

Virgin Islands Heritage Month Committee

# EMANCIPATION SERVICE



Theme:

# ONE GOD, ONE AIM, ONE DESTINY

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Pastor Videl Charles

Deuteronomy 8:1-18 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 & Plegde

#### **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, 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.

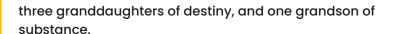
He is a former Banker with more than 33 years experience. Former regulator at Financial Services Commission (FSC) for 8½ years.

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,



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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