessee.

Bishop Patterson served the churches at Gates, Tennessee; Brownsville, Tennessee; Homeland Church of God in Christ, Temple Church of God in Christ, the church at 1010 Woodlawn Street in Memphis, Tennessee; and Reid Temple in East Orange, New Jersey.

He also served the Family of Pentecostal Institutional Church of God in Christ for forty-eight years as Senior Pastor. This ministry commenced with less than twenty members, but through the years God blessed his servant mightily and the family grew to its present membership of over three thousand and is the parent congregation of more than thirty satellite congregations.

His success in these and other ministries were some of the factors that brought him to be consecrated to the Bishopric in 1955, by Bishop C. H. Mason, with his first appointment as Prelate of the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Tennessee. His success with this assignment led to his appointment to the secretariate of the Executive Committee of the Church which was created by Bishop Mason to assist with the executive and administrative affairs of the Church. After the demise of Bishop Mason, this committee became known as the Executive Board, and Bishop Patterson served this board as its secretary. In addition to these duties, he also served as the Church's General Secretary, member of the Board of Directors and Manager of the Church's Publishing House.

During the sixty-first General Assembly of the Church in November of 1968, Bishop Patterson was elected the first Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, making him the spiritual leader of the 3.5 million followers of the church. In 1969, he became the Jurisdictional Bishop of the Headquarters Jurisdiction at Memphis, Tennessee.

Under his administration, the Church enjoyed tremendous growth in many areas. His achievements in educational related entities were the establishment of the Charles Harrison Mason Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia; the C. H. Mason System of Bible Colleges; the J. O. Patterson Fine Arts Department; the Historical Museum and Fine Arts Center and organizer of the Charles Harrison Mason Foundation and the Presiding Bishop's Benefit Fund which provides scholarships to deserving youth.

Other ministries brought about through this servant include the Church of God in Christ Bookstore and the Church of God in Christ Publishing House.

Other involvements include Founder and President of the World Fellowship of Black Pentecostal Churches; serving on the Boards for The Boys Club, The Boy Scouts of America, Y.M.C.A., Memphis Landmark Commission, Lorraine Historical Museum Commission, Tri-State Bank of Memphis, The Black Church Summit of the World Council of Churches and the Congress of National Black Churches. He also served with the Rotary Club of Memphis, Save the Children Foundation, Sheriff's Summit on Drug Prevention and was organizer of the Tennessee Burial System and the fifty-year-old J. O. Patterson Mortuary.

In February of 1972, the five-hundred-room Chisca Plaza Hotel was given to Bishop Patterson by its owners, Mr. Robert Snowden and his sister, Mrs. Mary Todd. Because of his love for the church the Bishop in turn gave the property to the church. This property is presently serving as the Downtown Headquarters of the Church and will become a major portion of the proposed **SAINTS CENTER**, a multi-million dollar, multi-faceted operational base for the operations of the world-wide ministry of the Church as envisioned and planned by Bishop Patterson. This center is also to include **ALL SAINTS UNIVERSITY**, which was near the top of his list of priorities.

Through his initiative, the Church's growth is evidenced by the increase in the membership which now exceeds 4 million in the fifty states and 47 foreign countries. During his tenure as Presiding Bishop he consecrated and appointed in excess of 100 prelates.

Honors and awards presented to Bishop Patterson were numerous. Among those received were honorary degrees from Trinity Hall College of Springfield, Illinois, which were Doctors of Divinity, Laws and Philosophy. He also received an honorary Doctor of Law from Saints College of Lexington, Mississippi, and an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

He has been cited annually since 1975 as one of the one-hundred most influential blacks in America. He has received some one hundred keys to cities and citations for meritorious service to The Boy's Club, The Boy Scouts of America, Y.M.C.A., Memphis Landmark Commission and other civic and religious organizations.

After nearly fifty-one years of marriage to Mother Deborah Indiana Mason Patterson, their union was ended at her demise. Some four years later he took unto himself Sister Mary Peterson Peak. Although this union was brief, they were devoted to each other and the cause of Christ. Sister Patterson served the Lord's servant faithfully until his death.

Joining Sister Patterson in the loss of Bishop Patterson are his son, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr.; his daughter, Janet Laverne; the grandchildren, J. O., III, Aaron Lamont, Jennifer Rose and Charles Harrison Mason Patterson, John Frederick and James Indiana Wheeler; his sister, Mrs. Alice Dickens; his brother, Bishop W. A. Patterson; a devoted daughter-in-law, Mrs. Rose Kelly Patterson; his mother-in-law, Mrs. Thelma McKeever; seven nieces; six nephews and many other relatives and friends.

*Servant of God, Well Done!
Rest from thy loved employe;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy.
The pains of death are past,
Labor and sorrow cease,
The life's long warfare closed at last,
Thy soul is found in peace.*

John M. ...

Order of Homegoing Celebration

Thursday, January 4, 1990

12:00 Noon

The Right Reverend Chandler David Owens, Presiding
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop

+ Where indicated, please stand.

ORGAN PRELUDE Mr. Lonnie McKinley Haley, III

THE OPENING SENTENCES **The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green, Jr.**
General Board Member
Newport News, Virginia

+ THE PROCESSIONAL

The Acolytes

The Adjutant General

///

The First Assistant Presiding Bishop

The Second Assistant Presiding Bishop

The General Board

The General Officers

The Board of Bishops

The Denominational Leaders

///

The Family

THE SEALING OF THE BIER

+ **THE HYMN OF COMFORT** **The Right Reverend H. Jenkins Bell**
"O I Want to See Him"
Adjutant General
Knoxville, Tennessee

+ **THE INVOCATION** **The Right Reverend John Dale Husband**
General Board Member
Atlanta, Georgia

THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE **The Right Reverend Ozro Thurston Jones, Jr.**
Psalm 90
General Board Member
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

THE CHORAL RESPONSE "In Jesus I'm Safe Evermore"

THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE **The Right Reverend Charles Edward Blake**
I Corinthians 15:50-58
General Board Member
Los Angeles, California

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH **The Right Reverend Phillip Aquilla Brooks**
Assistant Secretary General Board
Detroit, Michigan

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible written Word of God.

We believe that there is One God: Eternally existent in Three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God, which is in Christ, at His return.

We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance, faith in the precious Blood of Jesus Christ and being baptized in water.

We believe that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the Cross provides healing for the human body in answer to "believing" prayer.

We believe that the Baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.

We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling, the Christian is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world. Amen.

THE ANTHEM C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

THE SELECTION C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

TRIBUTES (2 Minutes)

Pentecostal Institutional **Evangelist Geraldine E. Miller**
Trustee Board **The Right Reverend Rodger Jones**
UNAC-5 **The Right Reverend Floyd E. Perry**
Elder's Council **Elder Franklin Knight, Chairman**
Comrade in the Faith **The Right Reverend DeWitt A. Burton**

THE SELECTION C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

TRIBUTES

Saints Center
Publishing Board **The Right Reverend Roy L. H. Winbush**
General Board Member
Lafayette, Louisiana

Women's Department **Dr. Mattie McGlothen**
General Supervisor

THE SELECTION C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

RESOLUTIONS

General Assembly **Elder Frank Ellis**
Chairman

Board of Bishops **The Right Reverend J. Howard Sherman**
Chairman

General Church **The Right Reverend German Reed Ross**
General Secretary

General Board **The Right Reverend J. Neaul Haynes**
Secretary General Board
Dallas, Texas

INTRODUCTION OF FIRST ASSISTANT

PRESIDING BISHOP **The Right Reverend Cleveland Landis Anderson, Jr.**
General Board Member
Detroit, Michigan

THE SERMONIC HYMN Choir and Congregation
"Amazing Grace"

THE EULOGY **The Right Reverend Louis Henry Ford**
First Assistant Presiding Bishop
Chicago, Illinois

THE PRAYER OF COMFORT **The Right Reverend Levi E. Willis**
General Board Member
Norfolk, Virginia

+ **THE RECESSIONAL**



O I Want to See Him

Psalm 121
Ps. c. 17. 15.

R. H. Cornelius

R. H. Cornelius

1 As I jour - ney through the land sing - ing as I go,
2 When in serv - ice for my Lord dark may be the night,
3 When in val - leys low I look t'ward the moun - tain height,
4 When be - fore me bil - lows rise from the might - y deep.

1 Point - ing souls to Cal - va - ry - to the crim - son flow,
2 But I'll cling more close to Him, He will give me light;
3 And be - hold my Sav - ior there, lead - ing in the fight,
4 Then my Lord di - rects my bark; He doth safe - ly keep,

1 Man - y ar - rows pierce my soul from with - out, with - in;
2 Sa - tan's snares may vex my soul, turn my thoughts a - side;
3 With a ten - der hand out - stretched t'ward the val - ley low,
4 And He leads me gen - tly on through this world be - low:

1 But my Lord leads me on, through Him I must win.
2 But my Lord goes a - head; leads what - e'er be - tide.
3 Guid - ing me, I can see as I on - ward go.
4 He's a real friend to me, O I love Him so.

Refrain: Cares all past, home at last, ev - er to re - joice.

O I want to see Him, look up - on His face, There to sing for - ev - er

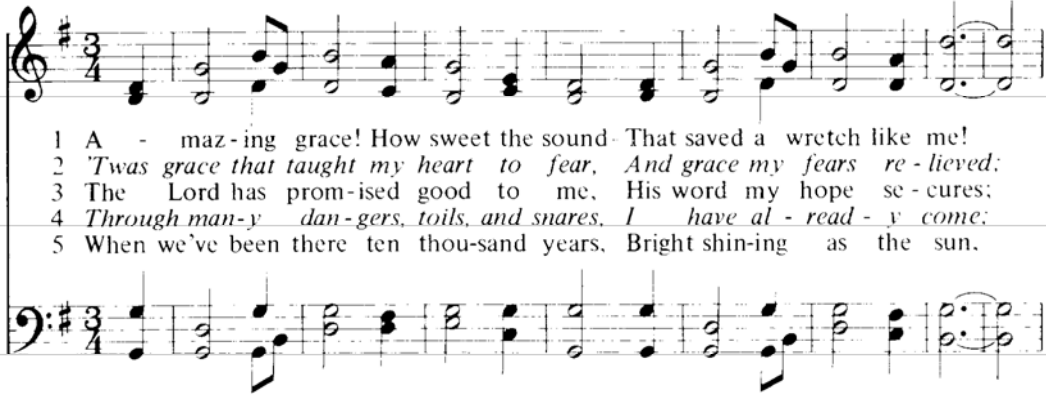
of His sav - ing grace; On the streets of Glo - ry let me lift my voice;
His sav - ing grace;

Amazing Grace

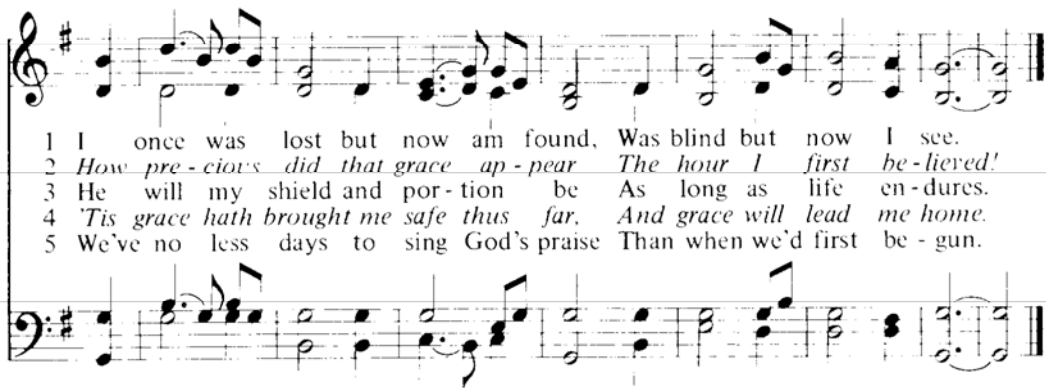
For by grace are ye saved through faith . . .
Ephesians 2:8

John Newton
John P. Rees, stanza 5

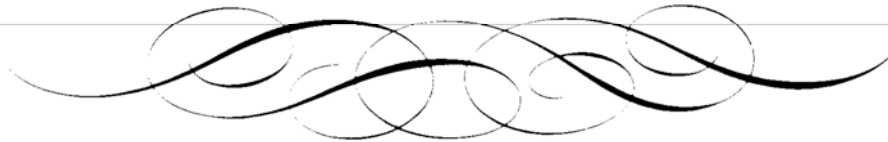
American Melody
Carrell and Clayton's *Virginia Harmony*
Harmonized by Edwin O. Excell



1 A - maz-ing grace! How sweet the sound - That saved a wretch like me!
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
3 The Lord has prom-ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;
4 Through man-y dan-gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
5 When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shin-ing as the sun.



1 I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.
2 How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
3 He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
4 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
5 We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.



Honorary Pallbearers

The Right Reverend Louis Henry Ford
First Assistant Presiding Bishop

The Right Reverend Chandler David Owens
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop and Commissioner for Finance

The Right Reverend John Dale Husband
Commissioner for Evangelism

The Right Reverend Cleveland Landis Anderson
Commissioner for Superannuation

The Right Reverend Ozro Thurston Jones, Jr.
Commissioner for Liturgiology

The Right Reverend Phillip Aquilla Brooks
Commissioner for Missions

The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green, Jr.
Commissioner for Communications

The Right Reverend J. Neual Haynes
Commissioner for Conventions

The Right Reverend Charles Edward Blake
Commissioner for Education

The Right Reverend Levi E. Willis, Sr.
Commissioner for Economic Development

The Right Reverend Roy Lawrence Haley Winbush
Commissioner for Publications

Active Pallbearers

Adjutant Overseers

Flower Bearers

National Adjutant Sisters

Interment

Memorial Park

Memphis, Tennessee

Acknowledgement

The family of the late
Bishop James Oglethorpe Patterson, Sr.
wishes to express their thanks for
every act of kindness expressed
during this their time of loss.

Final arrangements entrusted to:

J. O. Patterson Mortuary

Memphis, Tennessee