

MID-YEAR  
CONVOCATION

MARCH 31-  
APRIL 2, 2022



*"Unity in the Community"*  
DEUTERONOMY 28:1-14



**THE EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE**

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022 | 7:00 PM

REVEREND DR. TOMMY L. LEWIS, PASTOR, BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

*2022 Mid-Year Convocation Host Pastors and Churches*

REVEREND DEXTER PATTERSON, WARD CHAPEL AME CHURCH – SELMA  
ALABAMA RIVER REGION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REVEREND ROBERT C. FREEMAN, SADDLERS CHAPEL AME CHURCH – BESSEMER  
NORTHWEST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REVEREND JOSHUA MANN, GRANT CHAPEL AME CHURCH – ASHFORD  
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REVEREND NATHANIEL COPELAND, GAINES CHAPEL AME CHURCH – PHENIX CITY  
NORTHEAST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REVEREND WILLIE H. BURNS, GREATER RUTH CHAPEL AME CHURCH – PRICHARD  
SOUTHWEST ALABAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BISHOP HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT, PRESIDING PRELATE  
REVEREND SHERITA MOON SEAWRIGHT, EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR



DANIEL PAYNE COMMUNITY PLAZA  
1500 DANIEL PAYNE DRIVE | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35214



**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
2022 Mid-Year Convocation

*The Evening Worship Service*

Friday, April 1, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

*Reverend Gloria A. Hall, Worship Leader*  
*Presiding Elder of the West Birmingham-Ensley-Greensboro District*

**THE DOXOLOGY**

*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**

**REVEREND BRUCE W. HUNTER**

*Presiding Elder, South Birmingham-Huntsville-  
Bessemer District*

Minister: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within Your gates, O Jerusalem.

People: **For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand, I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord, our God, I will seek Your good.

People: **Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.**

Minister: Blessed are they that dwell in Your house Lord, I have loved Your habitation, the place where Your honor dwells.

People: **For the Lord is in His Holy Temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight. O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

People: **O sing unto the Lord a new song for He has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth and sing praises.**

**Hymn #25**

**“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

**THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**REVEREND DWIGHT E. DILLARD, Sr.**

*Presiding Elder,  
Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa District*

**THE CHORAL RESPONSE**

**“Let the Church Say Amen”**

Let the church say Amen, Let the church say Amen.  
God has spoken, so let the church say Amen.

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

**“Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates”**

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS**

THE OLD TESTAMENT  
Exodus 12:21-27

**REVEREND DR. LETITIA W. WATFORD**  
*Presiding Elder, Tuskegee City District*

THE EPISTLE  
I John 2:18-28

**REVEREND JOHNNIE BRYANT**  
*Presiding Elder, Mobile District*

THE GOSPEL  
John 11:45-57

**REVEREND DR. WILLIE EUGENE MARSHALL**  
*Presiding Elder, Ozark-Troy District*

**THE DECALOGUE (SUMMARY)**

**REVEREND CHARLES A. LEWIS**  
*Presiding Elder,  
Camden District  
President, Presiding Elders Council*

Hear what Christ our savior says, you shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. The second is like unto it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**  
"He Decided to Die"

**THE PRESENTATION OF  
BISHOP HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT**

**REVEREND DR. FREDERICK SHERROD, III**  
*Presiding Elder,  
Dothan-Eufaula District*

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER**

**BISHOP HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT**  
*Presiding Prelate of the  
Ninth Episcopal District*

**THE WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC**

**THE SERMON**

**REVEREND DR. TOMMY L. LEWIS**  
*Pastor,  
Bethel Baptist Church  
Birmingham, Alabama*

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**REVEREND JOHNNY RUTLEDGE**  
*Presiding Elder,  
Phenix City District*

**THE BENEDICTION**



## *Reverend Dr. Tommy L. Lewis*

*Pastor,  
Bethel Baptist Church  
Birmingham, Alabama*

Alabama native, husband, son, father, friend, soldier, activist, leader, diplomat, ecclesiastical brother, preacher, teacher, pastor, shepherd, servant and prisoner of the Lord are but a few titles that can be bestowed upon Dr. T. L. Lewis. He was married to Sister Rhonda Steele Lewis for forty-eight years.

Bethel Baptist Church, Pratt City, has been blessed for over forty years with Dr. T. L. Lewis as her shepherd; and the body of Christ has been blessed by his work as a gospel preacher since 1971. Because Dr. Lewis emphatically believes in the mandate of Christ to *go ye therefore*, he has traveled and preached the gospel throughout the United States, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Desiring to walk worthy of the vocation to which he is called; Dr. Lewis matriculated at the Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College and the Universal Bible Institute in Brunswick, Georgia, earning a BA, BTH and Master of Divinity degrees respectively. Recognizing his many contributions and achievements, honorary doctorate degrees were conferred upon him from the Universal Bible College and the Easonian Baptist Bible College.

In 1982, he was commissioned by God to serve as pastor of Bethel where he has served with diligence, dedication, and determination. Under his leadership, Bethel has experienced phenomenal growth both spiritually and numerically. He has organized and continues to maintain many new ministries at Bethel with an emphasis on building up the Body of Christ by evangelizing, equipping, empowering, and encouraging all involved to exalt the Savior. Under his tutelage, seventy-two sons and daughters have heeded the call to be used by the Lord in His vineyard. Over fifty deacons have been trained and ordained for service under his leadership.

Dr. Lewis' labor at Bethel further included the erection of a new 21<sup>st</sup> Century state of the art sanctuary, chapel, and family life center with an abundance of amenities. During his tenure the mortgage on that facility was retired on November 22, 2009. Sadly, on April 27, 2011, the beacon known as Bethel was destroyed by the April Fury Tornadoes. Because God can trust Dr. Lewis with trouble, he rallied the congregation, and issued the call from Bethel proclaiming to the community, "how may we help you, how may we serve you?" Bethel continued her worship services and her service to the community; never wavering; never fainting.

On Sunday, August 3, 2014, Bethel conducted her first full worship service back at 1708 Spencer Avenue. On Sunday August 24, 2014, Bethel held her Consecration and Dedication services of the new campus and celebrated the special blessings of God upon us.

Indeed Dr. Lewis is community minded. His affiliations with religious and civic organizations, awards and accolades are too numerous to mention. He was a foot soldier during the Civil Rights Movement and served the Birmingham communities and surrounding areas faithfully and passionately over the years. In 1998, he was inducted in the City of Birmingham Gallery of Distinguished Citizens. A bust of him is displayed on the second floor in Birmingham City Hall commemorating this achievement.

Dr. Lewis was elected Moderator of the Peace Baptist District on October 18, 2001. He channeled change in the District and was successful in bringing district churches together annually for its Peacemakers Partners Conference. Dr. Lewis served as moderator for the Peace Baptist District Association over thirteen years. Currently, he is the Executive Director of Missions for the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention. Also, he serves as President of the Ministers for Miles College Ecumenical Ministerial Alliance and is a member of Miles College Board of Trustees. In addition, he serves on the Trustee Board for Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College as well.

For over fifty years, Dr. Lewis has abided in the same calling in which he was called, preaching the Word with passion, power and persuasion. As one of God's chosen few, the evidence is the fruit that has been harvested from his labor. It is written and Bethel Nation stands as witnesses, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."