

## ***Celebration and Remembrance of the Life of B. T. Roberts***

July, 2023

*[May be prayed responsively or antiphonally]*

**Lord God of our ancestors, Lord of history, we gratefully worship you on this day of celebration and remembrance.**

Thank you, loving Lord, for your family that we call the Free Methodist Church and for our faithful founders.

**We praise you, Lord, for the life and witness of Benjamin Titus Roberts, born two hundred years ago in New York State, in July, 1823.**

Thank you for the life, witness, and courageous fidelity of B. T. Roberts and his loving wife Ellen Stowe Roberts.

**Thank you, Lord God, for the gospel witness of Free Methodism that now reaches around the world.**

We praise you, Holy Lord, for the multiplied thousands who have come to know Jesus Christ through Free Methodist witness in ongoing witness to B. T. Roberts' vision.

**We praise you for B. T. Roberts' commitment "to maintain the Bible standard of Christianity and to preach the gospel to the poor," establishing this as our church's mission.**

Lord of truth and compassion, we recommit ourselves to the Free Methodist Church's historic witness.

**Thank you, O God, that through Jesus Christ by the Spirit we are set free to abundant life and witness.**

Holy Father, we rededicate ourselves to walk in the freedom of the Spirit and to proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

**We praise you, Lord God, for B. T. Roberts commitment to the equality of all people, the freedom of women to preach and lead, and to end the evils of slavery and oppression.**

Lord Jesus, we now affirm your ministry call to women as well as men, and the power of the Gospel to justice and freedom for all peoples.

**We celebrate, O God, Free Methodist commitment to worship in the freedom of the Spirit.**

Holy Spirit, we covenant anew to the Spirit's freedom in our worship and in our witness.

**We celebrate, O Lord, our church's commitment to the poor and its witness against competing loyalties that can restrict the integrity of our service to you.**

Holy Trinity, we pledge to keep ourselves free for you and for your mission locally and globally.

**Lord God of history, of present and future, we here renew our covenant with you as the people called Free Methodist.**

Lord Jesus, keep the Free Methodist Church faithful to you in these critical days of risk and opportunity.

***[Unison:] As members of the global family of Free Methodism, we celebrate together the faithful witness of our founders and renew our covenant to walk in your ways. Holy Lord, keep us faithful. Refine, renew, and use the Free Methodist Church for the exaltation of Jesus Christ and the full coming of your kingdom, we pray. All praise be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.***

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Compliments of the Marston Memorial Historical Center

Written by Dr. Howard Snyder 2023