



## *Lenten Meditation 2017*

**LAY ORGANIZATION  
OF  
FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
10313 S. GRANT AVENUE  
MANASSAS, VA 20110**

*"Loving Like Christ, Living Like Christ, Leading Like Christ"*

**SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT, AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
BISHOP JAMES LEVERT DAVIS, PRESIDING PRELATE**

**REVEREND LOUIS-CHARLES HARVEY, PHD, PRESIDING ELDER  
CAPITAL DISTRICT, WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**

**REVEREND ETORIA V. GOGGINS, PASTOR**

*LENTEN DEVOTIONALS FOR 2017*

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL  
FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MANASSAS, VIRGINIA

Welcome to the Lenten Devotional Booklet sponsored by the Lay Organization of First A.M.E. Church, Manassas, Virginia. The Lay Organization is grateful and thankful to the members of FAME and the friends of FAME that contributed to this booklet. We know that you were blessed as you were meditating over these contributions and we pray that everyone that reads these entries will also be blessed.

When the women came to the tomb to anoint what they thought would be the dead body of Jesus, their lives were forever changed by the invitation of the angel to “come see the place where the Lord lay” (Matthew 28:6). Our prayer is that these devotions will also fill you with an awe and appreciation for Christ’s death, and give you the same excitement and energy of those women to go and share with the world the good news of our Savior’s death and resurrection as together we draw nearer to the Lord.

The Officers and Members  
FAME Lay Organization

*LENTEN DEVOTIONALS FOR 2017*

*Key to Bible Translations*

CEV – Contemporary English Version

KJV – King James Version

NIV – New International Version

NLT – New Living Translation

## Greetings from the Pastor!

The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017 and ends at 6:00 a.m. on Resurrection Sunday, April 16, 2017. During this season, we pause and take time for self-introspection and reflection. Even Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness preparing himself for his ministry on earth. Lent is a time to draw closer to God as we commit to prayer, fasting, reading his Word and almsgiving. We don't hear much about almsgiving which is simply "*doing acts of mercy.*" It is an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given us; and, that gratitude is expressed by personal engagement through acts of kindness, helping others and promoting justice within our communities. What will you commit to do differently this season to become a better, stronger, more loving Christian? Each of us struggle with attitudes, habits and actions that keep us from being fully conformed to the image of God. The 40 days of Lent gives us a dedicated time to confront these attitudes and habits that keep us from being holy, healthy and whole in the Lord. Will you take the time and make the effort to intentionally cultivate your spiritual life? Will you allow the Word of God to work on you as it cuts, shapes and heals you? Will you go where God sends you even if you have to go by yourself? Will you speak truth to power? Will you stand against injustices? What will you commit to do differently this season to become a better, stronger, more loving Christian?



My prayer is that this Lenten Devotional developed by the Lay Organization will assist in guiding you through this season. We are grateful for the thoughtful reflection of each writer. May your faith be enriched as you prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

**Peace and blessings,  
Pastor Etoria V. Goggins**

# MERCY

## PRAYER OF MERCY

**READ:** Ephesians 2:1-10

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**KEY VERSE:** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, Ephesians 2:4 (NIV)

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Most Holy Father, I adore you and thank you for your mercy that you have showered upon me throughout the years. In times of trouble and anguish, you have heard my cry and had compassion for me. You are faithful to those who love and know you, and you give me inner peace when I lift my eyes and hands to you in prayer.

~ *Alice E. Davis* ~

# FORGIVENESS

## EXONERATED BY THE SACRIFICE

**READ:** Roman 5:14-16

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**KEY VERSE:** But there is a great difference between Adams sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. Roman 5:15 (NLT)

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**Definition:** The action or process of forgiving or being forgiven. (Synonym) Pardon, Absolution, Exoneration, Remission, Reprieve, etc.

To forgive is a divine attribute. It is to Pardon or excuse someone from being blamed for an offense or misdeed. The scriptures refer to forgiveness in two ways. The Lord commands us to repent of our sins and seek his forgiveness. He also commands us to forgive those who offend or hurts us.

Because of the atonement of Jesus Christ, we can receive forgiveness for our sins, through sincere and complete repentance. Jesus died on the cross so that our sins would be forgiven.

God removes the guilt of sin or the sinner's actual liability to eternal wrath because of it all. The sinner is by this act of grace forever freed from the guilt and penalty of his sins.

~ *Frances B. Cantey* ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** God sent his son to die so that my sins would be forgiven. All that is required of me is sincere and complete repentance.

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*Thank you, Lord. You sent your son to die on the cross for my sins. Without this sacrifice the punishment for my sin would have been death. Thank you for your amazing grace. I pray that you will lead and guide me every day so that I can live my life in a way that is pleasing to you. I love you Lord. Amen.*

# FELLOWSHIP

## LOVE ONE ANOTHER

**READ:** Matthew 18:19-22

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**KEY VERSE:** For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20 (KJV)

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In our life as Christians, it's important for us to be a member of the fellowship on a regular basis. Through this responsibility, we gain strength to be the person that the Lord will have us to be and we are also given the opportunity to strengthen others. As we interact with one another we are able to bear one another's burden and encourage each other. Through our testimonies, sharing our life experiences, our hugs, and smiles; we lift each other's spirits, give each other comfort, and joy. We intercede for one another through our prayers for each other. "The prayers of the righteous availeth much." The shared experiences of our brothers and sisters give us insight into what we can accomplish. If the Lord has done it for me, He can do the same for you and even more. We can rejoice in our neighbor's success and have compassion in their sorrows.

As God loves us we are to share His love with one another. Jesus sacrificed His life for our salvation, because He loved us. As His followers, our responsibility is to love one another. We are one body in Christ. When we join in the fellowship of believers, we share our love through our interactions. Our responses to each other are positive as our desire is to build each other up. We should be discerning in our conversations and in our actions so that all will know that we are a child of God.

~ *Etta Caison* ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** Am I meeting my full potential in Fellowship?

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*Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love, we thank you for the opportunity to fellowship with other believers. Help us Dear Lord to focus on you as we participate in the fellowship of believers. For we know if we focus on you, we will be able to do good to everyone and they will know that we are your disciples. Amen.*

# SALVATION

**READ:** Romans 10:1-21

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**KEY VERSE:** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Romans 10:9 (NIV)

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What do you need to do to become saved? Pay tithes? Be nice to your neighbor? Smile at the unruly kids in the grocery store? All these things are good things to do but not necessary for salvation. The good news is that there is nothing you have to do except, accept Christ as your personal savior. Your background does not matter. Your credit score does not matter. The way you dress does not matter. You only have to accept Him as your savior-the one who died for your sins so that you do not have to spend an eternity in hell. That is it. You do not have to be in a certain denomination, you can be male or female, any race, any age. You could have lived a life of sin and decide to accept him as an adult. You could be a child or a teenager. He accepts all who declare His name. If you have not accepted Him do so today. Do not feel ashamed if you are already a member of this or any church but personally have not made that connection. He is ready for you.

~ *Andrea Fair* ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** Do people know I am saved? Does my light shine to others whether at work or at school? Have I shown my unsaved friends and family Christ with my actions? Have I witnessed to anyone today?



# FAITH

## FAITH: THE SUBSTANCE AND THE EVIDENCE

**READ:** Hebrews 11:1-3

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**KEY VERSE:** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

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When we have faith, we trust wholeheartedly in God and step out on faith. We go to God in prayer and leave, knowing that God knows our every need. We know by faith that which we cannot see with the eye. There is an old saying from my parents that sticks with me “Faith is trust in the unseen. It is not trust in the unknown.” Think about Noah, he built the ark as evidence of his faith. He believed that God would judge the earth, and this belief guided him in his life of faith. ***“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”***

Having faith means that we step out on faith. We know that when God is ready to make a reality of those things we hope for, God will do so. God knows our every thought, need and desire, and God also knows when the time is right to meet these, or if they need to be met at all. If they are met, then it is God’s will. If they are not met, simply have faith. *“We have come this far by FAITH, leaning on the Lord. Trusting in His holy word, He never failed us yet.”* ***“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”***

Showing faith radiates through us when we show that we truly believe that God will fulfill our needs, and when we wait on the Lord. God will handle our needs, if and only if we have faith. Keep in mind, too, that God handles our needs in many different ways, and just because we don’t see the results, it does not mean that our needs are not being met. Faith is the epitome of the fact that things not seen are realities. ***“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”***

~ Sandra W. Carver ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** I truly believe that, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” How can I be an example to others and exemplify this in everything that I do?

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*Thank you, dear God, for what you do and will continue to do for those who lack faith, and for helping those who have faith to sustain it. Please help us to step out on faith, and to know that faith is the utmost evidence that things not seen are realities. Amen*

# HOPE

## WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH

**READ:** Romans 15

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**KEY VERSE:** Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. [Romans 15:13 \(KJV\)](#)

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Trustful expectation, particularly with reference to the fulfillment of God's promises. Biblical hope is the anticipation of a favorable outcome under God's guidance. More specifically, hope is the confidence that what God has done for us in the past guarantees our participation in what God will do in the future.

One definition for hope is: To look forward to with confidence or expectation. We must bring the Word of God with all its hope to someone who does not know it is real. When we bring hope, we bring life. It is life changing to finally believe again. It is more than just asking God for something we so badly need; we must expect our miracle. Somewhere in the midst of asking, believing, and expecting God to answer, we will find what we are looking for.

I don't want this to be just another Devotion. I want it to bring life to you. Pray out loud the words of hope into your life and your situations. I have hope! My hope is in the Lord! I will be strong and wait on the Lord. I trust God with my life and the life of my family. Speak these words every day. Hope Is Real. It comes from God! He has placed it in your heart. Speak it out and watch what God will do for you.

Through our day to day lives remember the one thing that can keep you going and keep you in the best frame of mind is hope. It is the one thing we can all look forward to in a hopeless situation. It allows you to dream without boundaries. Hope is one of the few expressions that is so powerful that it can enrich your life just as God provides his promise to us in his word.

~ *Carol Styron* ~

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*"Show me the path where I should walk, O LORD; point out the right road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you." Amen. Psalms 25:4-5*

# LOVE

## THE GREATEST GIFT IS LOVE

**READ:** John 3:1-19

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**KEY VERSE:** “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 (NIV)

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It is easy to love persons that love us and are kind to us. However, it is not easy to love those persons that mistreat us. God’s Word teaches us that love is patient and kind and we should love our enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. When we have this kind of love our rewards will be great and we will be the children of the Most High.

Loving unconditionally is very important in relationships, marriage, family, children, and friends. The Bible says that God is love which makes it the perfect source to learn how to love others, even those who are difficult to love. God loved us so much that He gave His Son so that we could be saved. When we think about the kind of love God had for us, it should be easy for us to love others.

We should love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind. If we do not love God we cannot love others. Let us love and treat others the same way we would like to be love and treated.

~ *Retha M. Fulmore* ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** Is it difficult for you to love persons that are not kind to you? How can you love persons unconditionally that are not easy to love?

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*Lord, teach me how to love persons unconditionally, even those that don’t show love to me. Thank you, God, for loving for me so much that you gave Your Son just for me. Amen.*

# FAITH

## FAITH IS KNOWING "GOD IS ABLE"

**READ:** Hebrews 11

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**KEY VERSE:** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for. the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

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Faith is knowing what you can't see, knowing what you can't do, knowing what you want doesn't matter. Why because God Is Able to do exceedingly abundantly, above and beyond what we think or ask. Faith is seeking position and waiting upon God's direction. Faith is looking to the hills from whence our help comes, and waiting to see what God's going to do. Faith is what you can't see. Faith is thanking God for the outcome, when you are unsure of what is next. Faith is needing financial gain and waiting for the provision of God. Faith is feeling inadequate and knowing God gives the strength. Faith is believing and knowing God's got this.

~ *Rev. Pauline Johnson* ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** Trust God for the outcome, no matter what the circumstance, no matter what the situation, no matter what it looks like. Trust God to do what He says He will do. Knowing He has our best interest, knowing we can't do it of ourselves.

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*Thank you for my measure of faith, thank you lord for keeping me through trials and tribulations, thank you Lord for you are amazing, thank you for being the almighty, thank you for your provision, thank you for your righteousness, thank you for sending your Son Jesus the Christ. Thank you, for you alone have all power and for this I am grateful there is none like you, you are all that we need. Amen.*

# PEACE

## KNOW GOD, KNOW PEACE

**READ:** Ephesians 2:14-18

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**KEY VERSE:** “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.” Ephesians 2:14 (NIV)

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In the midst of something that is disturbing to you, where do you turn to for peace? The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines Peace as “a state in which there is no war or fighting”. Many times, we find that we are in the midst of a battle. There may be many things in our lives fighting for our time and attention. We may have so much happening in our lives that it is hard to find rest. We may struggle with current events, we may struggle with family issues, but sometimes we struggle within ourselves.

I suggest that there is peace in the middle of a disturbance and even a war; because God is in the midst of whatever you are going through. If you seek Him, God can give you perfect peace. Know God, know peace. No God, no peace.

~ *Lillian Moore* ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** When there is chaos around me, do I see God in the middle of it?

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*Father God in Heaven, You are indeed a Holy and righteous God. Thank You for giving us Your word that You will keep us in perfect peace. Help us as we strive to see that peace and to find ourselves lost in it. It is when we have found ourselves lost in Your love that we can learn to love others in the same way. Thank You for the love that You sent to save the world so that all who accept it can be happy and blessed. Draw us nearer to You so that we may be blessed. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

# LOVE

## THE DESTINY OF LOVE

**READ:** 1 Peter 4:7-11

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**KEY VERSE:** Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 (KJV)

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Is your love shallow? Are you loving deeply? Are you withholding Love's destiny? Love has been given unto you freely in the likeness from God above (For God so loved the world he gave His only begotten Son so that whosoever believed in Him should not perish but have eternal life).

Loving one deeply requires you to see beyond faults and deeds. Jesus displayed his deep love for us in His willingness to die on a cross though we didn't deserve it. The love that we too display must show that same compassion to our fellow brethren through the Holy Spirit within us.

Our love for one another is destined and has a divine order that should compel us to cover our brother in all things as Christ did. We should Love so deep that it hurts. Painstakingly so that it feels as You too are standing on an old-rugged cross for your fellow brethren.

~ *Rev. George Odom* ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** Is my love painstaking? How can I display this type of love? Have I displayed deep love for my brethren?

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*Heavenly Father, your Word asks that I love deeply because it is destined to cover over a multitude of sins. Show and teach how to love in the manner as Jesus did God so that I may never hinder the divine destiny of love. Amen*

# OBEDIENCE

## THE BLESSING OF OBEDIENCE

**READ:** Luke 11:27-28

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**KEY VERSE:** He said, “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” Luke 11:28 (NIV)

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Obedience is defined as compliance or submission to authority, rule or law. However, obedience in a Christian’s life involves much more. It requires the study of God’s Word and decision to follow its teachings. As verse 27 of the scripture indicates, a woman declared that Jesus’ mother was blessed to have had such a wonderful son. Jesus’ reply is that a greater blessing is to obey God’s Word.

While we often feel blessed by many people, gifts, and talents in our lives, they should not distract us from the most valuable gift: obedience to the Word of God. Oftentimes, we come to worship, praise God in song and prayer, listen to a sermon, and even tell others how wonderful that sermon was without considering God’s expected response of obedience. As we journey through this Lenten season, let us recognize not only what Jesus accomplished for us, but that it was made available through Jesus’ obedience to His Father, even to His death on the cross.

*~ Bert C. Ogden, Sr. ~  
Park Place A.M.E. Church  
3<sup>rd</sup> Episcopal District, Pittsburgh Conference*

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** What instructions from God’s Word have I disobeyed? Am I willing to receive the blessing of obedience?

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*Thank you, dear Lord, that obedience is a gift that never stops giving, for it focuses my mind on you. Allow my hours spent this day reflect obedience to your holy Word. Amen.*

# GRACE

## GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE

**READ:** Ephesians 2:4-10

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**KEY VERSE:** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 (KJV)

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Grace is the most powerful word in our English language that expresses God's affection, commitment and dedication to us. It captures the depth and height of God's love.

Each day we win the greatest prize of all: God's grace. If we know and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, God shows His love to us even though we have done nothing to deserve it. Our works never merit the blessings that come our way. Even when our days appear dark, God makes His presence known. Grace is an extension of God's arm in our lives. We can lean on its strength in time of troubles, on its power to lift us above temptation and toward our blessings. It is sufficient for every situation.

~ *Michelle Ogden* ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** How can I strengthen my faith so that I will always know that I cannot move outside of God's grace?

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*Heavenly Father, thank you for giving the greatest gift of all and for being there whenever I need your strength and grace. God, thank you for the height and depth of your grace that is all sufficient. Amen.*



# DISCIPLESHIP

## A SAVIOR WORTH SHARING

**READ:** Matthew 28

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**KEY VERSE:** “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”  
Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)

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God has done many things for you and me. But I guarantee you right now, that if you look over your life you will join me and say, Jesus was at His best when He saved my soul! Yes, when Jesus heard my cry, “Lord I’m a sinner, and I want to be saved. Lord come into my life and save me.”

In 1976, John W. Peterson Music Company renewed the hymn: “It Took a Miracle to put the stars in place. It Took a Miracle to hang the world in space. But when He saved my soul, cleansed and made me whole, It Took a Miracle of love and grace!” And, that miracle is worth sharing.

Therefore, go, teach, and baptize. Telling everyone we meet, we have Savior worth sharing.

~ *Wanda Pruitt* ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** How will I share my Savior? For we are redeemed, and have been brought with a price.

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*O, gracious Savior, how I thank you for coming into my life and saving me. Lord, now bless me to tell others of your saving grace, and your loving kindness towards us, for truly you are a Savior worth sharing. Amen*

# PRAISE

## PRAISE YE THE LORD

**READ:** Psalm 150

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**KEY VERSES:** Praise ye the Lord, Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise Him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Psalm 150:1-6 (KJV)

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*O Come let us sing unto the Lord:*

*Let us Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.*

*Praise ye the Lord, Praise ye the name of the Lord, Praise him O' you servant of the Lord.*

*Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praises to his name for it is pleasant.*

*Praise the Lord for he had done marvelous things his right hand, holy arm has gotten him the victory.*

*Praise God for his love. He loved us so, he gave his only begotten son to die on the cross for our sins. Praise the Lord for his faithfulness. Praise the Lord for the rain and sunshine. Praise the Lord for the universe (stars, moon, and sun).*

*Praise the Lord for his care and mercy. Praise the Lord for his forgiveness. Praise ye Lord because you are a God full of compassion and graciousness long suffering and plentiful in mercy.*

*Praise the Lord because ye know that the Lord is God, it is he that hath made us not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture, we praise him for his mercy, enter his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts, be thankful unto him and bless his name. Praise him who forgiveth all iniquities and heals all diseases.*

*Praise him because he is our refuge and strength and a very present help in the time of trouble.*

*In Jesus Name. Amen*

*~ Mother Ernestine Segers ~*

# HOPE

## STRONG AND CONFIDENT TRUST IN GOD

**READ:** Psalms 147:1-20

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**KEY VERSE:** “The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.”  
Psalm 147:11 (NIV)

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Hope is having trust in God’s word. Hope gives us confidence in knowing that God’s word is everlasting from generation to generation.

Hope has rewards and blessings when we have that relationship with Jesus Christ. Our spirits are lifted and encouraged each day. Hope fills us with joy, peace, and protection in believing in the Glory of God.

~ *Sister Marjorie Addison* ~

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** Am I rushing through things in my life and missing what God is telling me? How often do I need to be reminded of the hope that God offer in his word?

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*Lord, give me strength, courage, and boldness to abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let me continue to have hope in your lovingkindness and know that the greatest hope in our Christian faith is eternal life. Amen.*

# DISCIPLESHIP

## PROOF OF GOD'S PRESENCE

**READ: John 8-17**

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“Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit: so you shall be my disciples.” John 15:8 (KJV)

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Discipleship is a required response to our call to please God and our goal to honor him with our lives. We are called to be a follower of Christ, not a follower of self.

Discipleship brings challenges as we commit to being faithful to His word, His will and His way. Trusting the Holy Spirit to empower and motivate us to share the gospel and give of ourselves in service, as we are encouraged by the blessed assurance of God's presence.

*~ Sister Hildia Coram ~*

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**LOOKING WITHIN:** Am I showing proof of discipleship and God's presence in my life?

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*Lord, may my life show proof that I am your disciple. Help me to honor you in all that I am and all that I do. Amen.*

# TRUST

## GET OUT OF THE BOAT!!

**READ:** Matthew 14:22-32

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**KEY VERSES:** Peter replied, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you on the water." "Come on!" Jesus said. Peter then got out of the boat and started walking on the water toward him. But when Peter saw how strong the wind was, he was afraid and started sinking. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Matthew 14:28-30 (CEV)

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It was Peter, with all of his issues, who said "I want to get out of the boat and walk on the water." Those who dare to walk on the water believe God has something bigger and better for their lives. Sometimes in life, God calls us to move beyond our comfort level. Even during this 40-day journey of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, we must move beyond our comfort level to obtain a higher level of discipline.

In order to get out of the boat, we have to be courageous enough to venture into the unfamiliar. Stepping out is not always easy. In fact, it's never easy because the place of comfort is usually a safe place. We love the familiar and are quite satisfied with the familiar. We often tell others to "*trust the Lord, He will make a way.*" But how much do you REALLY trust Him? Faith always leads to a corresponding action. You can talk about trusting God, but what do you do when you have an opportunity to make a change. What do you do when *your* faith/trust is put to the test? Conditions are not favorable but regardless of your reality, you have to look at your possibility.

Peter took a bold step of faith by getting out of the boat to walk on water. But then, he took his eyes off Jesus. He began to think about the impossibility of his situation. When he considered how improbable it was for anyone to actually walk on water, he began to sink. If you take your eyes off Jesus, you will sink. You must stay focused on the possibilities of every life situation and know that with God, all things are possible.

New experiences require a higher level of faith, trust and obedience. God will show you greater things as you express a new willingness to venture in uncharted waters of relationships, ministries, and obedience. HE is about to do something totally new and FRESH but we all must "*GET OUT OF THE BOAT!*"

*Pastor Etoria V. Goggins  
First AME Church (Manassas)*

## *LENTEN DEVOTIONALS FOR 2017*

**LENT** is the period of the liturgical year from Ash Wednesday to Easter in the Christian tradition. The Traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer – through prayer, repentance, almsgiving and self-denial – for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the death and resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the events linked to the Passion of Christ. There are traditionally 40 days in Lent. The six Sundays in this period are not counted because each one represents a “mini-Easter,” a celebration of Jesus’ victory over sin and death.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter. Ash Wednesday dates may differ each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.

**PALM SUNDAY** is the Sunday before Easter. It commemorates Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and in many Christian churches Palm Sunday is marked by the distribution of Palm leaves.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** is the Thursday before Easter than commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the apostles. The significance is derived from the Latin mandatum (A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you), the statement Jesus made in John 13:34 by which He explained to the apostles the significance of His action of washing their feet.

**GOOD FRIDAY** (“good meaning pious or holy) is the Friday of Holy Week, observed primarily by Christians commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and His death at Calvary.

**HOLY SATURDAY** is the day before Easter and the last day of Holy Week in which Christians prepare for Easter. It commemorates the day that Jesus Christ’s body lay in the tomb.

**TRIDUUM** (TRID-uh-wum) is the period of three days that begins the evening of Maundy Thursday and ends the evening of Easter Sunday. It recalls the passion, burial and resurrection of Jesus.