Celebration of Life
and
Viewing and Wake Keeping for

REVEREND JUSTUS Y. REEVES

FRIDAY • JANUARY 1, 2016
Viewing: 6:00 P.M. • Wake: 7:00 P.M.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
1500 NINTH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-3318
THE REVEREND DR. WALLACE CHARLES SMITH, Senior Minister
THE REVEREND JUSTUS Y. REEVES, M.DIV.

JUSTUS YUAR-TEH REEVES was born on June 20, 1958 in the City of Fortsville, Grand Bassa County, Liberia, to the late James L. M. Reeves and Gertie Grice. His mother later married Henry B. Avery who raised Justus as his own son. Justus embraced Christianity and was baptized at the Bethel Deleney Baptist Church, Swen Industrial Academy Mission by Rev. Gbessie Kemah in 1971. He accepted the call to the Gospel ministry at an early age and pursued his theological training by obtaining the Bachelor of Arts from the American Baptist College (Nashville, TN) in 1982, and a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, D.C.) in 1989.

On September 27, 1986, Justus married Myra Sampson in Philadelphia. This union was blessed with three sons: Zuogwi Earl, Mlynue Alfred and Yuejay Thomas Henry. After an amicable dissolution of this marriage, Justus was blessed with another son, Janjay Ernesto Phillips Reeves. He also has one daughter, Syayne Vashtie Sirleaf (Femore).

Rev. Reeves’ contribution to his community and church were many: Executive Secretary, Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Monrovia, Liberia; Pastor, United Christian Church; Director, Kids House, Community Academy Public Charter Schools; Executive Director, Missions Ministry, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.; Minister of Family and Church Life, Minister of Christian Education, Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, D.C.; Chairman & CEO, Liberia Committee for Relief, Resettlement and Reconstruction (LICORE); and Coordinator for Ministry to Minority Students, Kay Spiritual Life Center, The American University.

Because Rev. Reeves believed in community development, political engagement, and economic sustainability, he held membership and served with distinction in several capacities: member, National Justice Commission, National Council of Churches; Board of Directors, Church World Service; Vice President, American Baptist Ministers Council, Washington DC; Secretary, American Baptist Ministers Council for Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; Chair, Black Church Outreach Advisory Committee Children’s Defense Fund; member, Steering Committee, Stand for Children; Secretary, Washington Metropolitan Ministerium; member, evangelism and Education Commission Baptist World Alliance; and member, Board of Directors, Operation Understanding, Washington, D.C.; Consultant, Secretary’s Conference on Parental Involvement with Religious Leaders, Department of Education; National Council for Parental Involvement in Education (NCPIE); member, Board of Directors, United Black Fund; Chair, The American University Black Coalition; Chair, Community Council, Wesley Theological Seminary.

Desirous of serving his homeland and especially the Christian community, Rev. Reeves returned to Liberia where he was elected in March 2014 to serve as Executive Secretary of the Liberia Baptist Missionary & Educational Convention, Inc. His leadership set the foundation for a new vision of unity in the Convention, revitalization of rural pastoral ministry and a focus on the involvement of the Baptist compact in the ministry of emergency relief and development, especially during the disastrous Ebola crisis.

Justus Reeves feared the Lord. He was a man of great humility, committed to duty, a man of peace, lover of humanity and displayed respect for all. His life exemplified character, integrity and friendship. He will be missed by the countless lives in whose path he placed himself.

Rev. Reeves is survived by his mother, Gertie W. Avery; four sons: Zuogwi Earl, Mlynue Alfred, Yuejay Thomas Henry and Janjay Ernesto Phillips Reeves; one daughter, Syayne Vashtie Sirleaf (Femore); six brothers: Henry B. Avery, Jr., Eric T. Avery, Sr. Clarence D. Avery, John D. Avery, Cllr Lemuel Reeves and Melvin Reeves; eight sisters: Sata Grice Nyemah, Ella W. Avery, Maria Reeves Blankson, Cllr Joyce Reeves Woods, Laurice Reeves, Agnes Reeves Taylor, Verna Reeves and Laurine Avery Gbodi; five aunts: Josephine Mapleh Roberts, Louise Thomas-Mapleh, Edna Reeves, Hannah Foster and Annie Dunn Tukpah; one uncle, Moses J. E. D Mapleh; a host of nieces, nephews and cousins; and his beloved friend, Lisa Phillips. Sleep on Daddy, J-Reeves, Uncle Darling Sweetie Pie, Rev. Reeves, Uncle Justus, Mon-kon-j, J-Yuarteh!!!
VIEWING and WAKE KEEPING SERVICE
The Reverend George E. Mensah, Sr., Executive Minister, Officiating Clergy

Prelude ..................................................................................................................Requiem in D Minor (Mozart)

Call to Worship .................................................................................................Rev. Mensah

Opening Prayer ..................................................................................................The Reverend Andrew Diggs

Hymn of Adoration .............................................................The Solid Rock ..................Choir and Congregation

My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

Chorus
On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand.
When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne!

Musical Selections ..............................................................Liberia Baptist Community Mass Choir and Congregation

Old Testament Lesson .................................................Psalm 90.................................The Reverend Edwin Lloyd


Giving Thanks and Praise ...................................................Traditional Songs .................................Bassa Choir

Hymn of Comfort ..........................................................Because He Lives .........................Choir and Congregation

God sent his Son, they called Him Jesus,
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died, to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Chorus
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy He gives;
But greater still, the calm assurance,
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.
And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death, gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Prayer for the Family……………………………………….………………………….The Reverend Emmett Dunn
Musical Selection……………………………………….……………………………………..Effort Baptist Church
Homily………………………………………………………………………………………The Reverend Charles Martin
Reflections /Tributes ..........................................................................................Family and Friends
Musical Reflections .................Let Us All Go Back to the Old Fashion Way ..........The Reverend Jimmy Diggs
Reflections/Tributes..........................................................................................Family and Friends
Announcements
Closing Prayer

Hymn of Departure.........................Blest Be the Tie that Binds .........................Choir and Congregation

Blest be the tie that binds,
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts, and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows,
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.