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BARBARA LEE AND ELIHU HARRIS LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS BISHOP NATHAN D. BAXTER, NATIONAL CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023, Beebe Memorial Church

Oakland, CA, December 29, 2022--The popular **Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series** resumes its live presentations with a lecture **by Bishop Nathan D. Baxter**, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and former Dean of the National Cathedral, Saturday, January 21, 2023, at Beebe Memorial Cathedral. The 12-year-old lecture series focuses on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s question: "Where do we go from here: Chaos or community?". Beebe Memorial Church is located at 3900 Telegraph Avenue in Oakland. The lecture is free with registration at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/487293727657>

Bishop Nathan D. Baxter has devoted his career to serving the public through ministry spanning 50 years. He is regarded as a national leader and international luminary in civil rights and civic engagement with a career that has embraced official service under four US Presidents and their administrations, the United States Congress and multiple local communities, educational institutions and nonprofit service organizations.

Through his illustrious career, Bishop Nathan D. Baxter has inspired and sustained unity and community uplift on a local and national scale. His work stands at the critical intersection of human and civil rights, faith and culture and he has been a tireless architect of what Dr. King calls the "beloved community" and our place as Americans in a unified "world house".

Now in its 12th year, The Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series has presented more than 30 events with dozens of civil rights leaders. The Series is produced by the **Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center** in Oakland, CA, and the **Peralta Community College District**.

About Bishop Nathan D. Baxter, (AHC, Ch.SJ) MDiv, DMin, STD, DTh, DHL, DD

Nathan D. Baxter was consecrated Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania in 2006, at which Archbishop Desmond Tutu was preacher and a consecrator. Bishop Baxter served in this role until his retirement in 2014. Subsequently, he served as the 2015 Jesse Trotter Visiting Professor of Pastoral Theology at the Protestant Episcopal Seminary in Virginia, and since 2016 as Senior Adjunct Professor of Practice (Public Theology and Pastoral Ministry) at Lancaster Theological Seminary. He is presently an active member of the Mercersburg Theological Society, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Harrisburg.

In 1991 he was elected Dean of the National Cathedral and Chief Administrative Officer of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation. The Foundation comprised three schools, two colleges and four major service auxiliaries including the 20,000-member National Cathedral Association.

As Cathedral Dean he preached/officiated many services in the presence of four presidents, the Congress and the Supreme Court and the Congressional Black Caucus. Notable national public events include officiating and preaching for funerals of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood

Marshall, Cabinet Secretaries Ron Brown, Togo West, and Clark Clifford, C.I.A. Director William Colby, the American Memorial Service for Princess Diana, actor Michael K. Williams, and journalists Herb Block and Bernie Shaw. At the request of President G. W. Bush, he led the planning and officiated the internationally televised Prayer and Remembrance Service following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. His meditation, "Let us not become the evil we deplore", was debated on the floor of Congress regarding Presidential War Powers. Various prayers and sermons on national life are recorded in the Congressional Record, Supreme Court library, White House Archives, and numerous national and international media sources.

In 2006 he was consecrated Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, at which Archbishop Desmond Tutu was preacher and a consecrator. Following retirement from full-time ministry in 2014 he served as the 2015 Jesse Trotter Visiting Professor of Pastoral Theology at the Protestant Episcopal Seminary in Virginia, and since 2016 as Senior Adjunct Professor of Practice (Public Theology and Pastoral Ministry) at Lancaster Theological Seminary. He is presently an active member of the Mercersburg Theological Society, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Harrisburg.

Baxter's paternal grandfather was an African Episcopal Methodist minister. His father was a pastor and District Superintendent in the Church of God in Christ; and both his maternal grandfather and his mother were Christian Educators in that denomination. He graduated from Lancaster Seminary (M.Div. '76) with honors prizes in homiletics and Christology; and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1984. He has received numerous awards from universities & seminaries including eight honorary degrees and 11 distinguished medals & citations. Three institutions have named endowments in his honor. In 1992, by order of Queen Elizabeth, he was made a Chaplain of the Royal Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Bishop Baxter is married 53 years to Mary Ellen Walker Baxter, a native of York, Pennsylvania. Nathan and Mary Ellen reside in Harrisburg, Pa., and are active members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the inner-city community. They have two adult children, two adult foster children, and nine grandchildren.

About the Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series and the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center

The Barbara Lee and Elihu Harris Lecture Series, co-produced by the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center and Peralta Community College District, promotes an ample exchange of ideas to help inspire and move forward new leadership and servanthip.

Broad East Bay audiences of all ages are exposed to some of our nation's most courageous and exemplary civil and human rights figures, engaging in creative solutions and challenges to some of the most perplexing issues facing our communities today: economic inequity, voter disenfranchisement, systemic racism, violence in schools and neighborhoods, police brutality, and the contradictions and ramifications of extreme poverty.

Lectures are organized by the youth and staff at the Freedom Center, with a focus on promoting ideas and actions rooted in principles of nonviolence, and lessons from some of our nation's most significant civil rights struggles.

Civic engagement at the Martin Luther King Jr Freedom Center brings together individuals and organizations of diverse ages, races and socioeconomic backgrounds, working side-by-side for a healthy democracy.

The Freedom Center brings best practices from the nation's Civil Rights Movement to the forefront in community education, training, and practice, building strong community partnerships with proven results.

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