

In Loving
Memory of

*Dr. Thelma C.
Davidson Adair*

August 29, 1920 - August 21, 2024



*A Service of Worship and Celebration
In Loving Memory of
Dr. Thelma C. Davidson Adair*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2024 @ 1:00PM

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
3041 Broadway (between W. 120th & 121st Streets)
New York, New York 10027

MUSICAL PRELUDE Mr. Alson Farley

OPENING HYMN "Blessed Assurance"

WELCOME Dr. Robert A. Adair

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: As we gather to celebrate the life and ministry of Dr. Thelma C. Davidson Adair, let us lift our hearts in gratitude For her service and impact.

All: We rejoice in the life she shared with us and the grace that Accompanied her Presence.

SCRIPTURES:.....

Old Testament - Psalm 27:1-4.....Hon. Milton Adair Tingling

New Testament - 1 Peter:3.....Dr. Charles Davidson

PRAYER Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes

HYMN OF PRAISEMs. Christine Clemmons McCune

Silent Reading of Obituary.....

EXPRESSIONS OF CONDOLENCES / REMEMBRANCES.....(Please limit to two minutes)

EULOGY Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes

CLOSING HYMN Ms. Christine Clemmons McCune

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes

POSTLUDE..... Mr. Alson Farley





Remembering Dr. Thelma C. Davidson Adair

1920–2024

Christian, Leader, Activist, Educator, and Matriarch

Born on August 29th, 1920, in Iron Station, North Carolina, the second of six children to Robert J. Sylvester Davidson and Frances V. Wilson Davidson, Thelma Cornelia Davidson developed a love and commitment to education, community, and the church that would endure throughout her long life and career.

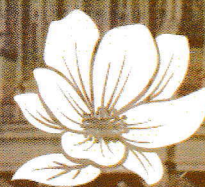
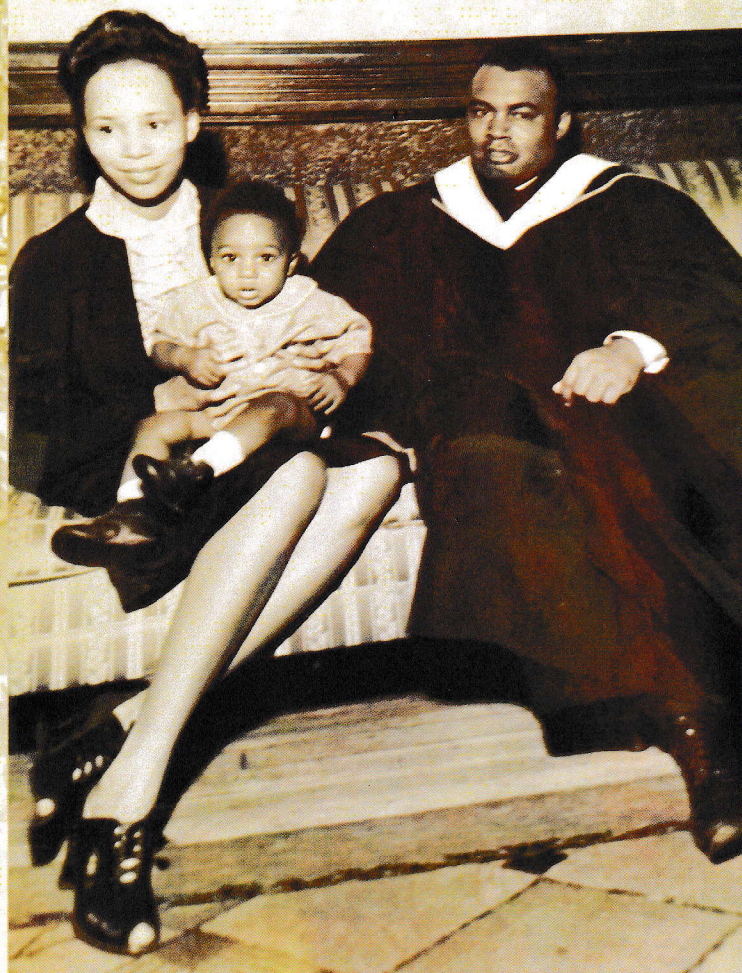
In 1934, Thelma graduated from Lincoln Academy and attended Barber-Scotia Junior College (1934–1936), followed by Bennett College (1936–1938). Shortly after, Thelma met and married Rev. Dr. Arthur Eugene Adair in 1940. In 1942, the couple moved to New York City, and a year later, they established Mount Morris Presbyterian Church. During this time, Thelma also contributed to the World War II effort, which fueled her passion for community outreach and education. These experiences led her to establish the Arthur Eugene and Thelma Adair Community Life Center Head Start in 1944, serving more than 250 children throughout Harlem each year. Thelma would also continue her career in education, obtaining her Master's and Doctorate in Education from Columbia's Teacher College (M.A. 1945; Ed.D. 1959). As an expert in early childhood education, Dr. Adair shared her knowledge throughout New York City as a professor at Queen's College for over 31 years, organizing and directing numerous daycare and Head Start centers.

In addition to her academic endeavors, Dr. Adair was also a strong activist and leader in the Presbyterian church, both nationally and internationally. Throughout the 1960s, she served as a leader in Crossroads Africa, the precursor to the Peace Corps. Later, in 1976, she was the first Black woman to be elected moderator of the 188th General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Several years later, in 1980 (through 1984), Dr. Adair became the President of Church Women's United.

In her later years, Dr. Adair, affectionately known as **the mother of Harlem**, continued to serve her church, community, and family. Her commitment to others never wavered, as she remained a lifelong advocate for education, Christianity, and equality. On any given day, she could be found enjoying the news, playing Uno, or singing a song. On August 21st, 2024, just shy of her 104th birthday, Dr. Adair passed away peacefully.

Thelma was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Arthur Eugene Adair; daughter, Dr. Jeanne Davidson Adair; son, Rev. Richard Bomar Adair; older sister, Gwendolyn Davidson Cunningham; and younger brothers Charles Davidson, Arthur Davidson, Walter Davidson, and James Davidson.

Thelma's legacy remains and is continued through her **son**, Dr. Robert Aton Adair, and his wife, Alicine Ross-Adair; **Grandchildren**: Kai Adair DuBose (Scorey DuBose Sr.), Robert Aton Adair Jr., Clarence Eugene Mevs (Darley Mevs), Jean-Louis Osei Mevs (Courtney Mevs), Liani Adair (Alikah Adair), Barbara Jean Adair Omire-Mayor (Dr. Daniel Omire-Mayor), Dr. Alexandra Elizabeth Victoria Adair (Randy Rand, II), and Ross Davidson Adair. **Great-grandchildren**: Sasha Jeanette DuBose, Kennedy Naomi DuBose, Scorey DuBose Jr., Kobe DuBose, Maximilian Mevs, Kelsey Mevs, Sophia Adair Mevs, Johnathan Owen Mevs, Harper Jean Alero Omire-Mayor. Delico Hawks-Adair. **Great-great-grandchild**: I'Maan Airanah Jackson Hawks-Adair. **Nephews**: Arthur Davidson, Charles Davidson, Russell Davidson, Maurice Adair, Milton Tingling, Steven Tingling. **Nieces**: Katherine Davidson, Montez Davidson (Ronald Davidson), Patricia Davidson Welsh, Margaret Davidson Hayes, Wanda Davidson, Michelle Tingling-Clemmons, Daisy Adair. And a host of great-nephews and nieces, great cousins, extended family, and dear friends too numerous to mention.



Someone Is Missing

Let this be a loving reminder
That someone is missing today,
Someone our hearts still hold on to,
As we travel along life's way.
Someone who made life so special,
For all those who gather here,
Someone who won't be forgotten,
But cherished from year to year.
And now as we pause to remember,
Let us all fondly recall,
How dearly each of us loved them,
And oh, how they loved us all.

In Appreciation

The family of **Dr. Thelma C. Davidson Adair** would like to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all acts of kindness and support shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Repass

Light refreshments will be served immediately following the service.



Professional Services Provided by
LEVY & DELANY FUNERAL HOME
Jocelyn Whiting, Funeral Director/Owner
Gary T. Covington, Funeral Director
1879 Amsterdam Avenue, NY, NY 10031
Telephone: (212) 283-1195
Email: levydelanyfh@gmail.com
Website: levydelanyfh.com

Program Design & Printing Entrusted To:
MLD COMMUNICATIONS

"The Very Best In Desktop Publishing For Over 25 Years"
Reverend J-Anthony & Madelin Dargan
62 Maple Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042
Phone: 973-783-6198
Email: mldcomm@aol.com

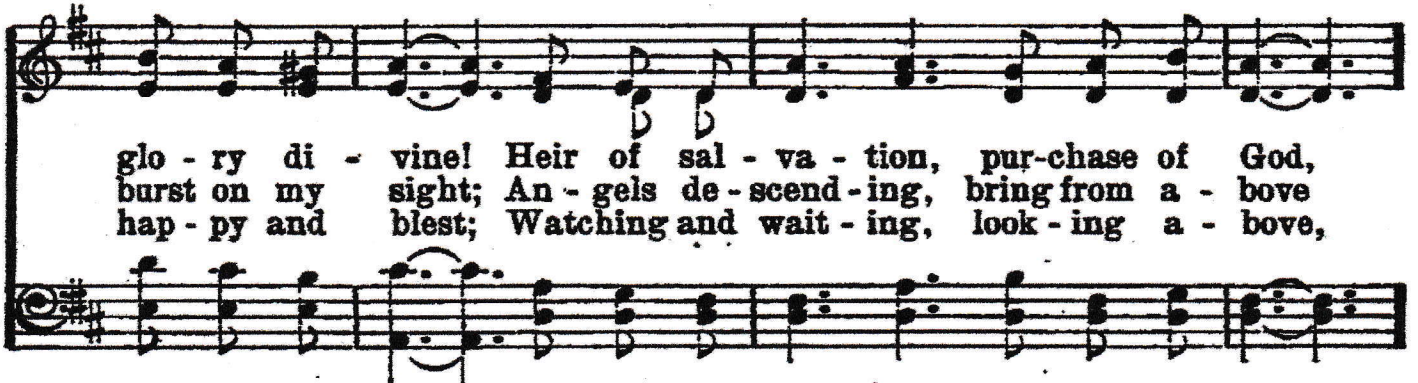
Blessed Assurance

FANNY J. CROSBY

Mrs. J. F. KNAPP

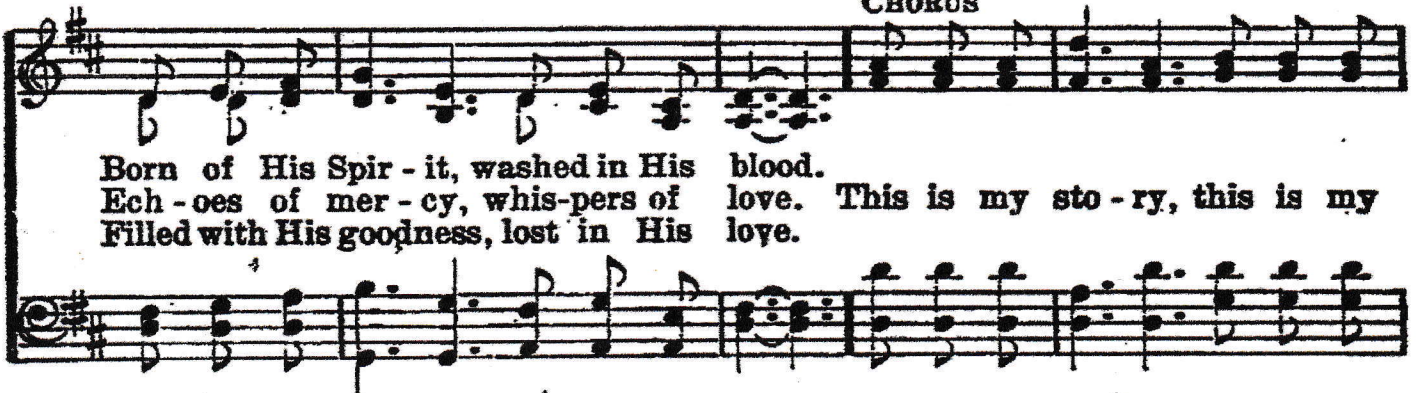


1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of
2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, Vi-sions of rap-ture now
3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

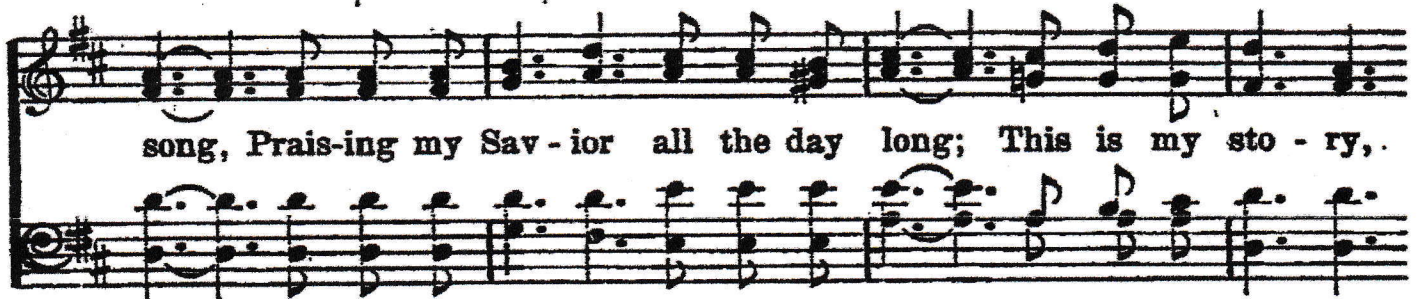


glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
burst on my sight; An-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove
hap-py and blest; Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

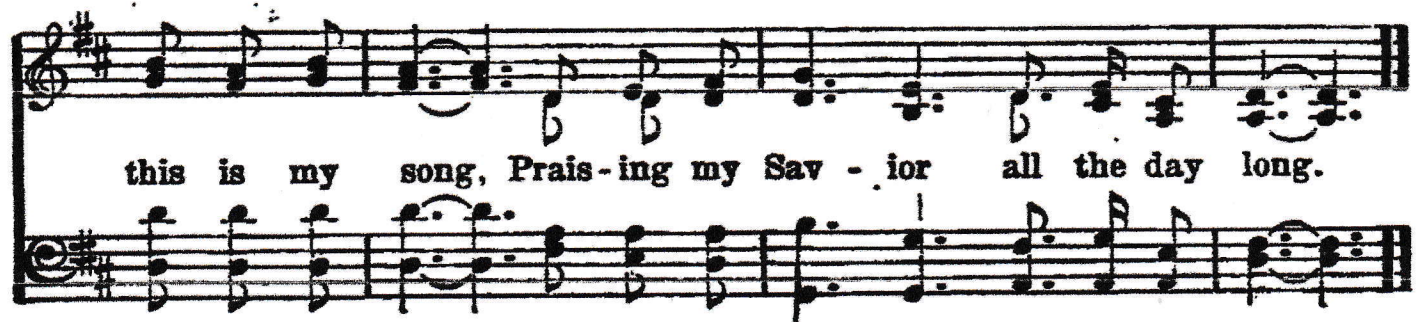
CHORUS



Born of His Spir-it, washed in His blood.
Ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry, this is my
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.



song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; This is my sto-ry,



this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.