

Union Bethel

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Fourth Sunday in Lent – Liturgical Color is Purple
Women's Month ~ "Women Who Inspire"
Sunday, March 15, 2026

Welcome

Lauren Mboob

The Doxology

Lauren Mboob

Call to Worship

Lauren Mboob

Hymn of Praise

"Love Lifted Me"

Hymn #461 AMEC Hymnal

Lauren Mboob

Invocation

Trina Pugh

Choral Response

Scripture: St. John 9:1-9

Deborah Risper

Worship of Music

Announcements

"Women Who Inspire" Presentation

Acknowledgment of Visitors

Moments of Fellowship

The Pastor's Words

Offering

Introduction of the Speaker

Reverend Jerri Edmonds

Sermonic Selection

The Sermon

Rev. Elisha James Waters, Executive Pastor

Bethany Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Altar Call Prayer

The Doxology

The Benediction

The Extinguishing of the Candles

Hymn of Praise: "Love Lifted Me"

Hymn #461 – AMEC Hymnal - © Words: James Rowe and Tune: Howard Smith

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I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore, very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more; But the Master of the sea Heard my despairing cry, From the waters lifted me, now safe am I. [Refrain]

All my heart to Him I give, Ever to Him I'll cling, In His blessed presence live, Ever His praises sing; Love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs, Faithful, loving, service, too to Him belongs. [Refrain]

Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves, He will lift you by His love, out of the angry waves; He's the Master of the sea, Billows His will obey; He your Savior wants to be, Be saved today. [Refrain]

Refrain

Love lifted me, Love lifted me! When nothing else could help, Love lifted me. Love lifted me, Love lifted me! When nothing else could help, Love lifted me!

Guest Preacher

Reverend Elisha M. James Waters Executive Pastor
Bethany Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD



Elisha Michele James Waters was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on December 19, 1979, the eldest of five siblings. Known affectionately to many as “**Rev. E,**” she represents a significant family legacy as a **fifth-generation preacher**. She officially received her license to preach on January 19, 2014, following her initial sermon, titled “You Don’t Have the Luxury of Falling Apart.”

Currently, Rev. James Waters serves as the **Executive Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church** under the leadership of her father, Rev. Dr. Thern James, Sr. Her dedication to ministry is further evidenced by her work with the **Women of Prayer, Power, and Purpose** women’s ministry, an organization she helped launch in 2012. She remains deeply passionate about empowering women to deepen their faith and love for Christ.

Rev. James Waters' academic and professional background is extensive. She holds a **Bachelor’s degree in Pre-Professional Chemistry** and a **Master’s in Science Education** from Morgan State University, supplemented by a **Master of Arts in Theological Studies** with a concentration in biblical studies from Liberty University.

Professionally, she serves as the **Director of Culture, Community and Belonging** at Roland Park Country School and sits on the **Board of Directors of the Lillie May Carroll Jackson Charter School**. Her contributions to her field have earned her prestigious recognitions, including the **Siobhan Sharkey Faculty Prize**, the **Juanita Jackson Mitchell Prize**, and the **Eleanor P. Graham Award**.

In her personal life, Elisha is married to Preston S. Waters, and together they share four children and nine grandchildren. She is also a member of **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** Throughout her life and ministry, she draws strength from her favorite scripture, **Galatians 6:9**.