

Desmond Mpilo Tutu

Doctor of Divinity

Desmond Tutu is archbishop emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa, and holder of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership of the crusade for justice and racial conciliation in South Africa. Tutu was born in Klerksdorp, South Africa. His father was a school teacher; his mother was a domestic worker. After a brief time as a high school teacher, Tutu entered holy orders in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa in 1958. Not long after his ordination to the priesthood, he received his bachelor of divinity with honors and master of theology degrees from King's College, University of London. Tutu advanced rapidly in church hierarchy. By 1978, he was bishop of Lesotho and general secretary of the South African Council of Churches. In the latter position he became a national and international figure in the struggle for justice, reconciliation and an end to apartheid in South Africa. Shortly after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, Tutu was elected bishop of Johannesburg (1985), and the following year he was elevated to archbishop of Cape Town. As primate of the Anglican Church, he began to bridge the chasm between black and white Anglicans and emerged as a principal mediator and conciliator in the transition to democracy for all of South Africa's people. In 1995, President Nelson Mandela appointed Archbishop Tutu to head the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a body created to probe human rights violations that occurred under apartheid. In recent years, Tutu has turned his attention to the campaign against HIV/AIDS. He is a fellow of King's College, University of London, and chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. He has held faculty appointments in the Candler School of Theology of Emory University; the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; the University of North Florida; and Kings College, London. In addition to the Nobel Peace Prize, Tutu's honors include more than 130 honorary degrees from institutions all over the world; South Africa's Order for Meritorious Service (Gold); the Archbishop of Canterbury's Award for Outstanding Service to the Anglican Communion; the Onassis Foundation's Prix d'Athene; the Family of Man Gold Medal Award; the Mexican Order of the Aztec Medal (Insignia Grade); the Martin Luther King Jr. Non-Violent Peace Prize; the Sydney Peace Prize; and the Ghandi Peace Prize.

For outstanding accomplishments in furthering social justice and racial reconciliation throughout the world, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Desmond Mpilo Tutu the degree of Doctor of Divinity *honoris causi*.