

BETHEL

African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Sunday, February 01, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



The Reverend Brandon L. Thornton, *Pastor*

The Reverend Charles A. Lewis, *Presiding Elder, The Mobile District*
Bishop Julius H. McAllister Jr., *Presiding Prelate, Ninth Episcopal District*

Ministerial Staff

The Reverend Doctor Olivia Martin, *Itinerant Elder,*
Family, Community & Leadership Development Leader

The Reverend Irmatine Chastang, *Itinerant Elder,*
Congregational Care & Discipleship Leader

The Reverend Pamela Greene-Irby, *Itinerant Deacon,*
Worship & Evangelism Leader

Order of Worship

THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP

THE DOXOLOGY

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....Rev. Brandon L. Thornton

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. (Psalm 122:1)

People: We gather with joy to seek the Lord. (Psalm 15:1-2)

Leader: Today is the **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**, and the Lord asks, “What does the Lord require of you.” (Micah 6:8)

People: To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. (Matthew 5:6)

People: We come to hear the wisdom of God. (1Corinthians 1:24)

The Opening Hymn.....Mass Choir and Congregation

Hymn # 364 – “My Hope Is Built”

**My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.**

**When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds with-in the veil.**

**His oath, His covenant, His blood Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.**

**When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found!
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne!**

Refrain:

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.**

THE INVOCATION.....Rev. Dr. Olivia Martin

Psalm 15

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

The Decalogue

Minister: And God spake all these words saying, "I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Hymn: My soul be on guard, Ten thousand foes arise; And hosts of sin are pressing hard, To draw thee from the skies.

Minister: Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not kill.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not steal.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

People: Lord have mercy upon us and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor’s.

People: Lord have mercy upon us and write these laws upon our hearts.

Hymn” Nearer my God to thee. Nearer to thee, E’en though it be a cross that raiseth me; Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God to thee, Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee.

Minister: Hear what Christ our Savior saith, Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like unto it: Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father, and to The Son, and to The Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC.....Mass Choir & Congregation

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS & ANOUNCEMENTS.....

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC.....Mass Choir & Congregation

The Bringing of the Tithes and Offering.....Bro. Charles Wills, Sr.

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

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!

THE SERMON

The Rev. Brandon I. Thornton

THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP/ ALTAR CALL

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

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 Thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly Thy 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 Thee in newness of life, to honor and glory of Your, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST COLLECT

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of your great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all of them with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto You, have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to everlasting life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen ("Amen" Chant)

SECOND COLLECT

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of your hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. ("Amen" Chant)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we shall at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God . Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your Holy Name, evermore praising you and saying Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Glory be to You, O Lord, Most High.

PRAYER OF HUMILIATION

We do not presume to come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs under Your table. But You are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Your dear son Jesus Christ, and

to drink His blood that our sinful souls and bodies may be made clean by His death and washed through His blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us.

Amen (Threefold “Amen” Chant)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who for your tender mercy didst give Your only Son Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made thereby His 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 His holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that, his precious death until his coming again; Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech You, and grant that we, receiving these Your creatures of bread and wine, according to Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ ‘s holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; Who in the same night that He was betrayed took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, “*Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of Me;*” Likewise after the supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He 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 many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me.*”

THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

THE DOXOLOGY

THE BENEDICTION

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

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 SPECIFICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?

Upcoming in February

- February 8** **Founder's Day Celebration (10:30A.M.)**
- February 15** **Joe Cain Sunday**
- February 18** **Ash Wednesday Services 6:00PM**
- February 22** **Heritage Sunday (10:30 A.M.)**
- February 25** **Mid-Year Assessment Due to P.E.**
- February 28** **9th District YPD/LTI Gaines Chapel, Phenix City, AL**