

Johns Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
605 Geneva Highway/Post Office Box 311015
Enterprise, Alabama 36331-1015
www.johnschapelamec.org (334) 393-2661
Reverend Willie White, Jr., Pastor

The Sermon by Pastor Willie White, Jr.
May 24, 2020

SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY MESSAGE
PRAISE THE LORD, I AM FREE

John 8:31-38; 36=If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

In New York Harbor, there is a lady who stands tall. She holds a torch in her hand, giving light. Inscribed on the pedestal upon which this lady stands are these famous words. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed, to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door." We know this lovely lady as Lady Liberty and she stands there in New York Harbor with a crown on her head that has seven spikes. The spikes speak of seven seas and seven continents. In other words, no matter where you are in the world, you can come to America. You can come with your mess, problems, burdens and your needs. You can come because Lady Liberty is holding a torch to show you the way. At the bottom of Lady Liberty's feet is a chain that has been broken. She is inviting the broken and bruised people who have been held hostage in one situation or another. No matter where they are in the world they are welcome to come to America to find freedom. **PRAISE THE LORD, I AM FREE!!**

Now here in our text, Let us look closely at verses 31-32 this morning, let us unpack our first point **FREEDOM**.

1: **FREEDOM (liberty, privilege, responsibilities)**. Knowing Jesus is knowing real freedom. Jesus himself is the truth that sets us free. He is the source of truth, the perfect standard of what is right. Jesus does not give us freedom to do what we want, but freedom to follow God. **PRAISE THE LORD, I AM FREE!**

Let us glean from verses 33-36, so we can unpack our second point **FAITH**.

2: **FAITH (Belief, confidence, trust)**. Ineffective faith is marked by an unchanged life. God's message hasn't changed, people will be judged for their unproductive lives. God calls us

Grab, Drop & Go Message – "Grab a Sermon, Drop Offering and Go Home" - Coronavirus Pandemic 2019-2020

to be active in our obedience. John compared people who claim they believe in God but don't live for him to unproductive trees that will be cut down. Just like a fruit tree is expected to bear fruit, God's people should produce a crop of good seeds.

PRAISE THE LORD, I AM FREE!

As I close from the text this morning, Let us glean from verses 37-39 and unpack our third point **FOCUS**.

3: **FOCUS (Concentration, goals, values)**. Don't allow fear to shift the focus from God. Don't let the negatives cause you to lose sight of the positives. Don't let potential difficulties blind you to God's power and his promises. Like Lady Liberty standing there sending out the message to the world, if you come to America you will receive your freedom. God is holding the same promise of freedom to those who are looking to escape bondage. He welcomes all to come to him so that He can set them free! **PRAISE THE LORD, I AM FREE!!**

PRAISE THE LORD, I AM FREE

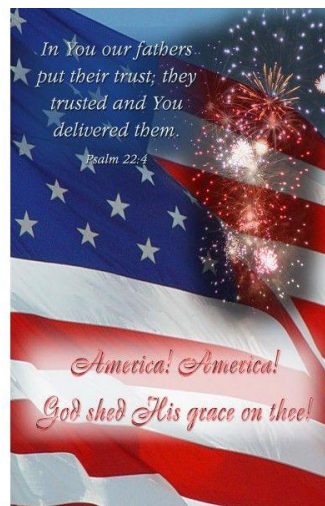
I LOVE BEING YOUR PASTOR
PASTOR WILLIE WHITE
HOT DOG

*Johns Chapel
African Methodist Episcopal Church
605 Geneva Highway/Post Office Box 311015
Enterprise, Alabama 36331 334-393-2661
The Pastor's Contact Info*

Pastor Willie White, Jr. 2501 Scott Road, Dothan Alabama 36303 | 334-701-5853
williewhite203@gmail.com

Please check texts, e-mails and website for updates johnschapelamec.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS –SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020



--Pastor White thanks everyone for your participation in our **131st Church Anniversary Celebration** on last Sunday, and for your donations in honor of this great milestone! If you were unable to give on last Sunday, you may still make your contribution above your tithes and offerings. Thank you in advance

--We will continue our current worship system until the AME Church issues guidance, which the Pastor will pass along to us. In the meantime, please continue to pray, and heed all public directives regarding the **Coronavirus Pandemic**. **STAY SAFE – STAY HOME** as much as possible Stay abreast of the latest directives. www.cdc.gov <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov> www.aarp.org

--Pastor White presents: **“SERMON DASH”**. You may receive a hard copy or a CD/DVD of sermons via text, phone call, e-mail or word of mouth, etc., and we will get the sermon to you.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP & SERVE – Check e-mails and text messages for more info.

--**TODAY** --Noon – **MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE**. Pastor White's message will be shown live on FaceBook. Enjoy other messages and services at church website: johnschapelamec.org

--**Monday – Memorial Day Holiday**

--**MONDAY & WEDNESDAY – Weekly Feeding Program--Carry-out Meals for Children ages 1-18 here at JC. 11:00 a.m. until 12 Noon.** Sponsored by Enterprise City Schools and Coffee County Family Service Center. For more info, please contact LauReen McDaniel or Pastor White.

-- **SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM** begins on June 1 here at the church. More details forthcoming.

--EACH WEDNESDAY – JC Bible Study via conference call - 7:00 p.m. **Dial-in # 605-313-5111 Access code 737936**

--EACH SUNDAY – Church School Lesson Summary 9:45-10:10 via conference call. **Dial-in # 605-313-5111 Access code 737936. Grab & Go – 10:45-11:45; Drive Up Worship in Cars – 12 Noon**

--Pentecost Sunday is next Sunday, May 31. We will also recognize our students. Please send graduation and other school info to Marge Simmons at 334-477-1962. More details via text this week.

--JC MEMBERS ARE OBEYING THE LAW AND RESPONDING TO THE CENSUS. -- Pastor White is asking Class Leaders to please check on all class members to see how they are doing and also inquire if they have completed the Census. If not, please emphasize the importance, and let them know help is available. **Volunteers:** LauReen McDaniel 334-470-1816; Franklin Simmons 334-494-2377; & Marge Simmons 334-477-1962.

The following households have reported that they are ACCOUNTED FOR in the 2020 Census, as required by law and because they are good citizens:

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| --Pastor and Mrs. White & Family | --Geraldine Booth | --Betty Simmons & Vivian Johnson & Family |
| --LauReen McDaniel Family | --Dr. Russell & Mrs. Helen Nichols | --Ruthie Warren & Joe Warren Jr. Family |
| --Dianne Durdin & Michael Elcock Family | --Ira “Pat” Brown | --Franklin & Marge Simmons |
| --Constance Jones | --Johnnie Sanders & Family | --Sam & Hilda Blake |
| --Carlos & Lynette Robinson | --Vernetta DeRamus | --Jimmy & Lois Boykins |
| --Mack & LaToya Chambers & Family | --Dr. Stafford & Mrs. Bessie Thompson | --Gay Nell Miley |
| --Ricky Britt & Family | --Ann & Nikki Mills Family | --Shun Wilson |
| --Bobby & Evadna Moment | --Richard & Shelia Robinson & Family | --Jared & Ebony Simmons |
| --Marion Griffin | | --Chad & Megan Simmons |

26 Households reporting! OUTSTANDING! If you have completed the Census and your name is not listed above, please let Sister Marge know. If you haven't completed the census, please do so today. Check out the website at www.census2020.gov and encourage others to respond. .

PRAYER LIST Week of May 24-30, 2020

| | |
|--|--|
| --Sister Eleanor Bailey | --Sister Mable Mays |
| -- Jennifer Bigham – Home after surgery | --Sister Ann McGaughey |
| -- Debra D. Brown -Address: 74 Davis Street, Charles Town, WV 25414- | --Dr. Russell Nichols—Continuing to progress |
| --Sister Geraldine Booth | --Sister Minnie Powell, Mother of Sis. White |
| --Sister Brenda Crawford | --Sister Rosetta White & Brother Willie White, Sr. — Parents of Pastor White |
| --Sister Debra Fay Brown – Bereavement | --Sister Johnnie Sanders |
| --Caiden M. Gary, Grandson of Sis C. Jones | --Brother Larry Wilson—Husband of Sis. Shun Wilson |
| --Sister Annie Pearl Frazier | --Sister Eloise Williams |
| --Sister Ruby Grayer | *New entries in bold print |
| --Sister Dorothy Holmes | Remember to pray for and check on our shut-in members. |
| --Sister Kim Jackson—Sister of Bro. Golden | |
| --Sister Constance Jones & Family | |



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 24 Latasha Andrews Crawford
May 26 Betty J. Simmons

May 28 Michael Elcock

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY - May 24, 2013 Mr. James L. & Mrs. Latasha Crawford

