
THE SEAL OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP
BETH-EL CHURCHES OF CHRIST, INC.

The Ordinal

The Service of Apostolic Ascension & Elevation

For

The Most Reverend Danny Ellis Evans

to

Presiding Bishop

of the

Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated

Friday, October Twenty Third, Two Thousand Twenty-Six
Eleven O'clock Ante Meridian

Hilton Charlotte Airport
Twenty-Eight Hundred Coliseum Drive
Charlotte, North Carolina

The Most Reverend Michael Blue
Prelate, Christian Covenant Fellowship Ministries
Chief Consecrator & Homilist

The Most Reverend William Young
The Most Reverend Betty Francis
Co-Consecrators

The Most Reverend Earl McDonald Wortham
The Most Reverend Ralph Lee Dennis
The Most Reverend Liston Page, sr.
Apostolic Patriarchs

THE ESTABLISHMENTARIAN



THE MOST REVEREND ROBERT EVANS, JR.

The First Bishop Primate
Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated

CHIEF APOSTLE
END-TIME WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

DIOCESAN
FIRST EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated

SENIOR PASTOR
BETH-EL TEMPLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

THE SECOND PRESIDING BISHOP



THE MOST REVEREND BERNARD NATHANIEL BRAGG

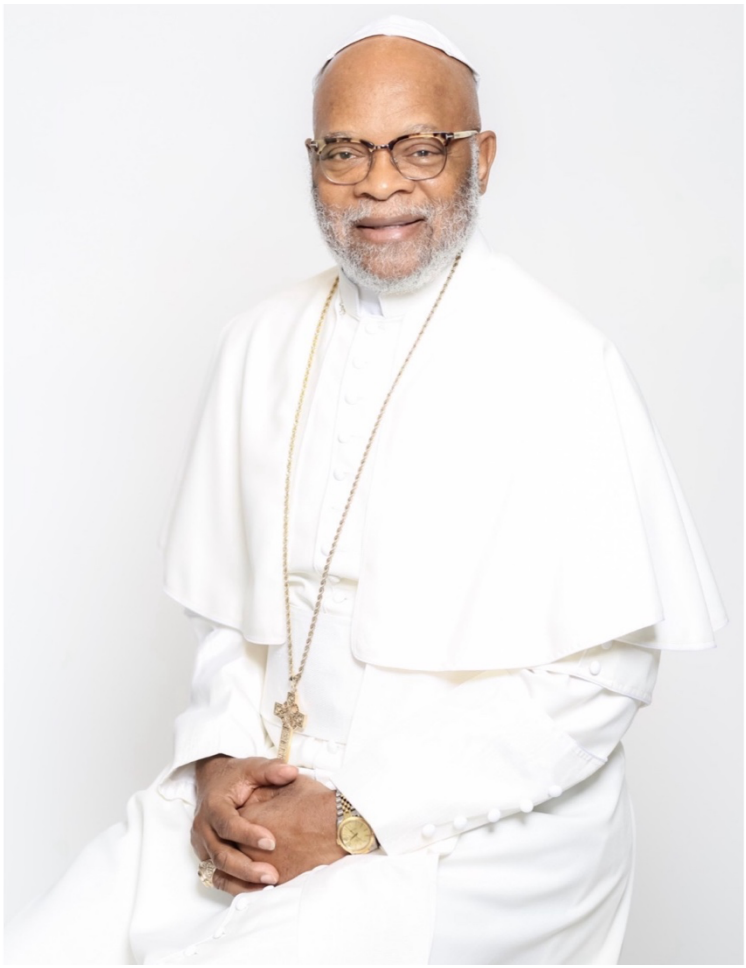
The Second Bishop Primate
Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated

The First in Apostolic Succession

DIOCESAN
FIRST EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated

SENIOR PASTOR
New Life Restoration Temple
Dorchester, Massachusetts

THE THIRD PRESIDING BISHOP



THE MOST REVEREND RICHARD JEROME PENDER, SR.

The Third Bishop Primate
Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated

The Second in Apostolic Succession

DIOCESAN
FIRST EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated

SENIOR PASTOR
BETH-EL TEMPLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

THE FOURTH PRESIDING BISHOP



THE MOST REVEREND DANNY ELLIS EVANS

The Fourth Bishop Primate
Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated

The Third in Apostolic Succession

DIOCESAN
FIRST & FIFTH EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated

SENIOR PASTOR
Temple of Grace Ministries
York, Pennsylvania

City of Prayer
Baltimore, Maryland

The Apostolic Apology

One of the hallmarks of the Church is her timelessness and her ability to remain constant in an age when absolutes and truth are called "relative." The Church of Jesus Christ has received from Christ a system of government, which is vested with the apostles and their successors, the bishops. Bishops have been given the unique ministry of healing for the Body of Christ in the hearth and because of the relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ, the bishops become the spiritual progenitors of sons and daughters for the Kingdom of God.

This Church is a fellowship of holiness assemblies, which have membership in the universal Body of Christ. As such, we preserve the message of Christ's redeeming love through His atonement, and we declare holiness of life to be His requirement for all men who would enter the Kingdom of God. We preach and practice baptism in water; a personal infilling of the Holy Ghost, evidenced by *"speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance;"* a daily walk with the Lord in the beauty of holiness, and life after death.

We claim Apostolic Succession to Christ and His apostles through Augustine of Rome who established the Church in England, which came to be known as *"Anglicana"* and from which came the Episcopal Church and Methodism in America. From that *stream* we are ordained by one of the sons of John Wesley and from that *stream* we are consecrated by bishops who were themselves set apart as Ordinariates from Methodism and successors to Saint Peter and the Apostles of Christ. By this claim, which is well documented we, therefore, pass that same Apostolic Succession on to this some whom we shall consecrate, *assisted by bishops who share the same "succession"* of which we are possessors, and whose theology is compatible with fundamental Christian doctrine. We delight to have the share with us on this historic tradition. Uniquely, the bishop elevated today shall have the right to "Apostolic Succession" from the Western Stream and form the Patriarchy of the East as well.

In ancient time bishops of the Lord's Church were selected to preside over Sees (jurisdictional territory), which encompassed cities or rural provinces. The Lord's Church was viewed as a literal *kingdom* whose Sovereign lived outside of this world. The visible leaders of the visible *kingdom* of Christ are the bishops, priests, and deacons. When a bishop was installed as prelate for a defined territory, he was ceremoniously ordained and invested with ceremonial dress of his office.

There were those times when the new bishops were consecrated in Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus, Rome, and other cities of Asia Minor. This made it impossible for the people of the bishop's new Diocese to witness the elevation. The Church then developed a program that allowed public celebration, thereby, giving the communicants opportunity to share in some portion of the festive

times of the Church. The more familiar program was the Banquet. The service this day is the little-known service called the *"Enthronement."*

The thought behind enthronement is that every bishop who presides does so from a Cathedra, which is an Episcopal Seat, or Chair. While Judges govern from the bench, Bishops, like Royalty, preside over the Church of Jesus Christ from *the Seat* or *the Chair*. The chair is made like unto a throne because the bishop *represents* Christ in that seat that he is sent *to rule, pass judgment, give absolution, manage the spiritual and educational life of the Church in his territory, and make priests and deacons* who will share with him in the government of the visible Kingdom of our God.

Today's Service of Apostolic Ascension and Elevation is our process of celebrating the elevation of one being raised to the highest episcopal office within our Reformation. Through this elevation, the bishop assumes responsibility not only for the spiritual and pastoral oversight of the local diocese but also for the broader governance, unity, canons, and apostolic leadership of the church. The "Presiding Bishop" signifies a primatial or senior role, exercised in service to the bishops, clergy, and faithful under the church's canonical authority. The term **"Apostolic Ascension"** emphasizes continuity with the apostolic ministry of the Church and the transmission of episcopal authority through apostolic succession. This elevation is therefore understood not merely as a promotion, but as a **sacred entrustment of greater spiritual authority, responsibility, and service.**

The bishop today has been elevated to the office of Presiding Bishop of The Beth-El Churches, Incorporated. His work and manners have brought him great commendation, and the tiers of Leadership have agreed to follow him as he continues with us in this Communion. As Bishop of this Zion, the Bishop becomes the collegial voice of the Church, with his fellow Bishops, and primary representative of the Presiding Bishop's office and persons.

We are pleased to present this *Episcopal* Son to this *Communion of Saints.*

"Princes Shall Arise Out of Egypt"
Psalms 68:31

The Order of Ascension, Elevation, & Investiture

(+Where indicated, please stand)

The Right reverend Carrington Edward Morgan, Jr .
Presiding

The Musical Prelude

The First Processional

The Cross Bearer
The Gospel
The Deacons
The Ministers
The Elders
The Senior Pastors
The Visiting Overseers
The Visiting Bishops
The Visiting Prelates

The Second Processional

The Episcopal Cross Bearer
The House of Overseers
The Sacred College of Bishops

The Episcopal Processional

The Episcopal Appointments
The Presiding Bishop-Elect (with Episcopal Escort)
The Apostolic Patriarchs
The Co-Consecrators
The Chief Consecrator (with Episcopal Escort)

Chief Celebrant: Blessed be God who forgives all out sins
The People: ***His mercy endureth forever.***

The Chief Celebrant then says:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires know and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your Holy Name through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The People: ***Amen***

+The Hymn **"Hold To God's Unchanging Hands"**

Time is filled with swift transition,
naught of earth unmoved can stand;
Build your hopes on things eternal,
hold to God's unchanging hand!

Trust in Him who will not leave you,
whatsoever years may bring;
If by earthly friends forsaken,
still more closely to Him cling. [Refrain]

Refrain:
Hold to God's unchanging hand!
Hold to God's unchanging hand!
Build your hopes on things eternal,
hold to God's unchanging hand!

Covet not this world's vain riches
that so rapidly decay;
Seek to gain the heav'nly treasures,
they will never pass away! [Refrain]

When your journey is completed,
if to God you have been true,
fair and bright the home in glory,
your enraptured soul will view! [Refrain]

The Invocation ***The Right Reverend Carolyn H. Slade***
Rocky Mount, North Carolina

+The Decalogue
(The Choir and Congregation shall sing the Decalogue)

The Bishop: And God spoke all these words saying,

"I am the Lord, thy God, which hath brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Response: **"LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US"**

The Bishop: "Though shalt not take unto thee any graven images…..Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them.

Response: **“LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US”**

The Bishop: “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God in vain.”

Response: **“LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US”**

The Bishop: “Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.”

Response: **“LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US AND INCLINE OUR HEARTS TO KEEEP THY LAWS.”**

The Bishop: “Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Response: **“LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US”**

The Bishop: “Thou shalt not steal.”

Response: **“LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US”**

The Bishop: “Thou shalt not bear false witness.”

Response: **“LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US”**

The Bishop: “Thou shalt not covet”

Response: **“LORD HAVE MERCY UPON US AND INCLINE OUR HEARTS TO KEEP THY LAWS.”**

The Bishop: And Jesus said, “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you.”

The Choral Response

“Draw Me Nearer”

I am thine, O Lord
I have heard thy voice
And it told Thy love to me.
But I long to rise

In the arms of faith
And be closer drawn to Thee

Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord
To the cross where Thou has died.
Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord
To thy precious bleeding side.

THE MINISTY OF THE WORD

A LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES **ISAIAH 2:1-5**

LECTOR: ***The Reverend Ayeisha Mathis***
Dorchester, Massachusetts

Lector: "This is the Word of the Lord"
People: **"Thanks Be to God"**

A LESSON FROM THE EPISTLES **1 PETER 5:1-4**

LECTOR: ***The Very Reverend Anthony Savoy***
Baltimore, Maryland

Lector: "This is the Word of the Lord"
People: **"Thanks Be to God"**

+The Hymn: **"Lift Him Up"**

How to reach the masses, men of every birth,
For an answer, Jesus gave the key:
And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
Will draw all men unto Me.

Oh! the world is hungry for the Living Bread,
Lift the Savior up for them to see;
Trust Him, and do not doubt the words that He said,
I'll draw all men unto Me.

Refrain
Lift Him up, Lift Him up,
Still He speaks from eternity:
And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
Will draw all men unto Me.

Don't exalt the preacher, don't exalt the pew,
Preach the Gospel simple, full and free;
Prove Him and you will find that promise is true,
I'll draw all men unto Me.

Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought,
Let the world in you the Savior see;
Then men will gladly follow Him who once taught,
I'll draw all men unto Me.

A LESSON FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN **St. John 4:34-38**

GOSPELER: ***The Right Reverend Bernard Calvin Lambert, Jr.***
Richmond, Virginia

The Gospeler: **"The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John"**
The People: **"Glory to you, Lord Christ"**

The Gospeler: **"This the Gospel of Jesus Christ."**
The People: **"Praise to you, Lord Christ."**

THE MUSICAL SELECTION

THE PROFFER ***The Right Reverend James Bryant Smith, Ph.D.***
Baltimore, Maryland
General Treasurer

THE PRESENTATION OF THE HOMILIST ***The Right Reverend Cheryl Renea Smith, Ed.D.***
Baltimore, Marlyand

THE MUSICAL SELECTION ***The Right Reverend Delbert M. Dove***
Queens, New York

THE HOMILY ***The Most Reverend Michael Blue***
Christian Covenant Fellowship of Ministries
Marion, South Carolina

THE SONG OF PREPARATION

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

The Reverend Levolia B. Johnson, Secretary General, Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated will come forth and preset this servant by saying

Bishop Michael Blue, Bishop and Presider in the Church of God, the clergy and people of this branch of Zion, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, support the election of the College of Bishops of Bishop Danny Ellis Evans as Presiding Bishop of this Branch of Zion. We therefore ask that you lay hands on him and in the power of the Holy Spirit, seat him as The Fourth Presiding Bishop of the Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated, the Third in Succession in the one Holy and Powerful Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Chief Consecrator directs the reading of the testimonials.

The Bull of Election *The Right Reverend Kevin Daniels, Ph.D.*
Secretary, The Sacred College of Bishops
Baltimore Maryland

The Consent of the College of Bishops
The Right Reverend Anthony Wyoming Bazemore
Greensboro, North Carolina

Bishop Evans stands and reads the following oath

In the name of Jesus Christ, I, Danny Ellis Evans, a Bishop in the Christ's Holy Church, solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation and as Presiding Bishop, I do solemnly engage to conform to the canons, discipline, and worship of the Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated.

The bishop signs the above declaration in the sight of all present.

The Congregation now stands

The Chief Celebrant says the following and asks a response of the People.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, you have heard the testimony given that Danny has been duly lawfully selected as Presiding Bishop for this church. You have been assured of his suitability and that he has been approved for this responsibility.

Bishop: Is it your will that we seat Danny as your Presiding Bishop?

People: Yes, this is our will.

Bishop: Will you uphold him in his position as Presiding Bishop and serve under his leadership so long as the spirit of unity and brotherhood continues?

People: Yes, we will, by the power of God.

The Chief Celebrant then says

The Scriptures tell us that our Savior, Jesus Christ spent the whole night in prayer before He chose His twelve disciples. Likewise, the apostles prayed before they appointed Matthias to be one of their number. Let us therefore follow their examples and offer our prayers to Almighty God before we seat DANNY for the work to which we trust the Holy Ghost has called him.

(*The Chief Consecrator leads the congregation in prayer for the new Presiding Bishop)*

The Chief Consecrator: Danny Ellis Evans, we now call upon you, chosen by to be a guardian of the faith, to lead us in confessing the faith.

(The Presiding Bishop turns and faces the people)

We believe in one God

(All recite the Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again on the third day in fulfillment with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, universal and apostolic Church. We confess one Baptism for the forgiveness

of sins, and we look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(The Presiding Bishop now kneels before the Consecrators as the Music Department sings "Lord I'm Available to You")

The Prayer of Consecration and Installation *Led by the Chief Consecrator*

The Presiding Bishop is now vested according to the order of Bishops. During the Affirmation of Election Service, he received the scarlet cassock, rochet with scarlet cuff bands, and scarlet chimere. The final vesting includes: The Chasuble and Stole, red Zuchetto, red and gold Cross Chord, Mitre, and Crozier.

The **Bible** is presented, by opening it at the Gospels and placing it upon the head of the new Presiding Bishop with these words:

"Receive the Holy Scripture. Feed the flock of Christ committed to your charge; guard and defend them in His truth and be a faithful steward of His Holy Word and Sacraments"

The Insignias are now offered.

*The **Chasuble** is presented with these words.*

"Receive this cloak, symbolizing the covering you have received by baptism in Christ as testimonial of your fellowship with the Apostles."

*The **Cross** is presented with these words.*
"Receive this cross as a sign of our Lord's triumph and the banner of salvation. Be one with the Apostles in proclaiming Christ's resurrection and his sovereignty as Lord and Savior."

*The **Zuchetto** is presented with these words.*

"Receive the Zuchetto as symbol of episcopal dignity"

*The **Mitre** is presented with these words.*

"Receive this mitre as a sign of the helmet of salvation and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The very crown speaks to the descent of the Holy Ghost on the church at Pentecost. Wear it as one who serves as a steward of God's mysteries."

*The **Ring** is presented with these words.*

"Receive this ring as a symbol of authority. Guard the faith, unity, and discipline Christ's Holy Apostolic Church."

*The **Crozier** is presented with these words.*

"Receive this staff as a sign of the Shepherd's Office. Be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the flock of Christ."

*The Chief Consecrator now presents the new Presiding Bishop to the People. The Consecrators and College of Bishops will greet the new Presider of the Church. The Presider then greets his spouse and **immediate family.** The clergy and people offer their acclamation and applause in response to his consecration and installation.*

The Service of Holy Communion

The Most Reverend Danny Ellis Evans, Chief Celebrant

THE SEATING OF THE NEW PRESIDING BISHOP

The Apostolic Impartation

The Most Reverend Earl McDonald Wortham
International Fellowship Council of Churches
Baltimore Maryland

The Most Reverend Ralph Lee Dennis
Kingdom Fellowship Covenant Ministries
Towson Maryland

The Most Reverend Liston Page, Sr.
Greater Highway Deliverance Ministries
New York, New York

THE PRESIDING BISHOP SPEAKS

THE DISMISSAL

THE RECESSIONAL

Special Observations

Special thanks are extended to the following for having made this service of Ascension, Elevation, & Investiture both Memorable and Manageable.

The Consecrators

The Most Reverend Michael Blue
The Right Reverend William Young
The Right Reverend Bettye Francis

The Apostolic Patriarchs

The Most Reverend Earl McDonald Wortham
The Most Reverend Ralph Lee Dennis
The Most Reverend Liston Page, Sr.

The Concelebrants

The Sacred College of Bishops, Beth-El Churches of Christ, Incorporated
The Right Reverend Kevin Daniels, Ph.D., *Second Episcopal Diocese*
The Right Reverend James Bryant Smith, Ph.D., *Fourth Episcopal Diocese*
The Right Reverend Carolyn Slade, *Sixth Episcopal Diocese*
The Right Reverend Cheryl Renea Smith, Ed.D., *Auxiliary Bishop*
The Right Reverend Anthony Wyoming Bazemore, *Auxiliary Bishop*

The Office of the National Secretariat

The Reverend Levolia B. Johnson, Secretary General

The National Adjutancy

The Reverend Deacon Kenard Jackson, *Adjutant General*
The Reverend Darren Richey, *Assistant Adjutant General*
Sister Dominique Mathis, *Adjutant Scribe*
The Reverend Deacon Kenneth Sherrod, *Chaplain*
The Reverend David Tisdale, *Adjutant Chamberlain*
The Reverend Deacon Tiffany White, *Lead Adjutant Sister*
The Reverend Deacon Corey Fellows, *Interim Adjutant Apostolic*
The Reverend CherRon Carter, *Member*


SEAL OF THE BETH-EL CHURCHES OF CHRIST
1989