

Emma Clarissa Williams Clement

(- 1953)

Mrs. Emma Clarissa Williams Clement was the first African American Woman to be named American Mother of the Year. Mrs. Clement was the recipient of this distinguished honor by United Church Women, now called Church Women United. She was nominated in recognition of her fine character and exemplary motherhood.

Mrs. Clement was born in Providence, Rhode Island, the product of a Christian home. She married the Reverend George Clinton Clement, May 25, 1898, on the campus of Livingstone College, Salisbury, North Carolina, on their graduation day. Dr. Joseph Price performed the ceremony. The Reverend Clement was elevated to the Episcopacy in the A.M.E. Zion Church on May 19, 1916. Emma, his wife, served as his Missionary Supervisor.

Bishop and Mrs. Clement were the proud parents of seven children: Abbie (the first born), Rufus, Frederick, Ruth, George, James, and Emma. Her daughter, Abbie Clement Jackson, became a world renowned leader in religion and served as Executive Secretary (1943-1951) and General President (1955-1963) of the Woman's Home and Overseas Missionary Society. Rufus became one of the great educators of the century, serving for many years as President of Atlanta University and a member of the Board of Education in Atlanta, Georgia. Frederick made his contribution in the field of science. Ruth, wife of the famous James Max Bond, was a leading educator in her own right. George was deeply religious and profoundly affected by the ideals and dreams of this great family. James, the youngest son, followed in his father's footsteps and became a minister in the A.M.E. Zion Church, pastored many churches in Zion, and served honorably for many years as chaplain in the United States Army. Emma earned a doctorate and became known nationally and internationally for her service to humankind.

The Quadrennial Convention of 1959 adopted "Emma Clarissa Clement Day" to be observed annually on Mother's Day in memory of her commitment and service to the Woman's Home and Overseas Missionary Society and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

References: Pioneering Women of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church 1796-1996 - Dorothy Sharpe Johnson and Lula Goolsby Williams

Contributions from the "Emma Clarissa Day" observance are sent to the District President who submits these funds to
Rosetta J. Dunham, Executive Secretary
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***The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society***

Mother's Day Celebration

Honoring the life of

Mrs. Emma Clarissa Williams Clement

The first African American Woman to be named
American Mother of the Year - 1946



Sunday, May 9, 2010

**Quadrennial Theme
"Victorious Living, Prayer and Fasting
Praise and Worship, Purpose and Power"**

Local President:

Pastor:

Church:

Order of Worship

ORGAN PRELUDE (The congregation in devout meditation)

PROCESSIONAL

CALL TO WORSHIP

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever.
Psalm 136: 1-3 (NRSV)

INVOCATION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

Loving God, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks. Thank you for the many women who are faithful mothers and for other women who have inspired us by their motherly examples. We ask thy continued blessings upon them and upon our hearts. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE.....”Great is Thy Faithfulness.....BH#80

RESPONSIVE READING

Leader: *We thank God for the gift of a mother’s love.*

People: *God made a companion for a man and a mother for humankind.
One side of God’s love is seen for us in mothers.*

Leader: *We thank God for His creation and gift of love found in mothers.*

People: *Women make houses more than structures that house bodies.
Mothers makes houses as homes of love and refuge.*

Leader: *We thank God for mothers who fill their homes with love and their presence.*

People: *Mothers fill homes with joy and laughter during times of sorrow and sadness.*

Leader: *We thank God and mothers for the gift of comfort, laughter and joy.*

All: *Mothers are God’s gifts of love. On this special day we give God thanks and praise as we honor all mothers*

THE GLORIA PATRI

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 13

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL SELECTION/ANTHEM

NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY OF KINDNESS

THE OFFERING & OFFERTORY

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. EMMA CLARISSA CLEMENT

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

HYMN OF PREPARATION.....*Faith of Our Mothers*.....BH#528

THE MESSAGE

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

THE HYMN OF INVITATION

RECESSIONAL

MISSIONARY BLESSING: *God be merciful unto us and bless us and cause His face to shine upon us and give us peace. Amen.*