

# Big Bethel AME Church

# ASH WEDNESDAY *Service*

**February 14, 2024 ~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 14, 2024  
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. MONICA C. JONES, PH.D.  
DIR. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & BIG BETHEL VILLAGE CHAPLAIN

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

THE PRAYER AND ANOINTING OF 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!!**





# Ash Wednesday

## ECUMENICAL SERVICE

February 14, 2024

7:00 p.m.

Ebenezer Baptist Church  
Horizon Sanctuary  
101 Jackson Street

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### Auburn Avenue Collaborative Churches

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Big Bethel AME Church, First Congregational Church, Wheat Street Baptist Church, Liberty Baptist Church, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, National Divine Spiritual Church, and Butler Street Baptist Church

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Parking will be available at MLK Visitor's Center  
(John Wesley Dobbs Ave and Boulevard)

Be sure to get your  
**Big Bethel 2024**  
**Devotional Lenten Guide**  
available today!! It is also available  
at [www.bigbethelame.org/resources/  
member services](http://www.bigbethelame.org/resources/member-services)

