



The Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, is Pastor of the internationally renowned Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York, and President of the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Old Westbury. His sincere commitment to enhancing the kingdom of God on earth is evidenced in a loyal attention to the daily activities and services of the congregation, as well as the pervasive impact of the church on community development initiatives: homelessness, senior citizen and youth empowerment, cultural awareness, and ecumenical outreach.

Under Rev. Butts' leadership, The Abyssinian Baptist Church is committed to the expansion and maintenance of the Christian mission. The Reverend was one of the founders, and is currently Chairman of Abyssinian Development Corporation, a comprehensive, community-

based not for profit organization, responsible for over \$600 million in housing and commercial development in Harlem. He was also instrumental in establishing Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change a public, state-of-the-art, intermediate and high school in Harlem, and is the visionary behind Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School, which opened in September 2005.

Rev. Butts is a native New Yorker. He spent a few years in the South, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He returned to New York, and earned his Master of Divinity Degree in Church History from Union Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate of Ministry Degree in Church and Public Policy from Drew University.

In addition to his professional and religious avocations, Rev. Butts was formerly Chairman of National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA), and a founding member of its Board of Commissioners. He remains a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), and on the Board New Visions for Public Schools, and American Baptist College in Nashville, TN.

Rev. Butts has been the recipient of numerous commendations and honors, including the Man of the Year Award from Morehouse College Alumni Association; The William M. Moss Distinguished Brotherhood Award; and The Louise Fisher Morris Humanitarian Award. He is a Lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, The Prince Hall Masons (33rd final degree in Masonry), and was recognized as a Living Treasure by the New York City Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Reverend Butts is married, and has three children, and six grandchildren.

Music Notes: *Shumayela* is traditional song from South Africa. The Xhosa words translate, "Come, let us preach the Gospel." *The Storm is Passing Over* was written by Rev. Dr. Charles Albert Tindley (1851 – 1933), composer of many familiar gospel hymns including *Stand By Me* and *I'll Overcome Someday*. Rev. Tindley was the founder and pastor of the East Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia which grew to become one of the largest African American congregations in America. After his death, the church was renamed Tindley Temple United Methodist Church. The version of this song heard this morning is based on an arrangement by Ysaye Barnwell. *Order My Steps (In Your Word)* is by composer, conductor, and pianist Glenn Edward Burleigh (1949 – 2007). Mr. Burleigh, a native of Guthrie, Oklahoma, served as Director of Music for the National Baptist Congress for five years and as Composer-in-Residence for the Ambassadors' Concert Choir of Oklahoma City from 1984-2000. *Order My Steps* is one of his most beloved songs.