



2023 MID-YEAR MEETING

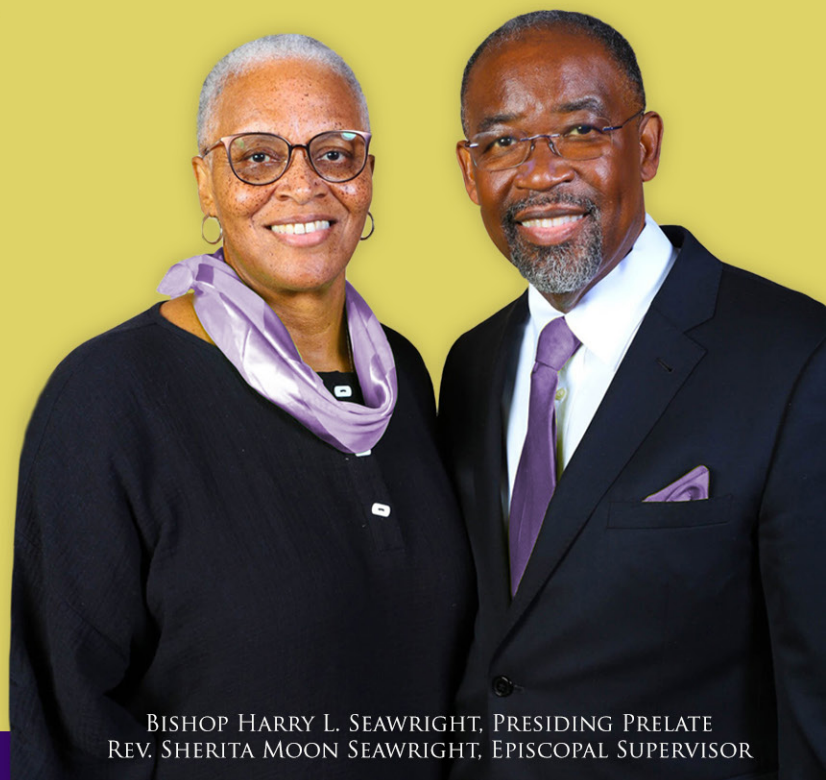
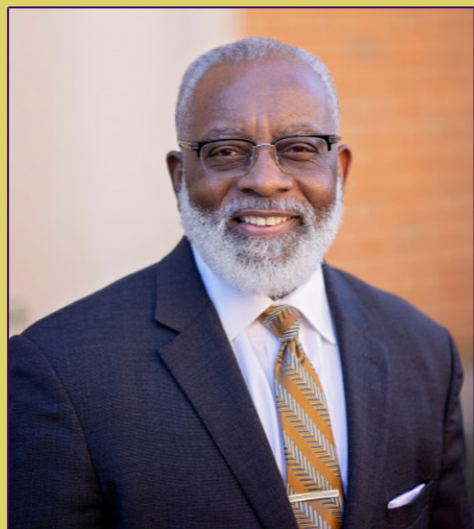
The Power of Prayer

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

THE CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023 · 1:00 PM

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

Closing Worship Service Preacher:
REVEREND DR. RONALD D. STERLING



**NINTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
2023 Mid-Year Convocation

The Closing Worship Service

Saturday, April 1, 2023

1:00 p.m.

Reverend Dr. G. Dianne Lewis, Worship Leader

Pastor, Wilson Chapel AME Church

President, The Henry McNeal Turner AME Chaplains Association

The Doxology

The Call to Worship

Reverend Darryl Ervin

Pastor, Ward Chapel AME Church

- Prattville

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"
Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

People: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather
be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than dwell in the tents of
wickedness.

Leader: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

People: They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our
God.

Leader: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory
dwells.

People: But the Lord is in His Holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Leader: Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable
in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer.

All: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.
I will sing of loyalty and justice to you, Oh Lord, I will sing.

The Opening Praise

Reverend Sheryl G. Shipman
Pastor, Hopewell AME Church
- Kingston

Hymn #92

"Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim!
Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory;
Strength and honor give to His holy name!
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children.
In His arms He carries them all day long:

Refrain

Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of his excellent greatness;
Praise Him! Praise him! Ever in joyful song!

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
For our sins, He suffered, and bled, and died.
He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus, the crucified.
Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows;
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep, and strong:

Refrain

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Heavenly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever;
Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!
Christ is coming! Over the world victorious,
Power and glory unto the Lord belong.

Refrain

The Invocation

Reverend Rosalind Amos
Pastor, St. Stephens AME Church
- Mobile

The Choral Response

Hymn # 307

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

1st Stanza

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known; in seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

The Scripture Reading

THE OLD TESTAMENT
Exodus 14:10-18

Reverend Dr. Marques Wheeler
Pastor, St. James AME Church - Avondale

THE EPISTLE
Ephesians 2:1-10

Reverend Dr. Agnes Lover
Pastor, St. Paul AME Church - Montgomery

THE GOSPEL
Mark 10:32-34

Reverend Dr. Wendell Jones
Pastor, Greater St. Paul AME Church - Troy

The Decalogue (Summary)

Reverend Willie White
Pastor, Johns Chapel AME Church
- Enterprise

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 great and first 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 Presentation of Bishop Harry L. Seawright

Reverend Fred Flowers
Pastor, Parks Chapel AME Church
- Dothan

The Worship Through Music

The Introduction of the Preacher

Bishop Harry L. Seawright
Presiding Prelate of the
9th Episcopal District

The Closing Sermon

Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling
Pastor, St. John AME Church
- Downtown Birmingham

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Reverend L. Nicole Slater
Pastor, Payne Chapel AME Church
- Birmingham

The Reading of Appointments

The Closing Prayer and Benediction



*Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling
Pastor, St. John AME Church
-Downtown Birmingham*

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling has been a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church for twenty-five years and serves as the senior pastor of Saint John AME Church, Downtown Birmingham.

He is the chair of the 9th Episcopal District of the AME Church's Board of Examiners and a second-year instructor at the Northwest Alabama Annual Conference. He served as a contract chaplain in the Pastoral Care Department at the UAB Hospital Health Care System for years.

Sterling is a part-time staff member of the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University. He serves as the director of Student Services and as a lecturer in Pastoral Studies and Spiritual Formation. As part of the Nichols-Thomas-Grady Clergy Institute team, Sterling serves as the dean. Also, he strongly advocates effective discipleship and spiritual formation training in both the church and the seminary. He has conducted workshops in this field at the local, district, and Episcopal Church levels. Sterling is also known for his passion for the community's hurting, which allows him to minister to the lost, homeless, and brokenhearted. Also, many couples have sought Sterling for his biblical counseling, especially for pre and marital guidance.

Sterling has received several awards, including the Outstanding Pastor of the Year Award for his religious and community services by the Greater Titusville Civitan Club; and the "Pastor of the Year" award by the 9th Episcopal District Lay Organization. He is also the co-director of the daily Warriors on the Wall Prayer Ministry, which he helped establish—a vision of Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District of the AME Church.

He and his wife, Kim, live in Pelham, Alabama, and have been married for almost 50 years. They are the parents of three adult children and the grandparents of eight grandchildren.

