

BETHEL
African Methodist Episcopal Church

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

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7, 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. Pamela G. Irby, Worship Leader

The Musical Prelude Musicians

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. 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.....The Mass Choir and Congregation
Hymn No. 106 – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him, born the King of angles:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye bright hosts of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

Refrain:

3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

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

The Choral Response.....The Mass Choir & Congregation
“I Am Thine, O Lord”

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me; But I long to rise in the arms of faith;
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To the cross
Where Thou hast died; Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side. Amen

Selection.....The Mass Choir

The Moment in Advent
Led by: The Gillard Family

SCRIPTURE READING — Isaiah 9:6–7 (NRSV)

Reader:

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT LITANY: PEACE

Leader: Church family, last week we lit the candle of **HOPE**—reminding us that God comes ALL IN for us, and we can trust His word even in uncertain times.

*(The family lights the **HOPE** candle.)*

Leader: Today, we light the second candle of Advent: the candle of **PEACE**. Peace is not the absence of trouble; peace is the presence of God *in* the trouble.

People: **The world may be loud, but Your presence is our peace.**

Leader: Isaiah calls Jesus the **Prince of Peace**—the One who steps into chaos and brings calm, the One who speaks stillness to storms we cannot control.

People: **Lord, let Your peace settle in our hearts and in our homes.**

Leader: In this season we declare our Advent theme, “**The Gift of His Presence**,” because real peace doesn’t come from what we own or what we accomplish—peace comes from who walks with us.

People: **Emmanuel—God with us—is our peace.**

Leader: And as a church living out our year’s theme “**ALL IN**,” we commit to be ALL IN for peace:

- Peace in our conversations
- Peace in our relationships
- Peace in our families
- Peace in our community
- Peace in our worship

Because the presence of Jesus shapes how we live with one another.

People: Make us instruments of Your peace, Lord.

Leader: Today we light the candle of PEACE and proclaim:
Where Christ is present, peace is possible.
Where Christ is welcome, peace will rise.
Where Christ dwells, peace remains.

(The family lights the PEACE candle.)

People: Prince of Peace, rule in us.

Leader: Christ our Hope and Christ our Peace—walk with us through this season. Calm our fears. Quiet our anxieties. And teach us to carry Your peace into every space we enter.

All Together:
Emmanuel, God with us—fill us with Your peace 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 Mass 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 Sacrament of Holy Communion** (*Congregants come forth at the solicitation*)

When on the Cross of Calvary Hymn No. 475

THE GENERAL CONFESSiON:

Minister: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Minister & People:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought word, and deed against Your divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus

Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You

in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Summary of the Collects, Humiliation and Adoration

Almighty God, who of Your great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto You. Have mercy upon us; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You.

Since we do not presume to come to Your table trusting in our own righteousness but in Your manifold and great mercies, let us with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying, “Holy, holy, holy, God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory be to You, O Lord, most high.”
(Singing) Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

The Prayer of Consecration

Almighty God, who of Your tender mercy did give us Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made thereby oblation of Himself, once offered, a **full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction** for the sins of the whole world, and did institute and in the Holy Gospel command us to continue a **perpetual** memory of Jesus’ precious death until Christ’s coming again.

Hear us, O merciful God, we most humbly beseech You, and grant that we, receiving these Your creatures of remembrance of Christ’s death and passion, may be partakers of Christ’s most blessed body and blood.

Who in the same night that Jesus was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, **take eat, this is My body which is broken for you, This, do in remembrance of Me.**

Likewise, after supper Jesus took the cup and after He had given thanks, Christ gave it to them saying, Drink all of it, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for the remission of sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Hymn No. 243

Glory to His Name

*****The Solicitation**

You that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbor, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways, draw near with faith and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly bowing or kneeling (as able).

The Benediction.....Pastor Thornton

The Postlude.....Musicians

PEOPLE BEING HEALED

Sis. Ann Coleman
Sis. Latasha Hall
Bro. Claude Hollings, III
Sis. Lillie Johnson

Sis. Anita Lewis
Sis. Deborah Mack
Bro. David McCall
Bro. Ulysses McNeal

Sis. Carolyn Oliver
Sis. Nicole Rocker
Sis. Geneva Williams
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. Vernetta Giles
Bro. Chris & Sis. Lenor Drexler		Sis. Vanessa Young-Dickerson

BEREAVEMENT

Please keep the following families in prayer:

Dunn/Greene/Giddens Families
The Jones Family

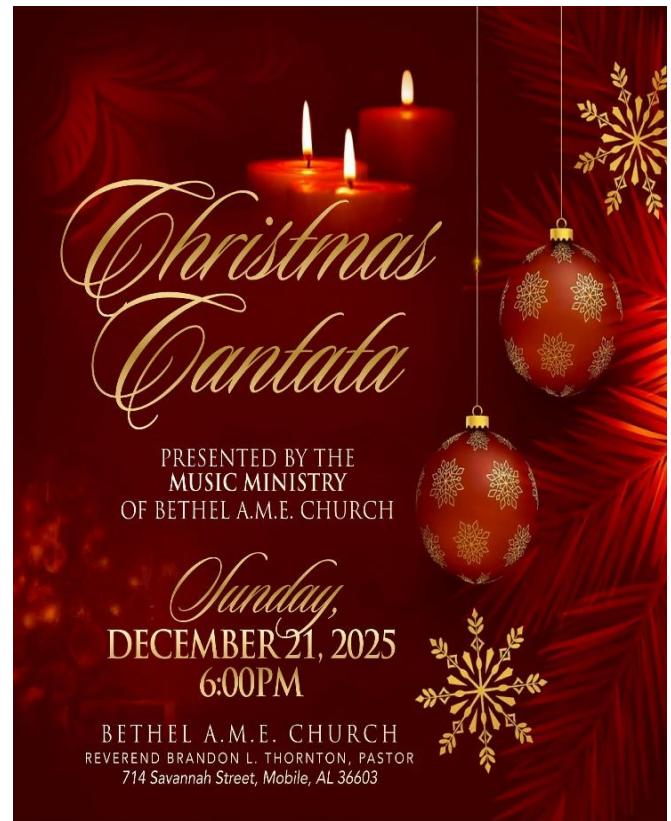
The Dale-Clark Family
Pastor Barndon Thornton's Family

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ******THE CHURCH CONFERENCE has been rescheduled to Saturday, December 13th 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.



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

Willims, Phil M. December 09

Crawford, Bria L. December 10

Stewart, Markesia J. December 11

Buchanan, Colin J. December 13

***** 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. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECIALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?
