

REVEREND DR.  
**JAMES H. CONE**

August 5, 1938 – April 28, 2018



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

490 Riverside Drive  
New York City

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May 7, 2018  
11 o'clock

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# /// ORDER OF SERVICE ///

MUSICAL PRELUDE

William Randolph

PROCESSIONAL HYMN+  
Marching to Zion

WELCOME & INVOCATION

The Reverend Dr. Amy K. Butler

READING FROM MEMOIR  
Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody

The Reverend Dr. James A. Forbes

READING FROM SCRIPTURE  
Amos 5:21-24

William Candelaria

MUSICAL SELECTION  
(Silent Reading of Obituary)

I Love the Lord

REFLECTIONS

The Reverend Christopher Hedges  
The Reverend Dr. Dwight N. Hopkins  
The Reverend Dr. Serene Jones  
The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas  
Cornel West, Ph.D.

READING  
Let Me Down Easy

Anna Deavere Smith

MUSICAL SELECTION  
Lord Do It

James Cleveland recording

READING FROM SCRIPTURE  
Luke 4:16-22a

Bill & Judith Moyers

MUSICAL SELECTION  
Precious Lord

JoAnne Marie Terrell  
Gary L. Mitchell, Jr., Accompanist

EULOGY

The Reverend Dr. Raphael Warnock

HYMN+  
I Said I Wasn't Going to Tell Nobody

BENEDICTION

Rev. Butler

CLOSING HYMN  
Lift Every Voice

RECESSIONAL

Mr. Randolph

# OBITUARY

REV. DR. JAMES HAL CONE, renowned founder of Black Liberation Theology, award-winning author and Bill & Judith Moyers Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, died on April 28. He was 79.

Born in Fordyce, Ark., Cone completed his undergraduate study at Shorter College and Philander Smith College (B.A., 1958) in Little Rock. He graduated from Garrett Theological Seminary with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1961, and received his M.A. from Northwestern University 1963. Two years later, the Ph.D. was conferred on him by Northwestern.

Cone joined Union's faculty in 1969 and was promoted to full professor of theology in 1973. He was named the Bill & Judith Moyers Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology in 2017. At Union, he researched and taught Christian theology, with special attention to black liberation theology and the liberation theologies of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He also taught 19th and 20th century European-American theologies. Cone shaped generations of scholars, professors, pastors, and activists, kindling in countless people the fire for dismantling white supremacy.

In his ground-breaking works, *Black Theology & Black Power* (1969); *A Black Theology of Liberation* (1970); and *God of the Oppressed* (1975), Cone upended the dominant white theological establishment with his vigorous articulation of God's radical identification with black people in the United States. His work helped to open up space for Womanist and other American liberation theologies.

Cone's most recent book, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* earned Cone the 2018 Grawemeyer Award in Religion, jointly awarded by Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the University of Louisville.

Just a few months before his passing, Cone completed his final book, a memoir. *Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody* will be published later this year.

Earlier this year, Cone was elected to the 2018 class of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. Over the course of his career, he received 13 honorary degrees, including an honoris causa from the Institut Protestant de Théologie in Paris, France.

Cone, an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was an active member of numerous professional societies, including the Society for the Study of Black Religion, the American Academy of Religion, and the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT) in the Philippines. He was a founding member of the Society of Race, Ethnicity, and Religion (SRER).

He is survived by his sons Michael and Charles, daughters Robynn and Krystal, brother Charles, and two grandchildren, Jolei and Miles. He was predeceased by his brother Dr. Cecil Cone, also a professor of Black Theology.

# MARCHING TO ZION+

Come, we that love the Lord,  
And let our joys be known;  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
And thus surround the throne.

o Refrain:

*We're marching to Zion,  
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion,  
The beautiful city of God.*

The sorrows of the mind  
Be banished from the place;  
Religion never was designed  
To make our pleasures less.

Let those refuse to sing,  
Who never knew our God;  
But children of the heav'nly King  
May speak their joys abroad.

The men of grace have found  
Glory begun below;  
Celestial fruits on earthly ground  
From faith and hope may grow.

The hill of Zion yields  
A thousand sacred sweets  
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,  
Or walk the golden streets.

Then let our songs abound,  
And every tear be dry;  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground  
To fairer worlds on high.

# I SAID I WASN'T GONNA TELL NOBODY+

## *Chorus*

I said I wasn't gonna tell nobody,  
but I Couldn't keep it to myself!  
Couldn't keep it to myself!  
Couldn't keccp it to myscfl!

I said I wasn't gonna tell nobody,  
but I Couldn't keep it to myself,  
What the Lord has done for mc!

## *Verse*

You oughta been there  
You oughta been there  
When He saved my soul  
Saved my soul

You oughta been there  
You oughta been there  
When He put my-- Name on the roll

You know that I Started walkin' And I  
Started talkin' Then I

Started singin' Then I  
Started shoutin',

What the Lord has done for me!

Traditional

# /// PALLBEARERS ///

The Reverend Fred Davie

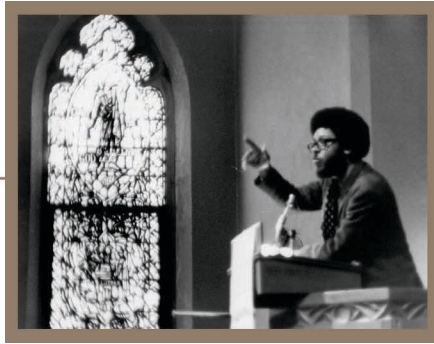
The Reverend Dr. Gary Dorrien

Robert Ellsberg

Dr. Aliou Niang

The Reverend Stanley Talbert

The Reverend Dr. Dennis Wiley



“It seems to me that one ought to rejoice in the fact of death — ought to decide, indeed, to earn one’s death by confronting with passion the conundrum of life. One is responsible to life: It is the small beacon in that terrifying darkness from which we come and to which we shall return.”

– JAMES BALDWIN, THE FIRE NEXT TIME