

THE CHURCH FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALL PEOPLES

Presents the

15th Annual Howard Thurman Convocation



SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Cecil Williams

TOPIC: BUILDING A FUTURE GREATER THAN OUR PAST

POPE FLYNE, master drummer

AUTRIS PAGE, baritone

DR. CARL BLAKE, pianist

October 24, 2010, 3:00 p.m.

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Dear Members and Friends:

Rev. Cecil Williams will be awarded the prestigious Howard Thurman Award at the 15th Annual Howard Thurman Convocation being celebrated today. The theme for the convocation is: Building a Future Greater Than Our Past. This award recognizes Rev. Williams' work in expanding the limits of spirituality, compassion and diversity as Founder and Minister of Liberation of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco.

As minister, author, social activist, lecturer, community leader and spokesperson for the poor and marginalized, Reverend Williams is respected and recognized as a national leader on the forefront of change and in the struggle for civil and human rights. His selection as honoree for the Howard Thurman Convocation comes amid renewed national and international interest in Howard Thurman. The release of the first volume of the Howard Thurman Papers Project illuminates the similarities in their advocacy for change and struggle for civil and human rights. This project provides a research base for the development of ethical leadership training programs. What Thurman calls civic character and his theocentric vision of redemptive community have been embodied in the community programs for which Glide church is well known.

The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples was co-founded by Dr. Alfred Fisk and Dr. Howard Thurman as the first interracial interfaith church in the United States. This controversial and radical act was a visible action of civic character with the goal of uniting people in a common community; other conscious acts of civic character included making manifest the repeal of laws banning interracial marriages by performing such marriages. In a similar effort, Rev. Williams was one of the first clergymen to take a revolutionary stand for same sex couples by presiding over their weddings four decades before the struggles of today to legalize gay marriage.

Rev. Williams' vision for the 21st century can be seen in Glide's unique and powerful blend of spirituality, principled compassion, and cutting edge programs for those most in need. It is this spirit that is one of the hallmarks of Howard Thurman Convocation honorees.

Trusting the God of Life,

Dr. Dorsey Odell Blake
Presiding Minister

BIOGRAPHIES

Rev. Dr. Cecil Williams – For over 45 years, Reverend Cecil Williams has expanded the limits of spirituality, compassion and diversity as Founder and Minister of Liberation of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco. As minister, author, social activist, lecturer, community leader and spokesperson for the poor and marginalized, Reverend Williams is respected and recognized as a national leader on the forefront of change and in the struggle for civil and human rights. His ministry underscores his roots in liberation theology.

Often considered controversial and radical, Rev. Williams was one of the first clergymen to take a revolutionary stand for same sex couples by presiding over their weddings four decades before today's struggle to legalize gay marriage. His vision for the 21st century church can be seen in Glide's unique and powerful blend of spirituality, principled compassion, and cutting edge programs for those most in need. With a membership of over 11,000 and located in the heart of the city's toughest neighborhoods, Glide is one of the fastest growing United Methodist churches in North America. People of all races, ethnic backgrounds, cultures, social classes, ages, faiths, and sexual orientations join together at every Sunday Celebration to experience the energy of spiritual liberation coupled with the fusion of jazz, blues and gospel performed by the renowned Glide Ensemble choir and the Change Band.

Rev. Cecil Williams is married to Janice Mirikitani, Founding President of the Glide Foundation. Together, they have created a radical and unique partnership, bringing a powerful yet sensitive direction to Glide's many social programs. In 1986, Reverend Williams became the Chairman for the Northern California Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance Committee at the request of Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

Reverend Williams was the recipient of the 2008 National Caring Award presented by the Caring Institute in Washington, D.C., and now he is the recipient of the Howard Thurman Award.

Pope Flyne, master drummer – Ghanaian performer/composer/educator, Pope Flyne, 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.

AUTRIS PAIGE – In 1971, Autris Page made his debut with the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera, appearing in *Candide* at the Los Angeles Music Center and at the Curran Theatre in San Francisco. He has appeared with Ray Charles and the American Ballet Theatre and has appeared on Broadway in *Lost in the Stars*; *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope*; as Walter in *Raisin*; and in *Timbuktu* with Eartha Kitt. Mr. Paige has sung with the New York City Opera, the Houston Grand Opera and with the Metropolitan Opera. He was featured in the PBS film and award-winning EMI recording of *Porgy and Bess* as well as the recording of the opera *X, The Life and Times of Malcolm X*.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Convocation Theme: Building a Future Greater Than Our Past

Prelude	I Need Thee Every Hour	Dr. Carl Blake
Call to Assembly		Pope Flyne
Opening Music	“Love Will Guide Us”	Congregation
Invocation		Dr. Kathryn Benton
Welcome & Acknowledgements		Dr. Aubrey Dent
Music	Nocturne in C Minor, by G. Faure	Dr. Carl Blake
Introduction of Speaker		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Music		Autris Paige
Keynote Presentation		Dr. Cecil Williams
Offertory	“Lead Me, Guide Me”	Courtney Brown Ushers & Congregation
Music		Autris Paige
Recognition of Howard Thurman Award Recipient:		Rev. Dr. Cecil Williams
	Clara Allen	Glenn Nance
Remarks		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Sending Forth Music	“I Wish I Knew How”	Congregation
Blessing		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Postlude	All Creatures of Our God and King	Dr. Carl Blake

Love Will Guide Us

Love will guide us, Peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot speak before thousands,
you can give from deep within you.
You can change the world with your love.

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain-

Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need thy strength and power
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when doubt and fears oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy Light to see,
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

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)

Dr. Carl Leroy Blake, pianist - 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 he is piano instructor at Oakland School for the Arts.

Footprints of a Dream:

The Story of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples

Some 66 years ago, our inaugural service was held at the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco on Sunday afternoon, October 8, 1944. (Page 41)

The Declaration

The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples is a creative venture in interracial, intercultural, and interdenominational communion. In faith and genius it is Christian. While it derives its inspiration primarily from the source of Hebrew-Christian thought and life, it affirms the validity of spiritual insight wherever found and seeks to recognize, understand, and appreciate every aspect of truth whatever the channel through which it comes. It believes that human dignity is inherent in [each person] as a creature of God, and it interprets the meaning of human life as essentially spiritual. It recognizes and affirms that the God of Life and the God of Religion are one and the same, and that the normal relationship of people as children of one God, is one of understanding, confidence and fellowship.

The Commission

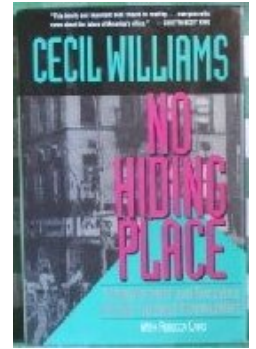
This Church undertakes to make specific impact upon the community through a membership committed to the application of the principles of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in everyday living.

Each member is called upon to find his [or her] avenue of practical expression in fulfilling the Commitment both in his [or her] individual life and through active participation in the program of the Church. (Page 51 & 52)

An excerpt from –

No Hiding Place: Empowerment and Recovery for Our Troubled Communities

by: Cecil Williams with Rebecca Laird



Now there is only one Glide; it can't be duplicated. Yet the Glide attitude is one that can be chosen and adapted to any church, community, or city. Anyone, especially you, can take the risk of telling the truth and living in the Spirit.

Begin today. Take a chance on yourself. Risk extending a hand and being honest with your brothers and sisters. Put your whole life into the present moment. Let go of the past and take your eyes off of the future.

To cultivate the Glide attitude you must first come to see that all people are made in God's likeness. Then you must begin to wrestle with your previous conclusions and labels about people. Perhaps you once thought you could identify who was "in" with God and who was "out" by categorizing people.

Maybe you thought drug addicts or gay people were "out" no matter the content of their hearts or character. Perhaps you thought that white, middle-class, or married people probably were "in" regardless of the quality for their love or care for one another.

Our appearances or labels are not what count with God or with one another; it's who we are and how we live our lives that truly matter.

Over the years, people have labeled me as a crazy minister, a touched man, or a holy fool. None of what others call me matters much. What matters is that I live out the likeness of God that is found in my humanity. **I must be what God created me to be. So must you....**

Many years ago, when I was a boy, my mother and father took me to the church, and the church was the only place that ever told me never to give up. Through the testimonies, the stories, the songs, and the hardship, I heard the community saying, *Look, we have to live across the tracks and deal with racism and segregation. We don't have good jobs. We don't always have enough to eat or decent clothes to wear, but you are going to go to school, boy. You are going to learn something. You are going to be somebody. Don't you ever give up. Keep on going'. One of these days things will be different.*

The belief of that community propelled me on. Today the New Generation of young people needs a community like that, too.

I have a need to survive; so do you. Those of you, who have been through addiction or incest, just think about the fact that you are still here. You somehow have held on to a thin thread of survival. Keep on living one day at a time. If you did it today, you can do it tomorrow.

To survive means to choose life every moment and every day. Hold on, don't give up. **Choose life; then offer the gift you have to your community.**

When we as a community of people in recovery offer what we have together, then everything begins to change.

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

Founding Ministers
Dr. Howard Thurman
Dr. Alfred Fisk



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