

# BETHEL

## African Methodist Episcopal Church

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**Sunday, February 08, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.**

**Fifth 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**

**Worship Leader.....Sis. LaTonya Heard**

**The Doxology**

**“Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow”**

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....Sis. Faye Webb**

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

**People: We rejoice to be in the presence of God. (Psalm 112:1)**

Leader: Today is the **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**, and the Lord calls us to loose the bonds of injustice. (Isaiah 58:6)

**People: Then our light break forth like the dawn. (Isaiah 58:8)**

Leader: Jesus says, “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14)

**People: We will shine for the glory of God. (Matthew 5:16)**

**The Opening Hymn.....Voices of Praise Choir and Congregation**

**Hymn # 571 – “Lift Every Voice and Sing”**

Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise High as the listening skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea,  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us, Sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has brought us; Facing the rising sun Of our new day begun, Let us march  
on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chastening rod, Felt in the days when hope unborn had  
died; Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet Come to the place for which our  
fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered, We have come  
treading our path through he blood of the slaughtered; Out from the gloomy past, Till now  
we stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the  
way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we  
pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee, Lest our hearts,  
drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee; Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we  
forever stand, True to our God , True to our native land.

**THE INVOCATION.....Bro. LaBarron Ruffin**

**Praise Dance.....Total Praise**

**THE SCRIPTURE READING.....Bro. David Black**

*Psalm 112*

Praise ye the Lord, Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion.

Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honor.

The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away; the desire of the wicked shall perish.

**Founder's Day Litany.....Sis. Kim Scott**

Leader: On this day, we pause to remember, reflect, reclaim, and recommit. We gather in your holy temple to worship you for your steadfast love and faithfulness to us, your children who bear witness under the banner of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**People: We give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader: With thankful hearts, we remember the life, ministry, and vision of the founder of our church, your servant, Bishop Richard Allen, born a slave yet his freedom bought by his will, determination, giftedness, and hard work. His spirit set free years before through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ and God's grace and mercy. Whom the son sets free is free indeed.

**People: We remember and we give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader: While, we make no claim to be the one, true church, the best, or even the greatest, we give you thanks for this African Methodist Episcopal Church, a faithful part of the Church Universal founded by Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. We reflect on the rich legacy, which we have inherited from the leaders and countless dedicated members across the globe who you have called to bear witness to your light and love. For the institutions, which they built, the lives, which they changed, the sacrifices, which they made, we are thankful. Reflecting on this heritage, which has been gifted to us, we worship you as the way making and miracle working God who is worthy of our praise and our service.

**People: We reflect and give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader: Where we have strayed, God return us to the path of righteousness. When we falter, please hear our cries and increase our strength of soul. When we would hesitate, make excuse, or say no to your call, remind us that your call is not dependent on our worthiness but on our willingness. We reclaim the call to live lives worthy of the name, “A liberating and reconciling people.”

**People: We reclaim our name and give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader: God, all you have created you called “good.” Yet sin and evil seek to contaminate and destroy. Haughtiness, greed, and the false belief that the creatures can be the Creator have wreaked havoc in our communities, countries, in creation, and even in the church. We hear these words, “For though the Lord is high, God regards the lowly; but the haughty God perceives from far away. “We also hear your call to us to holiness, both personal and social, that we might be partners with you in justice and peace, not because you need us; but because you love us and have chosen us.

**ALL: We recommit our whole selves to your purpose, knowing your purpose will be fulfilled. Your steadfast love endures forever. Your name be praised, hallelujah and Amen.**

**Ministry of Music.....Voices of Praise**

**Visitors and Announcements**

**Video Presentation**

**Ministry of Music.....Voices of Praise**

**Sermon.....Pastor Thornton**

**Invitation to Discipleship**

**Souper Bowl of Giving:.....Bethel YPD**

**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.

**Affirmation of Faith**

**Benediction**

**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. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECIFICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?**

## **Upcoming in February**

**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**