

# A Service for the Consecration of the Trenholm Campus of Epworth Children's Home

**Prelude**

*Give Thanks*

*Rev. Sarah Fletcher*

**WELCOME**

**Rev. Kenneth Middleton**

Good afternoon, and welcome to this service of consecration for the Trenholm Road Campus of Epworth Children's Home. As we celebrate 125 years of ministry with children and families across the state, it is a joy, on this day, to have you join with us in praising God for his faithfulness to us over these many years, and to ask God's continued favor and blessing of our Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing.

We want to thank Bishop Holston and all those who are participating in this service. And although we are unable to gather in person, we pray that this virtual space will allow even more people to join with us in prayer and thanksgiving for all the ways that God is at work in the lives of children and families here at Epworth.

Let us now worship God together.

**SCRIPTURE**

**Rev. Middleton**

Hear Now the Word of God in Psalm 24:

The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. For he has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters. Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob. The generation of those who seek him, who seek your face.

Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of Glory shall come in. Who *is* this King of Glory?

The Lord is strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of hosts. He *is* the King of Glory.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Rev. Middleton**

Our heavenly Father,  
we your humble children invoke your blessing on us.  
We adore you, whose name is love,  
whose nature is compassion, whose presence is joy,  
whose Word is truth, whose Spirit is goodness,  
whose holiness is beauty, whose will is peace,  
whose service is perfect freedom,  
and in knowledge of whom stands our eternal life.  
Unto you be all honor and all glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN**

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

**DECLARATION OF PURPOSE**

**Rev. John Holler**

Dear friends, this campus, which by the favor of God and human labor has already served the needs of children in our state for a number of years, has been received by Epworth Children's Home for a new vision and purpose as the home of the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing.

The Institute embodies an expanded mission for Epworth, a great hope for the future of South Carolina with regard to children and families, and great expectations of those who serve them.

For the fulfillment of this mission, this hope, and these expectations, we need not only the best that we can do, but – above all – the blessing of almighty God. Let us, therefore, bring praise for God's aid in this undertaking, giving thanks for those who, by the gifts of their service, shall unite in fulfilling the purpose for which this campus is prepared.

**PRESENTATION OF THE CAMPUS**

**Rev. Smoke Kanipe**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Epworth Children's Home, I present this campus to be consecrated to the glory of God and for the wellbeing of children and families in our state.

**NAMING OF THE CAMPUS**

**Bishop Holston:** By what name shall this campus be known?

**Rev. Holler:** It shall be called the Trenholm Road Campus for the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing at Epworth Children's Home.

## **CONSECRATION OF THE CAMPUS**

**Bishop Holston**

My friends, it is with joy that we gather to consecrate this campus. We pray that this campus will be a place of wellbeing for all who reside and work here. Let us now consecrate it for service and celebrate its holy purpose.

O eternal God, who created all things and called them good, your son, Jesus, took a child into his arms and proclaimed, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

**Rev. Kanipe:** By the power of your Holy Spirit, consecrate this campus of the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing, bless us and sanctify what we do here, that this place may be a light and a beacon for children and families in our state.

**Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson:** Guide and empower in this place, by the same Spirit the growth and development of staff and clients to find here safe Christian community, where hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, self and others is developed.

**Rev. Middleton:** Save us from that failure of vision which would confine our service within these walls but send us out from here to be your servants in the world, sharing the blessings of Christ with the world he came to redeem.

**Bishop Holston:** Now, O God, sanctify this place, for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the dominion, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.

## **ANTHEM**

*Come, Thou Fount*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Rev. Kathy James**

In the Old Testament, we are reading from the Book of Exodus, Chapter 25, Verses 1 through 9:

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.

And this is the offering which ye shall take of them; gold, and silver, and brass, And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins,

and shittim wood, Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil, and for sweet incense, Onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod, and in the breastplate.

And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

In the New Testament, we are reading from the Book of Matthew, Chapter 19, Verses 13 through 15:

Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.

**SERMON** *Make Love Your Aim* **Rev. Holler**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** *For The Beauty*

**TRANSITION STATEMENT** **Rev. James**

Epworth's Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing is comprised of Centers for Excellence that target specific, immediate needs in the state of South Carolina and together provide comprehensive care to children and families in need. Will you join us in prayer for the Centers?

### **PRAYERS FOR THE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE**

**THE FAMILY CARE CENTER** **Rev. Dr. Jamieson**

Almighty God, who has given us both peace and courage, we ask you for an abundant measure of both as we lift up the Epworth Family Care Center. May the mothers who reside here experience strong and caring role models as they seek deliverance from the substances that have kept them in bondage and have hindered their ability to fully live and parent. May the children who reside here develop and grow with a renewed security and a fresh outlook on life. We ask that you equip and sustain all who touch and are touched by this place.

**Bishop Holston:** Almighty God, hear our prayer, and bless this place.

**THE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING** **Rev. Middleton**

O God, to whom belongs adoration and praise, strengthen and guide all who participate in the work and mission of the Epworth Center for Independent Living. Give the adults who serve here, and the young women and men who are on their journeys to productive living, the wisdom and fortitude to walk paths that will enable both mentors and mentees to celebrate each milestone along the way to responsible adult living.

**Bishop Holston:** Almighty God, hear our prayer, and bless this place.

### **THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

**Rev. Kanipe**

Merciful God, creator and preserver of all humankind, we acknowledge that finding a path for a sustainable future is often formidable – especially for those who are unsure of the possibilities that lie ahead. We humbly ask that you give aid to the Epworth Center for Social Enterprise in order that participants will discover new possibilities and grow in the skill sets that will enable them to break away from cycles of poverty and lost hope. We ask that you strengthen and enhance its work as both a center for entrepreneurial endeavors, and as a launching pad for young men and women into life-enhancing careers.

**Bishop Holston:** Almighty God, hear our prayer, and bless this place.

### **THE CENTER FOR COUNSELING**

**Rev. Holler**

Our Father who art in heaven, we acknowledge that life can be difficult and perplexing. Enable the Epworth Center for Counseling to become a place of hope and renewal where your people are able to leave non-productive thoughts, images and behaviors behind, and embrace new life in the reliance of your love and care. Enable all who engage here to see themselves, no matter their age, as your precious children.

**Bishop Holston:** Almighty God, hear our prayer, and bless this place.

### **THE EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER**

**Mr. Gordon Jones**

Holy and Merciful God, bless the Epworth Early Intervention Center in order that the staff members will continue to have tender hearts, compassionate words, and the skilled hands to minister to the “little ones” who need such special care; and to the parents and other caregivers who nurture these young children, give them your peace and the assurance of your presence.

**Bishop Holston:** Almighty God, hear our prayer, and bless this place.

**THE CENTER FOR FAMILY EMPOWERMENT**

**Mrs. Valerie Brooks-Madden**

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come, enable us through the Epworth Center for Family Empowerment to cultivate unity, sound learning, industry, and places of peace. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, and other elements that erode healthy family connections. Give us the tools and the will to advance friendship, fellowship, peace and joy in the homes of the families who enter our lives, and give us thankful hearts that our trust is in you.

**Bishop Holston:** Almighty God, hear our prayer, and bless this place.

**THE CENTER FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

**Mrs. Beth Williams**

Almighty God, who calls the light to shine out of darkness, we ask that you equip all who are called to minister through the Epworth Center for Family Engagement to be a beacon to identify, engage, prepare, guide and support resilient adults to be role models for the children who come into their lives as you bless the children who are touched through this Center of Excellence.

**Bishop Holston:** Almighty God, hear our prayer, and bless this place.

**AN INVITATION TO GIVE**

**Rev. Holler**

We give thanks for the generosity of all those who honor God by supporting Epworth with their prayers and gifts of time, talent and resources. We invite you now to make an offering to the Every Child is a Miracle campaign, as we build a sustainable future for the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing.

**DOXOLOGY**

**HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

**Rev. James**

Go now in peace, to serve your God with patience and passion. Be deliberate in enacting your faith. Be steadfast in celebrating the Spirit's power. And may peace be your way in the world. And now, may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Postlude**

***Rejoice, The Lord Is King***

**Rev. Fletcher**