

# Big Bethel AME Church

## ASH WEDNESDAY *Service*

**February 22, 2023 ~12 Noon**

BISHOP REGINALD T. JACKSON, PRESIDING PRELATE, 6<sup>TH</sup> EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
MRS. CHRISTY DAVIS JACKSON, ESQ. EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR, 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT  
REVEREND LARRY W. HUDSON, PRESIDING ELDER, NORTH ATLANTA DISTRICT  
REVEREND JOHN FOSTER, PH.D., SENIOR PASTOR

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# Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

REVEREND JOHN FOSTER PH.D., SENIOR PASTOR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023  
12:00PM

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## PRELUDE

## DOXOLOGY

#647

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. AMEN.

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

**Minister:** As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was  
opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

*People:* And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

**Minister:** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert . . . (Mt.3:16–4:1).

*People:* We seek to follow you, Jesus. Lead us by your Spirit into a season of preparation and of growing  
faith.

## OPENING HYMN

AMEC HYMN #187 —

JESUS, JESUS, JESUS

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; There's just something about that name! Master, Savior, Jesus, Like the fragrance  
after the rain; Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Let all heaven and earth proclaim; Kings and kingdoms will all pass  
away, But there's something about that name!

## INVOCATION

## THE RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 6: 1-6, 16-21

**Minister:** <sup>1</sup> "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no  
reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet  
before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be  
praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

*People:* <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms  
may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**Minister:** <sup>5</sup> "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the  
synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you,  
they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the  
door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward  
you.

*People:* <sup>16</sup> "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to  
show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast,  
put oil on your head and wash your face,

**BIG BETHEL AME CHURCH**

Minister: <sup>18</sup> so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;

All: <sup>20</sup> *but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.* <sup>21</sup> *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION

AMEC HYMN # 283 - I AM THINE, O LORD

1. 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.
- ~REFRAIN~ Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To the cross where Thou hast died; Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To Thy precious, bleeding side.
2. Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, By the power of grace divine; Let me soul look up with a steadfast hope; And my will be lost in Thine.
- ~REFRAIN~ Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To the cross where Thou hast died; Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To Thy precious, bleeding side.
3. There are depths of love that I can not know Till I cross the narrow sea; There are heights of joy that I may not reach Till I rest in peace with Thee.
- ~REFRAIN~ Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To the cross where Thou hast died; Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To Thy precious, bleeding side.

THE SERMON.....

REV. CHARMAIN PURVIS  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SENIOR PASTOR

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

THE PRAYER FOR VIRTUAL ANOINTING THROUGH ASHES

BENEDICTION

**\*\*VISITORS MAY REGISTER THEIR ATTENDANCE ONLINE ON THE BIG BETHEL GUEST REGISTRATION FORM. THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US AND FEEL FREE TO COME AGAIN!!**





A poster for an Ash Wednesday service. The background is a vibrant purple and blue gradient with a textured, almost smoky appearance. In the top right corner, there is a circular inset photograph of a man, identified as Rev. John Foster, Ph.D., speaking into a microphone with his right hand raised in a gesture. The text is prominently displayed in the center and bottom. The word 'ASH' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, 'WEDNESDAY' is also in large, bold, black letters. A pink horizontal bar contains the date and time: 'FEBRUARY 22, 2023 7:00PM'. Below this, it says 'SPONSORED BY THE AUBURN AVENUE COLLABORATIVE'. Further down, it says 'WATCH OUR SERVICE AT' followed by the website 'WWW.EBENEZERATL.ORG'. At the bottom left is the Ebenezer Baptist Church logo. At the bottom right, there is contact information for the church, including the address, phone number, and social media handles.

**ASH**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 2023 7:00PM**

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**THE AUBURN AVENUE COLLABORATIVE**

WATCH OUR SERVICE AT  
**WWW.EBENEZERATL.ORG**

**PROCLAIMER:**  
*Rev. John Foster, Ph.D.,*  
Senior Pastor  
Big Bethel African  
Methodist Episcopal  
Church

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**Be sure to get your**  
**Big Bethel 2023**  
**Devotional Lenten Guide**  
**available in the sanctuary today!!**  
**It is also available at**  
[www.bigbethelame.org/resources/  
member services](http://www.bigbethelame.org/resources/member-services)

The cover of the 'Bless the Lord! Lenten Guide 2023 and Journal'. The top half features a photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a single bird in flight. The title 'Bless the Lord!' is at the top in a white box. Below the photograph, the words 'LENTEN GUIDE 2023' and 'AND JOURNAL' are written in a stylized font. The bottom half of the cover shows a photograph of a group of people with their hands raised in praise. Below the cover image, the publisher's information is listed: Big Bethel AME Church, 220 Auburn AV Atlanta, GA 30303, The Reverend John Foster, PhD Senior Pastor, and The Reverend Monica C. Jones, PhD Editor.

**Bless the Lord!**

**LENTEN GUIDE 2023**  
**AND JOURNAL**

**Big Bethel AME Church**  
220 Auburn AV Atlanta, GA 30303  
The Reverend John Foster, PhD  
Senior Pastor  
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Editor