

BETHEL

African Methodist Episcopal Church

714 Savannah Street
Mobile, Alabama 36603
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Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent - Heritage Sunday



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.....Tyler Johnson
Prelude.....Total Praise Dancers
The Doxology.....Tyler Johnson

“Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....Lauren King-Haque

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

People: We come seeking God’s mercy and grace. (Psalm 32:1-2)

Leader: Today is the First Sunday in Lent, a season of testing and trust. (Matthew 4:1)

People: The Lord is our hiding place and deliverer. (Psalm 32:7)

Leader: Jesus resisted temptation by the Word of God. (Matthew 4:4)

People: We trust the Lord alone. (Roman 5:19)

The Opening Hymn.....Bethel’s Youth Choir and Congregation

Hymn #549 – “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”

Jesus loves me! this I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak but He is strong.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven’s gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin; Let his little child come in.

Jesus loves me! loves me still Though I’m very weak and ill;
From His shining throne on high, Comes to watch me where I lie.

Jesus loves me! He will stay Close beside me all the way;
If I love Him, when I die He will take me home on high.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

THE INVOCATION.....Sis. Morgan Peterson

SCRIPTURE READING.....Karson Johnson

Romans 5:12-19 (Please remain seated)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Nevertheless death +reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come,

But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgement was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Ministry of Music.....Bethel’s Youth Choir

Moments in Black History.....

“Dream Begins with Dreamers”

Congregational Singing.....The National Negro Anthem

(Please Stand)

“ Lift Every Voice and Sing”

1. Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise
high as the list'ning 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.

2. Stony the road we trod,
 bitter the chast'ning 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 thru' the 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.

3. 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.

Acknowledgement of Visitors & Announcements

Offertory.....Rev. Pamela G. Irby

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!

Introduction of the SpeakerPastor Brandon L. Thornton
Sermonic Hymn.....

Sermon.....Rev. Dr. George W. Odom, Sr.

Invitation to Discipleship

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 dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

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. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECIFICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?

Reverend Doctor George Washington Odom, Sr.

Reverend Doctor George W. Odom, Sr. was born and raised in Foley Alabama on February 6, 1974. Before graduating from Foley High School, he enlisted in the United States Navy on 13 November 1991. He retired as the Senior Enlisted Leader of Naval Medical Research Center Silver Spring, Maryland whereas he oversaw day to day operations for the Navy's largest Biomedical Research and Development Command (R&D) by providing outstanding leadership, administrative support and guidance to over 1600 personnel performing the Navy's \$320M Medical R&D program worldwide.

Rev. Dr. Odom served as Resource Management and Program Analyst within the Federal Emergency and Management Agency (FEMA) for the multi-million-dollar National Training and Education System mandated by President Barack Obama whereas he is responsible for researching current or new management practices for application to programs or operations, analyzing the findings, and making high-level recommendations. His current assignment is within the Technological Hazard Division performing emergency management services that ensures reasonable assurance for numerous nuclear power plants surrounding areas encompassing 500 communities; serving as the Chief of the Engineering and Technology Section that oversees the nations Alert and Notification System that encompasses Sirens and the Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System (IPAWS).

His educational background is as follows: Associate of Applied Science Degree in Medical Laboratory Science from Thomas Nelson Community College Newport News, VA; graduate of Southern Illinois University of Carbondale holding a Bachelor of Science Degree in Workforce Education, Training and Development. Graduate of Grace Bible College and Seminary where he obtained dual Bachelor's Degrees in Theology and Biblical Studies and dual master's degrees in biblical counseling and studies as well as dual Doctorates in Theology and Biblical Studies.

Rev. Dr. Odom received Christ at the age of six, accepted his call to serve in the United Pentecostal Holiness (COGIC) at the age of 15, and since has been ordained within the AME Church and served on the ministerial staffs of Mount Zion AME Church of Virginia Beach, VA and First AME Church of Manassas, VA, First AME Church of Alexandria, VA and Jerusalem AME Church Clinton, MD. On April 14, 2018, he was appointed and served as Pastor of Rivers of Life AME Church in Greenbelt, MD. His favorite scripture comes from the book of Philemon verse 6, "I pray that you be active in sharing your faith so that we all can come to know every good thing that is in thee which is of Christ Jesus."

He credits both his grandmothers Edith Mae Odom and Eva Mae Thomas for teaching him the story of Christ and instilling within his heart, mind, and soul, "To take the Lord on with you everywhere he goes!"

Rev. Dr. Odom is married to Alethea Wright Odom. Their children are: DeArrell Dean, George Washington II, Alicia Monae, and Mya Amber (Goddaughter). Three Granddaughter's Janiece Elizabeth, Zuri Noelle, Aria Zanya; two Grandsons George W. III and Jeremiah Dean (Sir George).

Upcoming in February

February 28 9th District YPD/LTI Gaines Chapel, Phenix City, AL

Lenten Services 2026
 6: 15-P.M. Praise & Worship
 6:30p.M. Worship Service

Mobile District
 Presiding Elder
 Reverend Charles Lewis

Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026	Emanuel AME Church 654 St. Michael Street Mobile, Alabama 36602	Rev. John L. Dees, Jr.
February 25, 2026	Metropolitan AME Church 750 Martin Luther King. Ave. Mobile, Ala 36603	Rev. Kimberly Martin
March 4, 2026	Friendship AME Church Glover Land Daphne, Alabama 36526	Rev. Twilla Burns
March 11, 2026	St. Stephen AME Church 2707 St. Josephine St. Mobile, Ala. 36607	Rev. Rosalind Amos
March 18, 2026	Greater Pine Grove AME Church 800 Dr. Thomas Avenue S. Prichard, Alabama 36610	Rev. Willie Burns
March 25, 2026	Smith Memorial AME Church 6501 Felhorn Road Mobile, Alabama 36603	Rev. Samantha Lightner
April 1, 2026	Bethel AME Church 714 Savannah Street Mobile, AL 36603	Rev. Brandon L. Thornton