

# Union Bethel

African Methodist Episcopal Church

RELATE - RESCUE - RECHARGE

## Service of Holy Communion



Sunday, February 2, 2025

*This do in remembrance of Me...*  
L U K E 2 2 : 1 9

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Bishop Reginald T. Jackson  
Second Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Reverend Dr. Jonathan L. Weaver, Presiding Elder, Potomac District  
Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr., Pastor

*God Our Father • Christ Our Redeemer  
The Holy Spirit Our Comforter • Humankind Our Family*

# The Order of Worship and Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany • Liturgical Color is White

Worshippers should be in silent meditation upon entering the sanctuary.

## WELCOME

Reverend Dr. Romaine Williams (Ret.)

## THE DOXOLOGY

Reverend Dr. Romaine Williams (Ret.)

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

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Lauren Jones

Leader: Sisters and Brothers, everything has been made ready. The table is spread!

***People: We come to meet the Living God, who is beyond our intellectual comprehension and is yet as close as our breath.***

Leader: Everything has been made ready! The table is spread!

***People: We gather to celebrate the Risen Christ, Which is God with us and nevertheless, the One to come.***

Leader: Everything is made ready! The table is spread!

***People: We assemble to be revived by the life-renewing Holy Spirit, who empowers our search for peace in this unfriendly world.***

Leader: In the Bread and in the wine, we will receive strength for the journey.

***People: Everything has been made ready. The table is spread! Thanks be to the Risen Christ. Amen.***

## HYMN OF PRAISE - "Lift Every Voice and Sing" #571

AMEC Hymnal – Lauren Jones

© Words: James Weldon Johnson – Tune: J. Rosamond Johnson

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 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.

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** Rachelle Jones

**THE CHORAL RESPONSE** The Choir

**THE SCRIPTURE READING** Rosalind Williams  
(Sanctuary Worshipers Please Stand) St. Luke 4:21-30

**THE INTROIT TO THE DECALOGUE**

From all that dwell below the skies, let thy Creator's praise arise; Let thy Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land, by every tongue. Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends Thy word: Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns shall rise and set no more. Amen

**THE SUMMARY OF  
THE DECALOGUE (xxi AME Hymnal) Jasmine Alfred**

Hear what Christ our Savior saith, You shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment, and the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

**WORSHIP OF MUSIC** The Choir

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**VIDEO PRESENTATION** Women's Emphasis Sunday

**HEART HEALTH  
AWARENESS** Lesly Ogunbemi | Dr. Nancy Brown-Holt

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
OF VISITORS** Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.

**MOMENTS OF FELLOWSHIP** Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.

**THE PASTOR'S WORDS** Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.

**OFFERING** Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.

**SERMONIC SELECTION** The Choir

**THE SERMON** Reverend Jerri Edmonds

**THE INVITATION TO  
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP** Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.

**INVITATIONAL HYMN** The Choir

**ALTAR CALL PRAYER** Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.

**THE COMMUNION HYMN**      “There is a Fountain Filled with Blood”  
AMEC Hymnal #255

*Words: William Cowper—Tune: Am. Folk Melody- Public Domain*

There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Emmanuel’s veins; And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains. Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains; And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains. Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I’ll sing Thy power to save, when this poor lisping, stammering tongue Lies silent in the grave. Lies silent in the grave, Lies silent in the grave; When this poor lisping, stammering tongue Lies silent in the grave.

**THE BIDDING**

Reverend Dr. Romaine Williams (Ret.)

You that truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking hereafter in his holy ways, draw near with faith to receive the holy sacraments, and make your humble confession to almighty God in the presence of his church.

**GENERAL CONFESSION**

Reverend Dr. Romaine Williams (Ret.)

**ALL:** 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 Your Divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your 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 You, in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

Reverend Dr. Romaine Williams (Ret.)

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 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.

**THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**      Reverend Jerri Edmonds

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Your tender mercy did 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 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 shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen. (Matthew 6: 9-13)

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.

Pastor: Let us profess before God and one another our common faith.

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

**THE DOXOLOGY**

Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.

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.

**THE BENEDICTION**

Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.

**THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

The congregation should remain quiet during the extinguishing of the candles.