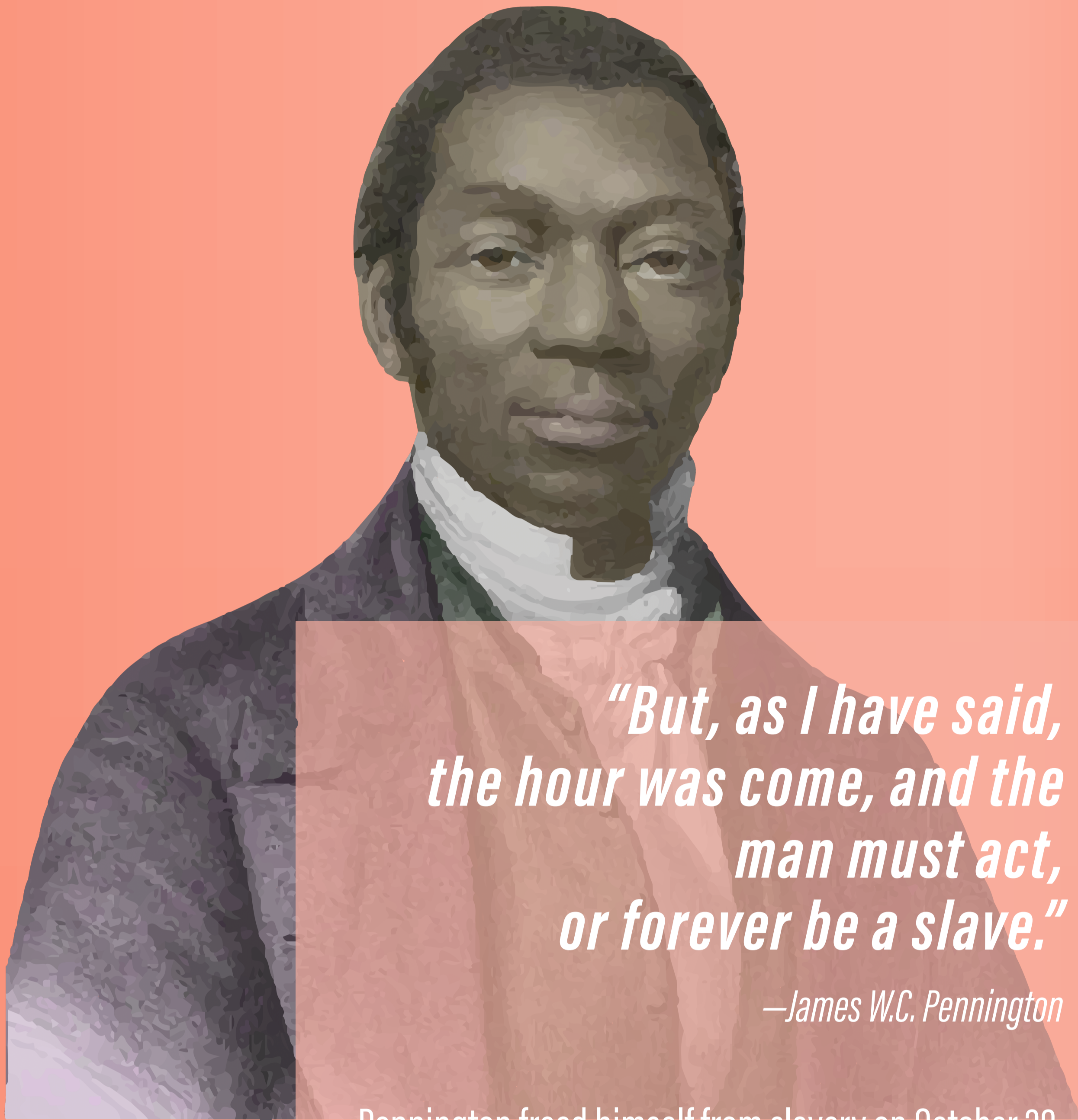


James William Charles Pennington



*“But, as I have said,
the hour was come, and the
man must act,
or forever be a slave.”*

—James W.C. Pennington

Pennington freed himself from slavery on October 28, 1827 at the age of 19. Under slavery he worked as a blacksmith and mason.

He became a leader in the movement to abolish the institution of slavery, was honored with a Ph.D. in divinity by the University of Heidelberg, and served as a Presbyterian minister. He also attended Yale, but under the condition that he was not to speak in any class because he was not white.

His memoir, *The Fugitive Blacksmith*, and other artifacts about his life and work can be found in the Presbyterian Historical Society archives.