



**SAN FRANCISCO
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETY**

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**SPECIAL EDITION:
REV. DR. AMOS C. BROWN**

CONGRATULATIONS! REVEREND AMOS C. BROWN

PASTOR EMERITUS, THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH



Pierce St. at McAllister St. renamed, "Dr. Amos C. Brown Way"

The *Praisesinger* co-editors bring you this special edition on the historic installation of and reception for Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown as Pastor Emeritus, Third Baptist Church, held on Sunday, June 22nd. For more, visit the [Third Baptist Church website](#). Be sure to read our Summer 2025 edition of the *Praisesinger* as well.

**SERVICE OF CELEBRATION
DESIGNATING THE REVEREND
DR. AMOS C. BROWN AS
PASTOR EMERITUS**



Willie Brown and Gavin Newsom
Laud Rev. Brown

Article from the *Praisesinger*
Summer 2025 Edition, Eldoris
Cupp Cameron

The San Francisco African American Historical & Cultural Society, Inc. joins the San Francisco community in honoring Reverend Dr. Amos C. Brown, Emeritus, for 50 years of spiritual, civic and civil rights leadership. Rev. Brown's knowledge, love and appreciation of African American history and his willingness to share his knowledge with others made him a valuable contributor to the Society. Rev. Brown was a warrior for justice. From June 1976 to June 2025, Rev. Amos C. Brown faithfully served as senior pastor of historic Third Baptist Church. His activism connected him to broader local and national issues as witnessed by the many tributes given him.

Third Baptist Church of San Francisco honored their Pastor Amos C. Brown with a Retirement Celebration Weekend:

- STREET RENAMING CEREMONY on June 21st, 11:30 am, corner of McAllister & Pierce Streets
- THIRD BAPTIST SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE on June 22nd, 10:00 am, "GET OUT OF BABYLON," sermon preached by Rev. Dr. Cassandra Jones, Professor of Religion, Clinton College. Stirring music by the magnificent Third Baptist Church Choir and soloists filled the sanctuary, a long tradition of spirit-filled music and biblical sermons.

Tributes were made by: Mr. Rafael Mandelman, President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors; Michael Pappas, San Francisco Interfaith Council; Dr. Jonathan Butler, President, San Francisco NAACP; Elder Matthew Holland, General Authority, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. A Reception followed the service.

- SERVICE OF CELEBRATION, DESIGNATING THE REVEREND DR. AMOS C. BROWN AS PASTOR EMERITUS on June 22nd, 3:00 pm, Third Baptist Church

Rev. Devon Jerome Crawford, Pastor of Third Baptist Church, officiated with warmth and love. Tributes were made by: Governor Gavin Newsom; Former San Francisco Mayor, Willie L. Brown, Jr.; Oakland Mayor, Barbara Lee; Leon W. Russell, Chair of the Board of the NAACP; Derrick Johnson, President & CEO of the NAACP; Rev. Dr. Cassandra Jones; Rick Callendar, NAACP California-Hawaii State Conference President; Rev. Rodney Leggett, President of the California State Baptist Convention, Inc.; Rev. Aaron Crutison, Sr., Former Acting General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Rev. Lawrence Edward Carter, Sr., PhD, Founding Dean, Martin Luther King, Jr., International Chapel, Morehouse College.

THE LION STILL ROARS," sermon preached by Rev. Anthony Trufant,

Senior Pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY (Rev. Brown's nephew.)



San Francisco's Willie L. Brown, Jr., gave tribute

REV. DR. AMOS C. BROWN A LIFETIME OF FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP

Acts of Conferral were: Charge to Live Life - Deacon Dianne Campbell, Charge to Leave By - Deacon Anthony Wagner, Sr., Prayer - Rev. Aimme Rogers Jones, Statement of Conferral – Deacon Reginald Chatman. With the benediction by Rev. Dr. Michael S. Williams, Senior Pastor, St. James Baptist Church (Bayview.) Rev. James Parrish Smith, performed the Postlude, "Toccata in F Major from Symphony V," by Charles Marie Widor.

- PASTOR EMERITUS RECEPTION, June 22nd, 5:30 pm, a celebration at The Green Room (tickets sold out!)

The Society congratulates Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown, Emeritus, on his retirement and wishes him well!

For nearly 5 decades, Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown has shepherded Third Baptist Church with unwavering spiritual commitment and moral clarity. Since assuming the senior pastorate in June 1976, he built a congregation deeply rooted in compassionate outreach, educational enrichment programs, and social justice advocacy - initiatives that have touched the lives of countless families in San Francisco. As he transitions into his role as Pastor Emeritus, we honor the spiritual foundation he has laid and the countless souls he has guided toward faith, wisdom, and community.



San Francisco's Gavin Newsom honors Rev. Brown

Long before his tenure at Third Baptist, Dr. Brown was already blazing trails in the civil rights movement. As a teenager in Mississippi, he founded the state's first NAACP Youth Council at just 14, marched alongside Medgar Evers and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and stood firm against segregation. That lifelong dedication to equality followed him to San Francisco, where he served as president of the city's NAACP chapter, voiced moral clarity in public forums, and traveled the globe to support humanitarian and educational causes in Africa. His prophetic voice has inspired generations to uphold justice with conviction and compassion.

Today's Pastor Emeritus designation ceremony at Third Baptist will formally honor nearly 50 years of Dr. Brown's pastoral influence and civic engagement. This historic event, featuring musical tributes, special guests, and an evening reception, invites the entire community to celebrate his leadership and legacy. Though he may step back from

daily pulpit duties, his vision and voice will continue to resonate - repositioned but never retired - as he embarks on new chapters of service, scholarship, and mentoring.

As we pay tribute to a life marked by faith, courage, and compassion, we also extend our deepest gratitude and anticipation for the many ways Dr. Brown's influence will continue to enrich our world.

ABOUT REV. DR. AMOS C. BROWN

Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown was born in Jackson, Mississippi, during an era marked by deep segregation and systemic violence. His father, Charles Daniel Brown, was an itinerant pastor in the Mississippi Delta. His mother, Louetta Bell Robinson-Brown, was a homemaker. Together they raised eight children, with Amos as the youngest son.

Racial injustice shaped his early worldview, and by age 14, he was being mentored by civil rights leader Medgar Evers. The lynching of Emmett Till, who was the same age as Reverend Brown at the time of his murder, lit a fire in him that never faded. Evers, NAACP secretary for Mississippi, advised Brown to move with purpose, organized strategically, and never let fear outweigh conviction. That same year, he founded the NAACP youth chapter in Jackson, MS.

Later, at Morehouse College, Rev. Brown was one of only eight students selected to take Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s only college - level course. That formative experience shaped his lifelong theology of prophetic resistance, grounded in faith, action, and moral clarity.

In June 1976, Rev. Brown became senior pastor of Third Baptist Church in San Francisco's historic Western Addition. But his ministry has never been confined to the pulpit. It has extended into court rooms, school boards, refugee camps, and the halls of government, wherever truth and justice call for leadership.

Over the course of his life Rev. Brown has lead humanitarian relief efforts in Africa, educated thousands of students, baptized generations of families, organized interfaith pulpit exchanges, and stood shoulder to shoulder with presidents, mayors, and movement builders. His work is not just rooted in faith. It is a living model for action.

- *These 2 articles are from the June 21 – 22, 2025 Celebration program*

ABOUT THE PHOTOS

Including the honoree, presenters, guests, officiants, choir, and guest preachers and family

A partial list of people featured in articles and the photo album of this special edition of the *Praisesinger* are:

- Gov. Gavin Newsom
- Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.
- Rev. Dr. Cassandra Jones, Professor of Religion, Clinton College
- Rafael Mandelman, President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
- Jonathan Butler, President, San Francisco NAACP
- Elder Matthew Holland, General Authority, LDS
- Pastor Devon Jerome Crawford
- Leon W. Russell, Board Chair, SF NAACP
- Derrick Johnson, President/CEO, NAACP
- Rick Callendar, President, California-Hawaii NAACP State Conference
- Rev. Rodney Leggett, President, California State Baptist Convention
- Rev. Aaron Crutison, Sr., Former Acting General President, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
- Rev. Lawrence Edward Carter, Sr., Founding Dean, Martin Luther King, Jr., International Chapel, Morehouse College
- Rev. Anthony Trufant, Sr. Pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY (nephew)
- David Brown (son)
- Society members, Wilfred and Maxine Ussery. Eldoris Cameron (not pictured) was in attendance.

DESERET NEWS (LDS)
COVERS CELEBRATION

Check out the article on the Rev. Amos C. Brown and see [great photos of notables](#), including Gov. Gavin Newsom, Mayors Barbara Lee and Willie L. Brown, Jr., and Mrs. Jane Brown, who celebrated Rev. Amos C. Brown, Pastor Emeritus, as published in the *Church News, Deseret News*.

<https://www.thechurchnews.com/living-faith/2025/06/30/rev-dr-amos-c-brown-friend-president-russell-m-nelson-granted-emeritus-status/>

PHOTO ALBUM – PHOTO ALBUM – PHOTO ALBUM – PHOTO ALBUM – PHOTO ALBUM – PHOTO ALBUM -

officiants,
honorees
and
attendees at
Pastor
Emeritus
Installation
and
Reception

