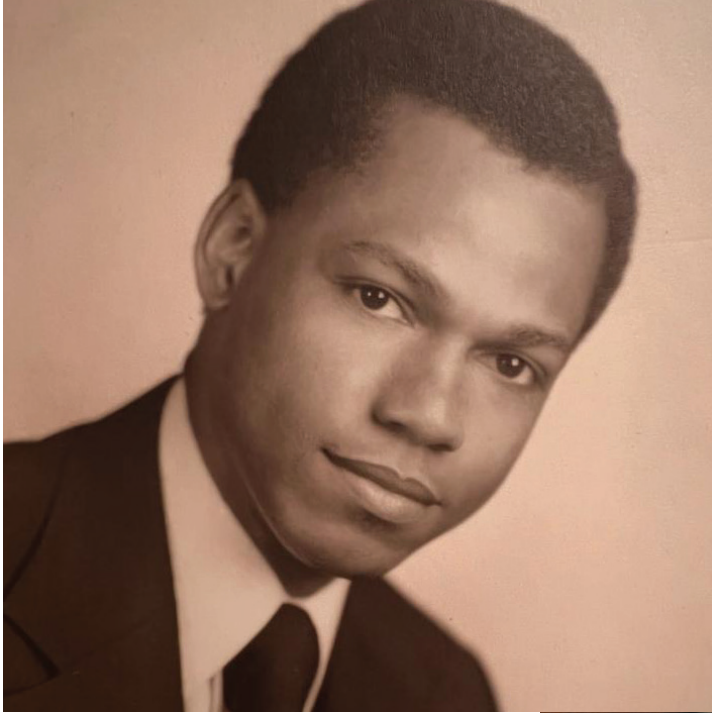


CELEBRATING
THE LIFE & LEGACY OF
REVEREND
DR. CALVIN O. BUTTS, III
1949-2022



FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 4, 2022
2:00PM

THE ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
132 ODELL CLARK PLACE, NEW YORK, NY 10030

ORDER OF SERVICE
REVEREND DR. D. DARRELL GRIFFIN, OFFICIATING

PRELUDE

Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs

PROCESSIONAL

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

What A Fellowship

INVOCATION

Reverend Dr. Derrick Harkins

ANTHEM

Come Thou Fount
United Voices of Abyssinian

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 27:1-6, 14
Reverend Dr. Marvin J. Bentley

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Timothy 4:6-8
Reverend Dr. Violet Dease Lee

PRAYER OF COMFORT

Reverend Dr. Eboni Marshall Turman

SOLO

If I Can Help Somebody
Eunice Newkirk

REMARKS

PRESENTATION

LaTanya Richardson Jackson
& Courtney B. Vance

REFLECTIONS

SPIRITUAL

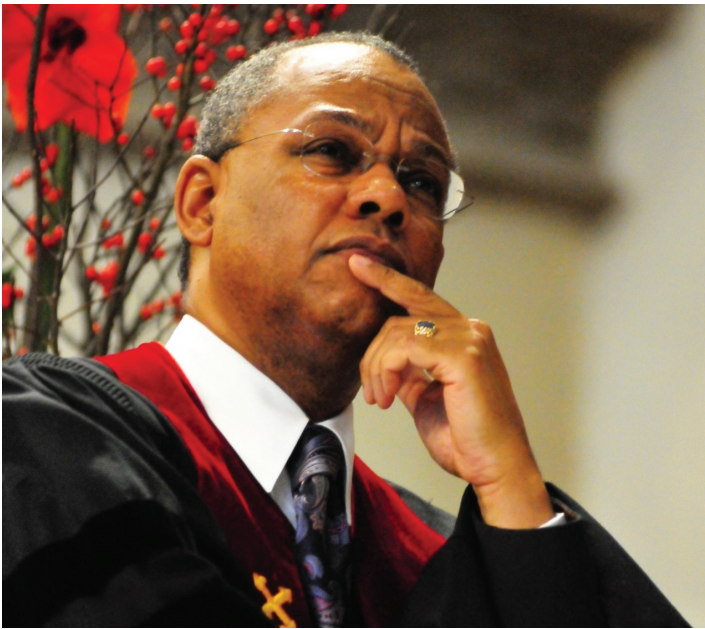
In Bright Mansions
United Voices of Abyssinian

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Reverend Dr. S. Raschaad Hoggard

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

Valerie Simpson



ABYSSINIAN REFLECTIONS

OBITUARY

Reverend Rashad Raymond Moore
Joseph Joubert

FAMILY REFLECTIONS

MEDITATION

Beams of Heaven
Janinah Burnett

EULOGY

Reverend Dr. Marvin McMickle

SONG OF PRAISE

Total Praise
United Voices of Abyssinian

BENEDICTION

Reverend Dr. Carolyn Ann Knight

RECESSIONAL

Going Up Yonder
United Voices of Abyssinian
with LaFredrick Coaxner







THE LIFE OF REVEREND DR. CALVIN O. BUTTS, III

REVEREND DR. CALVIN OTIS BUTTS, III was born on July 19, 1949, in Bridgeport, Connecticut to Eloise Edwards Butts and Calvin Otis Butts, II. During his early childhood, the family moved to New York City, where he received his primary education. He was a Boy Scout, rising to the rank of Life Scout, and in 1967, he earned his high school diploma from Flushing High School, where he was a member of the track team and president of the senior class.

Upon graduating from high school, Dr. Butts went on to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Inspired by its president, Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays and alumnus Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it was an experience that would have an immeasurable effect on his ministry and career. While at Morehouse, Dr. Butts pledged Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and was active in civil rights, including when he and several other Morehouse students took to the streets in anger in 1968 after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. It was during his time at Morehouse that another event that would forever shape his life took place - he met and married Patricia Reed, who became his partner for 51 years.

He received his B.A. degree from Morehouse College, and after graduation, Butts returned to New York where he earned his Master of Divinity degree in church history in 1975 from Union Theological Seminary, and later his Doctor of Ministry degree in Church and Public Policy from Drew University. While still in graduate school, Butts was hired by Dr. Samuel Dewitt Proctor to work at The Abyssinian Baptist Church, where he began as an office assistant, worked his way up to youth minister, then executive minister before eventually being named pastor in 1989 after the retirement of Dr. Proctor.

While serving as pastor of one of Harlem's largest churches, Dr. Butts has been committed to Abyssinian's core values of Worship, Evangelism, Service, and Education. One of his signature quotes is "Education and Faith are the Tigris and Euphrates of our liberation: twin rivers at the source of our redemption." To that end, he worked to achieve the goal of creating a viable and dynamic "Beloved Community" in central Harlem. In 1989, he established the Abyssinian Development Corporation, a community-based, not-for-profit organization responsible for over \$1 billion in housing and commercial development in Harlem. Dr. Butts was also instrumental in creating an educational corridor in Harlem; the Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change - a public, state-of-the-art, intermediate and high school in Harlem, and the Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School.

Building on his emphasis on education, Dr. Butts accepted the challenge of becoming the president of the State University of New York College at Old Westbury, thus continuing the tradition set by Dr. Proctor of being both Pastor and President. While at Old Westbury, Dr. Butts reinvigorated one of the most diverse public college campuses in America to its largest enrollment ever, adding full-time faculty and expanding student support services. Under his leadership, SUNY College at Old Westbury earned new accreditations and created its first-ever graduate programs, conferring graduate degrees in more than fifteen disciplines. Further, Dr. Butts oversaw the College's investment of approximately \$150 million in capital projects, including technological advances, residence halls, a Student Union, and a major academic building.



Alongside his work to strengthen the community economically, spiritually and academically, Dr. Butts understood the importance of caring for the physical health of the people of Harlem and beyond. Recognizing the need to address HIV/AIDS in the community, he served as Chairman of the Board of the National Black Leadership Commission on Health. Dr. Butts was also one of the first to help make both testing and vaccination available to the residents of Harlem during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Dr. Butts served as President of Africare NYC, an independent organization dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life in rural Africa and was a member of the board of the September 11th Fund. He was a member of Boyer Lodge No.1 of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York, and received honorary Doctorate degrees from Fordham University; Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the City University of New York/The City College of New York and numerous others. For his community activism, Dr. Butts received innumerable honors and commendations, including the United Negro College Fund's Shirley Chisholm Community Service Award; The Medal for Distinguished Service from Teachers College, Columbia University; and Man of the Year, Morehouse College Alumni Association.

While Dr. Butts was awarded more honors and accolades than can be listed here, nothing was more vital to him than his ministry and the members of The Abyssinian Baptist Church. Before everything

else, he was first and foremost a Pastor, often saying that he would not have been able to serve the people as he did without the overwhelming support of the membership.

Most importantly, Dr. Butts, when not in the pulpit, the president's office or out in the public eye, was a man who loved his family. Most precious to him was being able to spend time with his wife, and watching his children and grandchildren grow. He celebrated family members' achievements even more than his own, and never hesitated to give his support whenever possible. He drew strength from the love and support that he both gave – and more importantly received – from his family and friends.

Now it can be said: Dr. Butts tried to help somebody. He tried to follow the example of Jesus Christ. He stood with honor and integrity. And in all things, he never hesitated to give God the praise! Now he has gone to “dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. (Psalm 27).

Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III is survived by his wife of 51 years, Patricia Reed Butts, his children, Calvin IV (Tiffany), Alexander and Patricia, his grandchildren, Kyla, Alexander, Jr., Calvin V, Arthur, Reed and Ethan, many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, and an immeasurable number of friends, church members and those in the “Beloved Community”.



...Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

I CORINTHIANS 13:4-7, 13



Education and Faith are the Tigris and Euphrates of our liberation: twin rivers at the source of our redemption.

DR. BUTTS



One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.

PSALM 27:4



Peace and love to my beloved family! Thank you for representing, everything, and in all things!

“Keep The Faith!”

POPPA, 10/10/22