

# Union Bethel

African Methodist Episcopal Church  
First Sunday in Lent – Liturgical Color is Purple  
Sunday, February 22, 2026

*Family Emphasis Sunday and International Family Sunday*

## Welcome

*Elizabeth Best - Guyana*

## The Doxology

*Elizabeth Best - Guyana*

## Call to Worship

*Marcus Haney - Haiti*

## Hymn of Praise

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” Hymn #571

AMEC Hymnal

*Marcus Haney – Haiti*

## Invocation

*John Ogungbemi, Nigeria*

## Choral Response

**Scripture: St. Matthew 4:1-10 NIV**

*June Giddens – Trinidad and Tobago*

## The Occasion

*Jasmine Sheppard – United States of America*

## Worship of Music

## Announcements

## Birthday Recognition

**Black History Month Video Presentation:  
Family Emphasis**

**Senior Dance Ministry**

**TruPulse Dance Ministry**

**Acknowledgment of Visitors**

**Moments of Fellowship**

**The Pastor’s Words**

**Offering**

**Sermonic Selection**

**The Sermon**

*Reverend Raymond F. Edmonds, Jr.*

*and Reverend Jerri Edmonds*

**Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

**Altar Call Prayer**

**The Doxology**

**The Benediction**

**The Extinguishing of the Candles**

## Hymn of Praise: “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Hymn #571 – AMEC Hymnal – © Words: James Weldon Johnson – Tune. J. Rosamond Johnson

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.

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.

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.