

BETHEL

African Methodist Episcopal Church

714 Savannah Street
Mobile, Alabama 36603
251.206.0013
bethelamemobile9@gmail.com

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14, 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, 9th 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. Irmatine Chastang, Worship Leader

The Musical PreludeMusicians

The Processional.....The Mass 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. Irmatine Chastang

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.....The Voices of Praise Choir and Congregation
“Angels We Have Heard on High” - NO. 118

1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains.
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why
your joyous strains pro long? Say
what may the tidings be, Which
inspire your heavenly songs?

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him
whose birth the angels sing; Come,
adore on bended knee Christ the Lord,
the new born King.

4. See with-in a manger laid Jesus,
Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, With us
sing our Savior’s birth.

Refrain:

Glor ia in excelsis De o, Glo ria in excelsis De o.

The Morning Invocation.....Rev. Irmatine Chastang

The Choral Response.....The Voices of Praise & Congregation
“Something About the Name Jesus” – Kirk Franklin

Something about the name Jesus
Something about the name Jesus
It is the sweetest name I know.

Oh how I love the name Jesus
Oh how I love the name Jesus
It is the sweetest name I know.

Selection.....The Voices of Praise Choir

The Moment in Advent

Led by: The Black Family

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 2: 8-15

Reader:

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"^[c] ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT LITANY: JOY

Leader: Church family, on the first Sunday of Advent we lit the candle of **HOPE**, declaring that God comes ALL IN for us.

(The family lights the HOPE candle.)

Leader: Last Sunday, we lit the candle of **PEACE**, remembering that Christ is our calm in every storm and our peace in every season.

(The PEACE candle is lit.)

Leader: Today, we light the third candle—the candle of **JOY**. This candle reminds us that joy isn't just a feeling; joy is the fruit of God's presence.

People: Joy comes because God is with us.

Leader: The shepherds were ordinary people, doing ordinary work, on an ordinary night—yet heaven broke into their routine with a message:

“I bring you good news of great joy.”

People: Lord, break into our routines with Your joy.

Leader: Our Advent theme is **“The Gift of His Presence.”** And wherever Christ is present—joy has a place to rise.

Joy in struggle.

Joy in waiting.

Joy in worship.

Joy in knowing Emmanuel walks with us.

People: Let Your joy rise in us again.

Leader: As a church living out our theme **“ALL IN,”** we commit to be ALL IN with our joy—

Joy in serving.

Joy in giving.

Joy in loving.

Joy in gathering.

Joy in being the church You’ve called us to be.

People: Make us carriers of joy wherever we go.

Leader: Today we light the candle of JOY, believing that what started in the fields of Bethlehem still fills the world with hope, peace, and celebration.

(The family lights the JOY candle— It’s the pink candle.)

People: Joy to the world—the Lord has come!

Leader: Christ our Hope, Christ our Peace, and Christ our Joy—shine in us, shine through us, and shine ahead of us.

All Together:

Emmanuel, God with us—fill us with Your joy today. Amen.

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

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.....The Voices of Praise 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

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
Bro. David Blackwell	Bro. Walt Dickerson	Sis. Elaine McCants

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
Bro. Chris & Sis. Lenor Drexler		Sis. Vanessa Young-Dickerson

BEREAVEMENT

Please keep the following families in prayer:

Dunn/Greene/Giddens Families	The Dale-Clark Family
The Jones Family	Pastor Thornton's Family

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mobile District Lay Organization Monthly Meeting will be held at Metropolitan AME Church, Rev. Kimberly Martin, Pastor, December 20, 2025 at 12:30 pm. Bro Terry Jones, President.

- 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.

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21st at 10:30 AM.



Bethel AME Church will be worshipping with Smith Memorial AME Church, Sunday, December 14th at 2:30 PM to celebrate their Church Anniversary.

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Church School – 9:00 AM
- Bible Study – Zoom Call – 6;30 pm (Zoom (ID: 282 060 9533))
- Communion for Sick & Shut -In Wednesday after 1st 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 December Birthdays

Brown, Sis. Ann December 15

Coleman, Jr., Earnest December 15

Edwards, Joseph M. December 15

Turner, Sis. Mary M. December 15

Hite, Pamel L. December 20

******* 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.***



Bethel
A.M.E. CHURCH

Fun Friday
CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP
"LET THERE BE LIGHT!"
DECEMBER 19TH 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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MOBILE, AL 36603
714 SAVANNAH STREET

of the Christmas tree, fun games, and fellowship
Join us for a festive evening of



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

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. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?