



GOVERNMENT OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS

Virgin Islands Heritage Month Committee

MANCIPATION SERVICE



Theme:

**ONE GOD, ONE AIM,
ONE DESTINY**

*Sunday 3rd August, 2025 / 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning Well*

Programme

Liturgist	Dr. Mike
**Territorial Song	Mr. Fernandez, Sr. & Jr.
***Territorial Pledge	Mr. Fernandez, Sr. & Jr.
*Afro-Caribbean Anthem	Mr. Jeremy Vanterpool Saxophonist
*Scripture Reading & Invocation Deuteronomy 8:1-18	Pastor Videl Charles Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
Welcome/Occasion	Reverend Dr. Michael A. Turnbull Co-Chair, V. I. Heritage Month Committee
The Proclamation	Ms. Rochelle Smith Director of the Virgin Islands Studies Institute
Brief Remarks	Honourable Luce Hodge-Smith Fourth District Representative
*Moment of Silence	In Honour of Mrs. Eileene Lucia Parsons
Brief Remarks	Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley Premier, Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs
Introduction of Guest Speaker	
Pre-sermon Selection	Ms. Abigail Christopher
Emancipation Sermon	Reverend Dr. Melvin A. Turnbull Senior Pastor Emeritus Cane Garden Bay Baptist Church
Closing Song	"We Shall Overcome"
*Benediction	Pastor Videl Charles Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

* Stand

** Stand at attention

*** Stand and place right hand over heart

*There shall be no movement or taking of photograph during the
Territorial Song and Pledge, Scripture and Invocation.*

Territorial Song & Pledge

Oh Beautiful Virgin Islands

1.

Out of the huts of history's
pain Our ancestors bled and
died! But with strength and
will power we overcame
To restore Beautiful Virgin
Islands pride! To preserve
our beauty we devised a
plan, to retain ownership of
your precious lands!
Educating our people is the
golden key To maintain the
success of this Territory!

[Chorus]

Oh how radiant are your
daughters! And how wealthy
are your sons! Your beaches
boast your beauty! And your
success is second to none!

Green and brilliant are your
hillsides! They replenish our
hopes and pride! Oh
Beautiful Virgin Islands! Your
qualities can never be
denied!

2.

May God richly bless this
territoy! May we ask three
things of thee... Courage for

our great leaders, that they
may rule our destiny! We ask
for wisdom for our people
That we may live in
harmony! And
understanding for our
children so they may cherish
this legacy!

[Chorus]

Territorial Pledge

I pledge to my country, the
Territory of the Virgin Islands,
to encourage national pride
and dignity, render patriotic
service, promote justice for
all, be true to God and
remain dedicated to these
Virgin Islands.

We Shall Overcome

1.

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome someday; Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome someday.

2.

The Lord will see us through,
The Lord will see us through,
The Lord will see us through
someday; Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome someday.

3.

We're on to victory, We're on to victory,
we're on to victory someday; Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we're on to victory someday.

4.

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,
we'll walk hand in hand someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we'll walk hand in hand someday.

5.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid, we are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we are not afraid today.

6.

The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,
The truth shall make us free someday; Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, the truth shall make us free someday.

7.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace, we shall live in peace someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, We shall live in peace someday.

Reverend Dr. Melvin A. Turnbull

Described as a visionary leader with a reproductive management style, Pastor Turnbull has served in various capacities in the Territory of the Virgin Islands.

He is a former Banker with more than 33 years experience. Former regulator at Financial Services Commission (FSC) for 8½ years.

Reverend Turnbull has also chaired and served on various boards and committees. He was the Chairman of the Virgin Islands Heritage Month Committee for over 27 years and a former Chairman of the Inland Revenue Board of Referees. Dr. Turnbull's membership on other commissions and committees include: The Public Service Commission; Police Advisory; Education; National Drug Advisory and the Law Reform Commission – Juvenile Sentencing And Alternative Punishment Legislation Committee. He recently served on the Constitutional Review Commission.



Pastor Mel, as he is affectionately called, has been touching lives via the airwaves and at various conferences throughout the Caribbean and beyond. He has hosted the radio programme, Life Devotional, for over 46 years and is the co-host of the Radio Talk Magazine, Body and Soul, for the past 24 years. He is a marriage counsellor with 45 years experience. He warns against making permanent decisions in temporary situations.

Dubbed as a model transition of leadership, in 2023, Pastor Turnbull passed the mantle, the baton of Senior Pastor to his son, Rev. Dr. Michael A. Turnbull.

Pastor Turnbull is married to his lovely wife Emerita First Lady Minister Marion Mellicent for over 46 years. Together, they are blessed with two purpose-driven sons, two daughters in love,

three granddaughters of destiny, and one grandson of substance.

Founder and president of CGBBC Institute of Biblical Studies, certified Chaplin with focus on Palliative Care – Former Senior Pastor Cane Garden Bay Baptist Church for over 47 years, he is the Reverend Melvin Amel Turnbull, Th.D.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1.

Lift every voice and sing, till
earth and Heaven ring, ring
with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as
the listening skies, let it
resound loud as the rolling
sea.

Sing a song full of the faith
that the dark past has
taught us, sing a song full of
the hope that the present
has brought us; Facing the
rising sun of our new day
begun, let us march on till
victory is won.

2.

Stony the road we trod, bitter
the chastening rod, felt in the
days when hope unborn had
died; Yet with a steady beat,
have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which
our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way
that with tears has been
watered, we have come,
treading our path through
the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till
now we stand at last,
where the white gleam of our
bright star is cast.

3.

God of our weary years, God
of our silent tears, Thou Who
hast brought us thus far on
the way; Thou Who hast by
Thy might, led us into the
light, keep us forever in the
path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the
places, our God, where we
met Thee. Lest our hearts,
drunk with the wine of the
world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy
hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our
native land.

Notes and Reflections

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