

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

148th Homecoming Celebration

"A LEGACY OF FAITH, A FUTURE OF HOPE"

PSALM 145:4 & JEREMIAH 29:11

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 16TH, 2025

11:00 A.M.

DR. MILTON GRAHAM, SR., SENIOR PASTOR

SISTER GRETA FREEMAN, HOMECOMING CHAIRMAN

~ Senior Pastor ~

Reverend Milton R. Graham, Sr.



Welcome Home!

Mount Zion Baptist Church Annual Homecoming Worship Celebration

Grace and peace be unto you,

With joy unspeakable and a heart full of gratitude, I welcome you to our Annual Homecoming Worship Celebration here at Mount Zion Baptist Church. I'm Peacock Proud and Hyena Happy, embracing the joy and confidence God has placed within us. Thank you to our Homecoming preacher, another son of Mount Zion, Rev. Dr. Sterling E. Freeman, for accepting our invitation and coming home to share

God's Word.

This year's theme, "A Legacy of Faith, A Future of Hope," echoes the heartbeat of our heritage and the promise of our destiny. As Psalm 145:4 declares: "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." And Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us: "For I know the plans I have for you, saith the Lord—plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I stand before you today not only as your Senior Pastor—now in my eleventh month of service—but as a living testimony of Mount Zion's legacy. I was:

- Baptized by the late Rev. Dr. Fred T. Guy
- Nurtured through the Primary, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Departments of our Sunday School
- Shaped through the Youth Department and Laymen's Ministry
- Graduated from our beloved Arkansas Baptist College, where I now serve with honor on the Board of Trustees
- Licensed under Interim Pastor Rev. W. H. Marley
- Ordained by Rev. Dr. Geroy Osborne

Mount Zion is not just where I serve—it is where I was formed.

To every son and daughter of Zion—whether you still walk these halls frequent the sanctuary or now live in distant places—I say with open arms and a full heart: Welcome home.

- If you've moved out of state, stay connected with us on Facebook and YouTube.
- If you're not active in another church, or if God is tugging on your heart to return, we would love to have you back home at Mount Zion.

This is more than a celebration, it's a reunion of faith, a rekindling of hope, and a reaffirmation of the legacy we carry.

Let us worship together, remember together, and dream forward together.

I'm on Tiptoe Expectation, eagerly anticipating the great things God will do among us in this next chapter of the Mount Zion Baptist Church family's legacy of faith and future of hope.

With love and expectation,
Rev. Dr. Milton R. Graham, Sr.
Senior Pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church

~ Our Speaker ~

Reverend Dr. Sterling E. Freeman

STERLING E. FREEMAN is a leadership coach, organizational and cultural change agent, facilitator, counselor and public speaker. All his work is grounded in an equity lens and motivated by a desire to create spaces where Black and Brown people have full freedom to thrive, so that all people can thrive. His worldview and the foundation of his social and cultural critique are heavily influenced by Womanist thought.



Having been in Christian ministry since 1996, Sterling also brings a pastoral orientation to this work, and is inclined toward deep listening, holding empathy and meeting people where they are. Sterling has worked with leaders whose diversity spans all lines of identity and across multiple sectors in the nonprofit world. Along with Kathleen Crabbs, Sterling is a Co-Founder and Principal with CounterPart Consulting, LLC and Associate with OpenSource Leadership Strategies. Through both entities, he and his colleagues work with client-partners to help them apply an explicit racial equity lens to their work. Sterling is a founder of BREATHE: A Whole Black Experience, which makes space for Black people to freely discuss their racialized experiences, grapple with the impact of those experiences and affirm themselves and one another.

He is also the founder of The Wisdom & The Work podcast, which focuses on the topic of racial justice. Sterling serves on the board of the African American Heritage House at Chautauqua Institution in New York, the vision of which is to contribute to a more vibrant Chautauqua community and enrich the Chautauqua (CHQ) community through the inclusion of African American history, culture, and the contributions of African Americans intellectuals.

He is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., where he leads the leadership development work for his region. Sterling lives in Durham, North Carolina with his wife, Michelle. They have an adult daughter, Joia.

~ Message from the Chairman ~

Sister Greta Freeman

I give all glory, laud, and honor to God, our Heavenly Father, and I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

On behalf of the members of Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Homecoming Committee, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of you for joining us in this sacred celebration. Your presence today reminds us that we are part of a great spiritual family—one built on prayer, perseverance, and the unfailing love of God.



This year's theme, "A Legacy of Faith, A Future of Hope," calls us to remember and rejoice. As Psalm 145:4 declares, "One generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts." For 148 blessed years, God has allowed Mount Zion to stand as a beacon of faith—rooted in His Word, carried by His grace, and strengthened by the testimonies of those who came before us. Through seasons of joy and times of challenge, God has proven Himself faithful, guiding us step by step and reminding us that truly nothing is impossible with Him.

And as we celebrate our rich legacy, we also look with expectation toward the future. The Lord assures us in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." With this promise in our hearts, we move forward with confidence—trusting that the same God who has kept us is the One who will continue to lead us.

Thank you for being part of this Homecoming celebration. Your support, your prayers, and your presence mean more than words can express.

May God bless each of you richly!

In Christ,

Sister Greta Freeman
Homecoming Chairman

~ Responsive Reading ~

Theme:

“A Legacy of Faith, A Future of Hope”

Scriptures:

Psalm 145:3-7

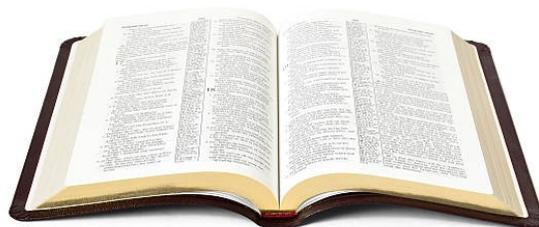
LEADER: ³ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

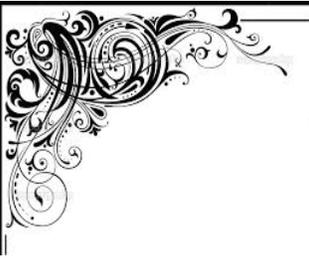
CONGREGATION: ⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

LEADER: ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

CONGREGATION: ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

ALL: ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.





~ Sunday Morning Worship Service ~

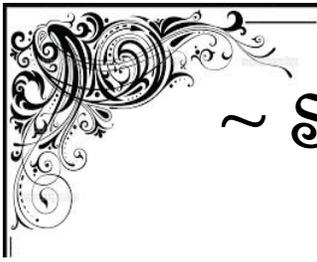
Theme: "A Legacy of Faith, A Future of Hope"

Scriptures: Psalm 145:4 and Jeremiah 29:11

Organ Prelude		Bro. Sebastian Cenaj
Praise and Worship	Praise Team	Bro. Ren Brown
Call to Worship	Psalm 34:1-3	Deacon Allie Freeman, III
Introit	"Spirit of the Living God"	Congregation
Welcome		Deacon Allie Freeman, III
Ministry of Music	Congregational Hymn	Deacon John Graham
Responsive Reading		Sis. Lanita Davis
Prayer of Invocation		Sis. Jacqueline Graham
Ministry of Music		Homecoming Day Chorus
Remembering our Deceased Members		Memorial Presentation
Worship Through Giving		Deacon Robert Jones
	"All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own - have we given Thee, Amen"	
Announcements and Fellowship		Sis. Nyree Williams

Fellowship Music provided by Bro. Khollin Franklin





~ Sunday Morning Worship Service continued ~

Theme: "A Legacy of Faith, A Future of Hope"

Scriptures: Psalm 145:4 and Jeremiah 29:11

Occasion	Sis. Miriam Morehead
Membership Roll Call/Recognition of Golden Members	Sis. Clai M. Hall
Introduction of Speaker	Sis. Arin Freeman
Ministry of Music	Instrumental Medley Bro. Kollin Franklin First Baptist Highland Park
Homecoming Message	Rev. Dr. Sterling Freeman First Baptist Church, Smithville, NC
Invitation to Discipleship	Rev. Dr. Milton R. Graham, Sr. Senior Pastor
Ministry of Music	Congregation
Remarks	Sis. Greta Freeman, Homecoming General Chairman
Remarks	Rev. Dr. Milton R. Graham, Sr. Senior Pastor
Benediction	Rev. Dr. Milton R. Graham, Sr. Senior Pastor



~ Golden Members ~

(Fifty or more years of membership)

Sisters

Sylvia Allen	Rosa Moore
Helen Hampton Barnes	Miriam Morehead
Carsonne Brooks	Vera Hodges Perry
Rose Cooke	Eulila Sampson (Chicago)
Delores Croom	Frankie Hampton Seymour
Margaret Dillard	Yana Hampton Scott
Florida Beckley Ewings	Anna Joiner-Tatum
Margaret Freeman	Georgie Taylor
Clai Morehead Hall	Tommie L. Taylor
Nellie C. Hampton	Gloria Whale
Arma Holmes Hart	Carolyn Warren
Gisele Hudson	Karen Hendrix White
Willie B. Johnson	Carolyn Williams
Sheila Miles	Maude Woods



~ Golden Members ~

(Fifty or more years of membership)

Brothers

Harold Allen, Sr.	Michael Handy
Rev. Harold Betton	Dwight Hite
Wesley Britt, Sr.	Robert Jones
Lionel Davis, Sr.	Jimmy L. Smith, Sr.
Charles Dismuke	Rev. Shedrick Warren, Jr.
John Graham, Sr.	Jimmy Williams
Oyama Hampton	



~ 40-49 Year Members ~

(Up to 49 years of membership)

Sisters

Greta Freeman

Nyree Williams

Brothers

Allie E. Freeman, III



*For I know the plans
I have for you,
declares the LORD,
plans to prosper you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you*

HOPE and a
FUTURE

Jeremiah 29:11



~ Remembering our Deceased ~

Observed from December 2024

to November 2025

Sister Roberta Clark

Sister Dorie Dismuke

Brother Adolphus Hall

Sister Lola Newborn



“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life.....”

Daniel 12:2

~ Exceptional Accomplishments ~

MARRIAGES:

Sister Alexis Freeman-Pickett and Jeremiah Pickett

Son of Greta and Allie Freeman, III; and granddaughter of Harold and Sylvia Allen, and Margaret Freeman.



GRADUATES:

Orin Freeman received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), May 2025.

Tanisha Rachal received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Baptist Health, May 2025.

Lynda Williams received her High School Diploma from Premier High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, May 2025.



~ *Committee Members* ~

Sister Greta Freeman,
General Homecoming Chairman

Sister Clai M. Hall, Vice-Chairman

Sister Sylvia Allen

Brother Lionel Davis

Sister Marsha Davis

Sister Maude Dunn

Brother Allie Freeman, III

Sister Miriam Morehead

Sister Vera Perry

Sister Olivia Stewart

Brother Nicholas Stewart

Sister Anna Tatum

Sister Nyree Williams

Reverend Dr. Milton R. Graham, Sr.

Senior Pastor

~ *Gratitude* ~

Thank you all for joining us today for our Homecoming service. Your presence is a blessing, and we're truly grateful to worship and celebrate God's goodness together.

~ The Homecoming Committee ~

~ Special Thanks ~

All Program Participants

Mt. Zion Church Ministries

Program Committee

Clai M. Hall, Chairman

Sylvia Allen, Sonja Howard, Miriam Morehead

Vera Perry, Gloria Whale

Hospitality Committee

Lionel and Marsha Davis, Co-Chairs

Allie Freeman, III, Nyree Williams

Souvenir Committee

Nicholas Stewart, Chairman

Olivia Stewart, Allie Freeman, III, Nyree Williams

Publicity

Sylvia Allen, Chairman

Clai M. Hall

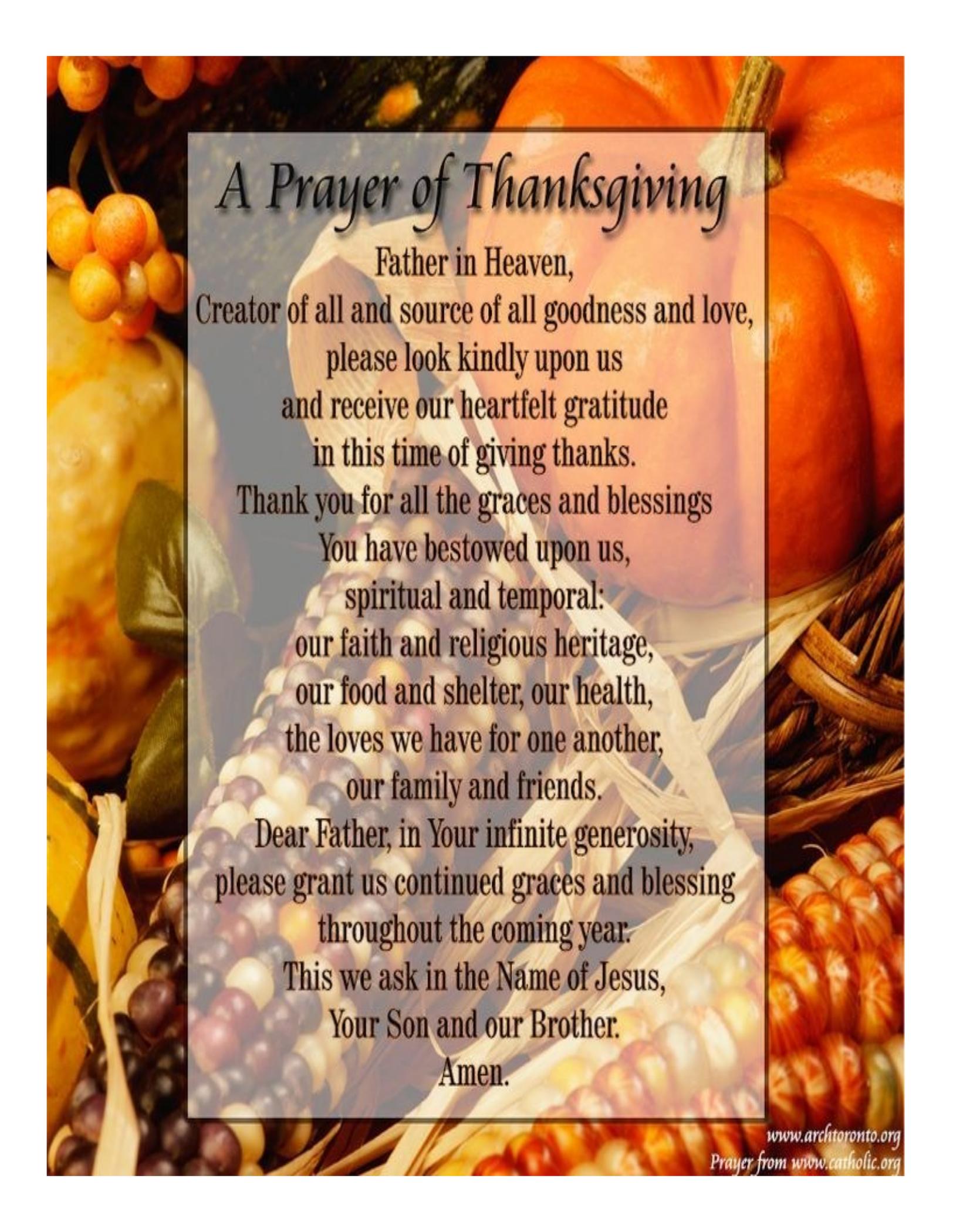
Decorations

Vera Perry, Chairman

Delores Croom, Allie Freeman, III, Clai M. Hall

Karen Horton, Miriam Morehead, Anna Tatum, Darryl Taylor

Corine Givens, Pulpit Arrangements

A still life photograph of autumn harvest produce. In the foreground, there are several ears of corn with their husks partially removed, showing the golden kernels. To the left, there are bunches of small, round, yellow and orange grapes. In the background, there are large, ripe pumpkins with orange skin and green stems. The entire scene is set against a dark, textured background, possibly a wooden surface or a dark cloth. The lighting is warm and soft, highlighting the textures and colors of the food.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father in Heaven,
Creator of all and source of all goodness and love,
please look kindly upon us
and receive our heartfelt gratitude
in this time of giving thanks.

Thank you for all the graces and blessings
You have bestowed upon us,
spiritual and temporal:
our faith and religious heritage,
our food and shelter, our health,
the loves we have for one another,
our family and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity,
please grant us continued graces and blessing
throughout the coming year.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus,
Your Son and our Brother.

Amen.