



The Church  
for the Fellowship  
of All Peoples



Vukani Mawethu Choir



Pope Flyne

The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples

72<sup>nd</sup> Church Anniversary &  
21<sup>st</sup> Howard Thurman Convocation

October 16, 2016 3:00pm

2041 Larkin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

### *Singing A New Song: New Prophetic Voices of Fellowship Church*

- Featuring music by master drummer Pope Flyne, the beloved Vukani Mawethu Choir and Fellowship's Director of Music Dr. Carl Blake
- Offering prophetic gifts and blessings from Ministers ordained at Fellowship Church

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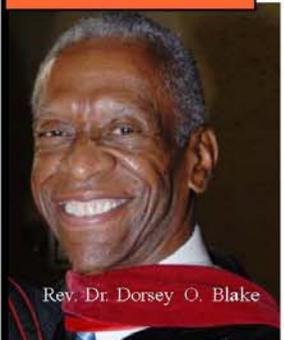
Rev. Elena Rose Vera



Rev. Dr. Kathryn Benton



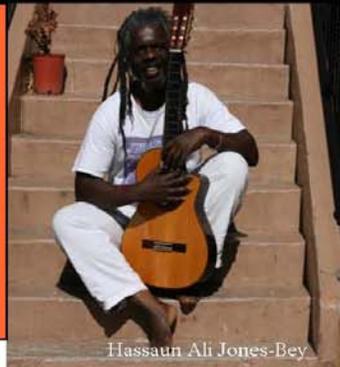
Rev. Liz Olson



Rev. Dr. Dorsey O. Blake



Dr. Carl Blake



Hassaun Ali Jones-Bey



Rev. Suzi Spangenberg

Dear Members and Friends of Fellowship Church:

We have arrived at the celebration of Fellowship Church's 72nd Anniversary and 21st Annual Howard Thurman Convocation. As human beings, we are always arriving, arriving to newness.

Isaiah 43:19 states: **"Behold, I'm about to do a new thing . . . Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"** The reference is to God's delivering the covenanted people from oppression to greater wholeness through an untraditional source and in a new way.

Walter Brueggemann says about Jesus: "His ministry evoked a passion and an energy that had disappeared in the old helplessness. Both his adherents and his enemies sensed the same thing: **An unmanaged newness was coming, and it created a future quite different from the one that royal domination intended to permit.**" A commentator on the quotation said: **"In true prophetic form, Jesus' ministry on earth paved the way for the coming newness by preparing people for that newness. Before opening the way for new life, he first had to equip his people with the imagination to believe in that possibility. He had to create room for wonder and amazement."**

This speaks to us for a number of reasons. One, it points out that we need to do something in order to usher in the new possibility. Second, it says that imagination, wonder and amazement are necessary for this newness. We need to make room for them.

Spiritually is basic to all oppression. Oppression derives from a lack of wholehearted connectedness with the self, the other and the source of our being. The ministers ordained by Fellowship Church make this connection. That is why we are doing a new thing this year for our Howard Thurman Convocation. Instead of having one major speaker this year, the speakers will be the ministers ordained by Fellowship Church: Rev. Dr. Kathryn Benton, Rev. Elizabeth Olson, Rev. Suzi Spangenberg, Rev. Elena Rose Vera and Hassaun Ali-Jones Bey who is exploring ordination.

They have caught the spirit and vision of this church that did a new thing in 1944 by bringing into being the nation's first intentionally interracial, interfaith congregation. Our founders had no blueprint regarding how to proceed. They trusted life and the newness that was beckoning to them to form a community, a religious fellowship that cut across all lines that divided people. These ministers ordained by Fellowship Church have unleashed their own imagination, wonder, and amazement in such powerful and profound ways that you experience newness, yet a grounding when they speak, when you're in their presence. They will be our speakers this year. Let us open ourselves to this new thing.

Can't we see on the horizon as Mrs. Sue Bailey Thurman envisioned a new day outstripping the great days of the past, movement beyond the confines of this nation, movement even beyond the glorious past of Fellowship Church? Behold, we are doing a new thing. And, we invite you, welcome you; want you to join us in claiming a future of newness, subverting dominant power for power that works for all.

Trusting,

Rev. Dr. Dorsey Odell Blake, Presiding Minister  
Rev. Dr. Kathryn Lloyd Benton, Co-Minister

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Rev. Dr. Kathryn Benton** was ordained in May 2004 and since that time was named Co-Minister at the church. Her ordination followed several years of service at Fellowship Church as Church Secretary, Youth Minister, and Worship Leader.

Before coming to Fellowship Church, Kathryn worked for years in the Episcopal Church in youth ministry, worship design, pastoral care, and lay ministry. Kathryn earned her Master's and Doctor of Ministry Degree at the University of Creation Spirituality in Oakland. She also holds an MA in Counseling Psychology.

Kathryn worked for many years in a family literacy program and in homeless services in both the East Bay and in San Francisco and is currently a Marriage and Family Therapist intern.

**Hassaun Ali-Jones Bey** (also known as Hajb the Mad Poet, Boundless Gratitude, and Ifagbamila) is an "Old as Dirt Grandpa with a Guitar." His education includes master degrees in engineering, journalism, and religion. His professional career includes engineering, military service, journalism, and education. He is currently in ministerial fellowship.

**Dr. Carl Blake** holds three degrees in piano performance: the Bachelor of Music (magna cum laude) from Boston University, the Master of Arts from San Jose State University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts from Cornell University. He is the first recipient of the Marian Anderson Young Artist Award (presented by Ms. Anderson herself) that led to a year of private study with Pierre Sancan of the Paris Conservatory of Music.

Dr. Blake is a concert artist who has received international critical acclaim. He has performed three times in Carnegie Recital Hall, once in Wigmore Hall in London and has traveled as an Artistic Ambassador for the U.S. Department of State to countries in the Caribbean Islands, Central and South America and Mexico.

Blake is the recipient of two Fulbright Scholar Awards to teach and perform in Honduras, Central America. Currently Carl is Director of Music for The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples.

**Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake** has his A.B. from Brown University, M.A., Pacific School of Religion and the Center for Urban Black Studies, M. Div., Pacific School of Religion and D. Min., from United Theological Seminary. He is the Presiding Minister at the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, and Visiting Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Social Transformation at the Pacific School of Religion. In the past Dr. Blake has been an associate/adjunct faculty at several universities and seminaries. He has extensive field ministry experience and work with Interfaith groups on justice and peace issues.

**Pope Flyne** is a master drummer and performer/composer/educator from Ghana. He is best known as lead vocalist for the legendary Sweet Talks band of Ghana where he helped bring the art of highlife music to new heights. When not on stage, he shares his joyful spirit and vast knowledge of African folk music, dancing and percussion instruments with a vast number of American students.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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Prelude	<b>Medley of African American Spirituals</b>	Dr. Carl Blake
Call to Assembly		Pope Flyne
Opening Music	<b>"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"</b>	Congregation
Invocation		Rev. Dr. Kathryn Benton
Welcome & Acknowledgements		Bryan Caston
Music		Vukani Mawethu Choir
Introduction of Speakers		Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake
Speakers	Hassaun Ail-Jones Bey Rev. Elena Rose Vera Rev. Suzi Spangenberg Rev. Elizabeth Olson Rev. Dr. Kathryn Benton	
Offertory	<b>"Guide My Feet"</b>	Congregation
Music		Vukani Mawethu Choir
Remarks		Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake
Blessing		Speakers
Sending Forth Music	<b>"I Wish I Knew How"</b>	Congregation
Postlude	<b>"Part In Peace" (Traditional)</b>	Dr. Carl Blake

## SONGS

### "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

(additional verses attributed to Vincent Harding)

1. We are climbing Jacob's Ladder. (3 times total) We are climbing on.
2. Ev'ry round goes higher, higher. (3 times total) We are climbing on.
3. If I stumble, will you help me? (3 times total) We are climbing on.
4. Though the road is steep and rugged, (3 times total) We are climbing on.
5. We are building up a new world. (3 times total) Builders must be strong.
6. Courage, brothers, don't be weary, Courage, sisters, don't be weary,  
Courage, people, don't be weary, Though the road be long.

### "Guide My Feet"

Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race.  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand while I run this race.  
Hold my hand while I run this race.  
Hold my hand while I run this race.  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Stand by me while I run this race.  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

### "I Wish I Knew How"

I wish I know how it would feel to be free.  
I wish I could break all these chains holding me.  
I wish I could say all the things I could say,  
Say 'em loud, say 'em clear for the whole world to hear.  
Say 'em loud, say 'em clear for the whole world to hear.

I wish I could share all the love in my heart,  
Remove all the bars that still keep us apart.  
I wish you could know what it means to be me,  
Then you'd see and agree everyone should be free.  
Then you'd see and agree everyone should be free.

I wish I could give all I'm longing to give.  
I wish I could live like I'm longing to live.  
I wish I could do all the things I can do,  
Though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.  
Though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.

I wish I could be like a bird in the sky.  
How sweet it would be if I found I could fly.  
I'd soar to the sun and look down at the sea,  
then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.  
Then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.

## BIOGRAPHIES (continued)

**Rev. Elizabeth “Liz” Olson** was ordained at Fellowship Church in 2013 and serves as Associate Minister-at-Large, is a Trustee for the church, and coordinates the Second Sunday Social Justice Film Series. A graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry (2013), she became a Provisional Board Certified Chaplain (APC/BCCI) this year and currently serves as a chaplain at The Rogue Valley Manor in Medford, Oregon where she is the Pastoral Services Volunteer Coordinator. She has also served as a chaplain at San Francisco General Hospital, Sutter Medical Center Sacramento, Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center and presently at Asante Ashland Community Hospital. She lives in Ashland, Oregon and is also active with Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) and developing white privilege awareness workshops.

**Rev. Suzi Spangenberg** was ordained at Fellowship Church in 2015. She received her Master of Arts in Social Change Degree and the Master of Divinity Degree from Starr King School for the Ministry. While at Starr King, she held positions of great trust, including that of student representative to the Starr King Board of Trustees. Prior to and during her journey with Starr King, she gave creative and committed leadership to the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign against the draconian SB1070 Anti-immigrants Bill in Arizona and provided anti-racism trainings to white congregations nationally. She is a long time social justice activist and organizer and is recognized for her excellence as a photographer and videographer. She participated in and documented the Occupy Movement nationally, and after being targeted and violently assaulted by Oakland Police, was one of 12 plaintiffs in a Federal lawsuit which helped force Oakland Police to change their crowd control policies. As an associate minister at Fellowship Church, she focuses on chaplaincy, media, and social justice.

**Rev. Elena Rose Vera** was ordained at Fellowship in April 2016. Elena grew up in rural Oregon and has distinguished herself as a political and theological writer with a focus on the intersections between colonial history, race, gender, and queer liberation. She is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry.

She travels the country as a preacher and poet, and has dedicated herself to the work of radical love, queer theology, and justice for those who live at the edges, and those whose backs are against the wall.

**Vukani Mawethu Choir** is a non-profit multiracial choir which sings the freedom songs of Southern Africa, primarily of South Africa in Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, and English, as well as spirituals, gospel, labor and civil rights songs linking peoples in the U.S., South Africa, and around the world. Formed in 1986 by the late great James Madhlope Phillips, an ANC union and cultural organizer, the choir is united by its strong opposition to racism and apartheid and love of the rhythms and melodies which gave grown out of century-long struggles for freedom.

## I Will Sing a New Song

The old song of my spirit has wearied itself out.  
It has long ago been learned by heart;  
It repeats itself over and over,  
Bringing no added joy to my days or lift to my spirit.

I will sing a new song.  
I must learn the new song for the new needs.  
I must fashion new words born of all the new growth  
of my life – of my mind – of my spirit.  
I must prepare for new melodies that have  
never been mine before,  
That all that is within my may lift my voice unto God.  
Therefore, I shall rejoice with each new day  
And delight my spirit in each fresh unfolding.  
I will sing, this day, a new song unto the Lord.

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I watched him for a long time. He was so busily engaged in his task that he did not notice my approach until he heard my voice. Then he raised himself erect with all the slow dignity of a man who had exhausted the cup of haste to the very dregs. He was an old man – as I discovered before our conversation was over, a full eighty-one years. Further talk between us revealed that he was planting a small grove of pecan trees. The little treelets were not more than two and a half or three feet in height. My curiosity was unbounded.

“Why did you not select larger trees so as to increase the possibility of your living to see them bear at least one cup of nuts?”

He fixed his eyes directly on my face, with no particular point of focus, but with a gaze that took in the totality of my features. Finally he said, “These small trees are cheaper and I have very little money.”

“So you do not expect to live to see the trees reach sufficient maturity to bear fruit?”

“No, but is that important? All my life I have eaten fruit from trees that I did not plant, why should I not plant trees to bear fruit for those who may enjoy them long after I am gone? Besides, the man who plants because he will reap the harvest has no faith in life.”

Years have passed since that sunny afternoon in LaGrange, Georgia, when those words were said. Again and again, the thought has come back to me, “Besides, the man who plants because he will reap the harvest has no faith in life.” The fact is that much of life is made up of reaping where we have not sown and planting where we shall never reap. And yet that is not all the story. There is a reaping of precisely what we have sown, with the extra thrown in, guaranteed by the laws of growth, Thus the insight from the scriptures: “Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.” The good and the not-good alike. All of life is a planting and a harvesting. No man gathers merely the crop that he himself has planted. This is another dimension of the brotherhood of man.

From: *Deep Is The Hunger*  
Howard Thurman  
Pages 48-49

## The Commitment

I affirm my need for a growing understanding of all peoples as children of God, and I seek after a vital experience of God as revealed in Jesus of Nazareth and other great religious spirits whose fellowship with God was the foundation of their fellowship with all people.

I desire to share in the spiritual growth and ethical awareness of people of varied national, cultural, racial, and creedal heritage united in a religious fellowship.

I desire the strength of corporate worship through membership in The Church for The Fellowship of All Peoples, with the imperative of personal dedication to the working out of God's purposes here and in all places.

## The Membership

The membership of the Church is open to any person who is willing to accept its commitment, to participate in its programs, and to share in its responsibilities.

**Rev. Dr. Dorsey O. Blake**

**Presiding Minister**

**Rev. Dr. Kathryn L. Benton**

**Co-Minister**

**Rev. Elizabeth Olson**

**Minister-at-Large**

**Dr. Carl Blake**

**Director of Music**

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### Founding Ministers

Dr. Howard Thurman

Dr. Alfred Fisk



### Board of Trustees

Courtney Brown, Secretary

Michael Brown, Vice-Chair

Bryan Caston, Chair

Hassan Ali Jones-Bey

John McHugh

Rev. Elizabeth Olson

Rev. Elena Rose Vera

**The Ministers and Board of Trustees thank you for your support over the years and for your support of our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Howard Thurman Convocation and the 72<sup>nd</sup> Church Anniversary.**