

# **BETHEL**

## **African Methodist Episcopal Church**

714 Savannah Street  
Mobile, Alabama 36603  
251.206.0013  
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# **First Sunday of Advent**

Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 10:30 AM



**2025 Theme: “*The Gift of His Presence*”**

*Matthew 1:23*

**Reverend Brandon L. Thornton, Pastor**

Reverend Charles A. Lewis, Presiding Elder

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Jr., Presiding Prelate, 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District

### **Ministerial Staff**

Reverend Doctor Olivia Martin, Itinerate Elder

Reverend Irmatine Chastang, Itinerate Elder

Reverend Pamela Greene-Irby, Itinerate Deacon

## The Order of Worship

Rev. Pamela G. Irby, Worship Leader

**The Musical Prelude** .....Musicians

**The Processional**..... Beth-Tones Choir

**The Doxology**..... *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”*.....

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below:

Praise Him above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**The Call to Worship**.....Rev. Pamela Irby

**LEADER:** I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the House of the Lord!”  
Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

**PEOPLE:** **For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

**LEADER:** For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

**PEOPLE:** **They are planted in the House of the Lord. They flourish in the courts of our God.**

**LEADER:** O Lord, I have loved the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

**PEOPLE:** **But the Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

**LEADER:** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight. O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

**PEOPLE:** **O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!**  
**I will sing of**  
**loyalty and justice to you, O Lord, I will sing.**

**The Opening Hymn.....Beth-Tones Choir and Congregation**  
***Hymn No. 102 – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”***

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to  
flight.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Refrain:

3. O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. Refrain

2. O come, Thou Dayspring, from on  
high,

**The Morning Invocation.....Rev. Dr. Olivia Martin**

**The Choral Response.....Beth-Tones Choir & Congregation**  
***“My Hope is Built”***

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

**Selection.....Beth-Tones Choir**

**The Moment in Advent**

*Led by: The Simmons Family*

**SCRIPTURE READING — Matthew 1:18–23 (NRSV) *(please stand)***

**Reader:**

*“Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public*

*disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. 'All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:*

*'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel, ' which means, 'God is with us. '"*

**Reader:** This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT LITANY: HOPE**

**Leader:** Church family, today we step into Advent—a season of watching, waiting, and expecting God to show up. And we begin with **HOPE**. Not wishful thinking. Not blind optimism. But the kind of hope that knows: **God keeps His word.**

**People:** Our hope is in the God who comes close.

**Leader:** Matthew tells us that when Joseph felt uncertain and life didn't make sense, God didn't leave him guessing. God sent a word. God sent clarity. God sent **Presence.**

**People:** When we don't know what to do, God still knows how to find us.

**Leader:** This year at Bethel, we've declared that we are going **ALL IN**. And Advent reminds us *why* we can be **ALL IN** — because before we ever reached for God, **God came ALL IN for us.**

**People:** Emmanuel—God with us—gives us hope to keep going.

**Leader:** Hope is not the absence of struggle. Hope is the assurance that God steps into our struggle with us. God shows up in the questions. God shows up in the confusion. God shows up in the waiting.

**People:** Hope is knowing we are never alone.

**Leader:** As we light the first candle, we declare that **"The Gift of His Presence"** is the anchor for our faith, the strength in our journey, and the promise for our future.

**People:** Lord, make Your presence real to us this season.

**Leader:** Let hope rise again—in our families, in our children, in our worship, in our community, and in every place where darkness has tried to settle.

**People:** Let hope shine through us as we live **ALL IN** for You.

**Leader:** Christ our Hope, Christ our Light, Christ our Emmanuel — we welcome You into this season and into our hearts.

**All Together:** God with us, fill us with hope today. Amen.

*(family lights the **HOPE (Purple) candle**. While singing of the refrain of this Sunday's advent hymn)*

**The Acknowledgement of Visitors, Welcome and Announcements....Sis. Morgan Peterson**

**The Chancel Call.....Rev. Irmatine Chastang**

### **The Bringing of the Tithes and Offering**

*(please stand and recite the Giver's Affirmation)*

#### **The Giver's Affirmation**

This is my seed. It shall meet all my needs.

I give it today, because I obey – my God and His command.

My tithe is out of obedience and love. My offering is my sacrifice.

My return shall be magnified, because I've learned to give right.

I'm the head and not the tail, a lender and not a borrower, on top and not beneath.

Because I give, I am blessed – in the city and in the field.

I'm blessed because I give my God my best.

Today and every day, I am blessed!

**Selection.....Beth-Tones Choir**

**The Preached Word.....Pastor Thornton**

### **The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

#### **The Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in GOD the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the

Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. The third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of GOD the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Amen.

**The Benediction.....Pastor Thornton**

**The Postlude.....Musicians**

**\*\*\*\*A repast has been prepared for the Central High School Class of 1965 in the Multipurpose Room immediately following the worship service.\*\*\***

**Bethel**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MOBILE, AL - EST. 1913

**FIRST FRIDAY**  
**CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP**  
**"LET THERE BE LIGHT!"**  
**DECEMBER 5TH AT 4:30PM**

*Join us for a festive evening of decorating and lighting of the Christmas tree, fun games, and fellowship.*

**714 SAVANNAH STREET**  
**MOBILE, AL 36603**  
**REV. BRANDON L. THORNTON, PASTOR**

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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## **PEOPLE BEING HEALED**

Sis. Ann Coleman	Sis. Anita Lewis	Sis. Carolyn Oliver
Sis. Latasha Hall	Sis. Deborah Mack	Sis. Nicole Rocker
Bro. Claude Hollings, III	Bro. David McCall	Sis. Geneva Williams
Sis. Lillie Johnson	Bro. Ulysses McNeail	Sis. Viola Wills

## **PRAYER LIST**

**Rev. Brandon L. Thornton and First Lady Shandra Thornton**

Sis. Ardelia Andrews	Sis. Rosa Gordon	Sis. Diane Smith
Sis. Amelia Cade Bacon	Sis. Julia James	Bro. Eddie Smith
Sis. Mary Bennett	Rev. Donna James' Mother	Sis. Omega Taylor
Bro. Ronnie Blackmon	Sis. Faydene Morris	Sis. Emmer Bryant
Sis. Katherine Parker-Williams	Bro. Tamyrick Nunn	Sis. Donna Wills
Bro. Charles Wills, Jr.	Rev, Irmatine Chastang	Sis. Aquilla Rush
Sis. Annie G. Cockrell	Sis. Jackie Erskine-Porter	Bro. John Rush
Bro. Ronald Witherspoon	Sis. Tataneshia Rush	Sis. Vernett Giles
Br. Chris & Sis. Lenor Drexler	Sis. Vanessa Young-Dickerson	

## **BEREAVEMENT**

*Please keep the following families in prayer:*

<b>Dunn/Greene/Giddens Families</b>	<b>The Dale-Clark Family</b>
<b>The Jones Family</b>	<b>Pastor Barndon Thornton's Family</b>

**If you have names to add to the Being Healed List, Prayer List, or Bereavement List, please contact Sis. Emma Prince.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Today we are grateful to have the Central High School Class of 1965 worshipping with us. On behalf of our pastor, The Reverend Brandon L. Thornton, and the entire fellowship of Bethel AME Church, we warmly welcome you!
- **TRUSTEES CONSENT FORMS** are due today, **November 30**, if you desire to serve as a Trustee, please contact the Pastor.
- **DOWN THE BAY – THE BAY TABLE**, will resume feeding at Bethel AME on Monday, December 1 at 5:00 PM
- **BIBLE STUDY** will resume on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025 @ 6:30 PM (Virtual Only)**
- **\*\*\*\*THE CHURCH CONFERENCE will be held Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Everyone is encouraged to attend.**
- As we prepare for the Advent season, we invite you to help **beautify** our Sanctuary with **Poinsettias**. If you would like to contribute, donations of \$15.00 are welcome. Please place your contribution on your tithe envelope in the “**Special Offering**” section. We encourage all members to participate. Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on the second Sunday of Advent..
- The Alice P. Lewis Usher Board will be sponsoring a community outreach activity for Alta Pointe Health Systems Women’s Specialty Group entitled Coats for Tots. If anyone would like to donate a coat, please contact Sis. Jennifer McCord, President. The coats will be collected on Sunday, December 21, 2025 and distribute to Alta Pointe Health Systems, 2400 Gordon Smith Drive on Monday, December 22. 2025 at 11:30 am. Thank you.





# *Christmas Cantata*

PRESENTED BY THE  
MUSIC MINISTRY  
OF BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

*Sunday,*  
**DECEMBER 21, 2025**  
**6:00PM**

BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH  
REVEREND BRANDON L. THORNTON, PASTOR  
714 Savannah Street, Mobile, AL 36603



## **Weekly Activities**

- Sunday Church School – 9:00 AM
- Bible Study – Will resume December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Communion for Sick & Shut -In Wednesday after 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday
- Call the church office to schedule 251-206-0013

## **Church Office Hours**

- Tuesday – Friday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Contact: 251-206-0013

## **Key Contacts:**

- Facility Needs – Sis Dorothy Crittenden | 251-391-2810
- Announcements – Sis. Emma Prince | 251-554-6259
- Administration Office – 251-206-0013
- Pastor – Rev. Brandon L. Thornton | 334-614-9217

## **Bethel's College Students**

*Pray for their Success*

**Kennedy Black**

**Sarah Fair**

**Samiah Morris**

**Alivia Cannon**

**Kellen Fairley**

**Jalen Prince-Woodland**

**Hayley Cleaton**

**Marlon Fairley**

**Winston Salter**

**Chelsea Cooper**

**Ethan Oliver**

**Wynstonee Salter**

**Khelsea Cooper**

**Jazzlyn Gaillard**

**Kierra Giles**

## **BETHEL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Happy Birthday for the week of November and December Birthdays**

Reynolds, Tyler    November 30

Williams, Dillan    November 30

Stribling, Tarica    December 02

Smith, Sis. Diane M. December 04

***\*\*\*\* We would like to celebrate all Birthdays and Anniversaries in the coming year! To ensure your special day is included, please update your profile in Church Center. We want to stay connected with you.***

## **SERMON APPLICATION**

### HEARING GOD'S WORD IN THE SERMON

*Since we forget 90% of what we hear, it has been suggested that note-taking will double the percentage of what we may receive during the hearing of God's Word.*

### ***PARTICIPATE IN THE SERMON***

SERMON SCRIPTURE: \_\_\_\_\_

SERMON TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: \_\_\_\_\_

### **THE OUTLINE OF THE MAIN POINTS:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?