

LaMott African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Rt. Rev. Julius H. McAllister Sr., Presiding Bishop

Rev. Dr. Stanley Smith, Presiding Elder

Rev. Dr. Louis P. Attles, Pastor

Elder Richard Safford, Minister of Music

4th Advent SUNDAY

Love
Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023 – Time - 10:00 a.m.

Church School Lesson: "Expectant Mothers' Faith" Lesson Text: Luke 1:36-45,56

Key Text: "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women," Luke 1:41-42A

Summary of the Lesson ~ The prophet Isaiah foretold of the birth of Christ several hundred years before it came about. Among the things he wrote regarding the Messiah that would come to earth was this promise to those of his day of what was to come and a reminder to us today of God's provision in Christ: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father; Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). The lesson today is about the faith of Mary, Mother of Jesus, an ordinary young lady called by God to do something extraordinary. What she was called to do was suspect in the eyes of society at the time. Though she was engaged to be married, the Scripture says she had not yet known a man. Mary was not formally educated as the learned priests and teachers of the Law. She did not have the education or the wealth to lean on but what she did have was pure faith. She had enough faith to listen to God and the message He had for her; trust enough to ignore the gossip and mean words that must have been said about her, pregnant and unmarried. God did not leave her alone in what was a very complicated situation, but rather encouraged her by reminding her of the miracle of parenthood for Abraham and Sarah; for Zechariah and Elizabeth, both couples well past child-bearing age. What He was saying to Mary then and to us today: "trust Me". I am convinced that God sometimes calls us to a place where we must make a conscious decision to trust Him and His Word; to believe that what He's done for others, He will do for us. To be able to accept the call to your life, whatever it may be, requires faith, trust, and obedience despite the noise of the people around you. Mary praised God for the Word He placed in her. She praised God without fully understanding the "what" or the "how". Can you do the same? As we celebrate this Christmas Season, be thankful for the way that God took so many details over a long period of time and brought them together for Christ to come to earth as a baby to provide spiritual life for all who will put their trust in Him. "But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." (Galatians 4:4-5). Everything came together just as God designed it to be, and we are forever blessed because He did. There were no missing parts, no misjudgments regarding timing, or confusion in His purpose. Christ came to do what we could never do for ourselves; to provide forgiveness of our sins and the promise of everlasting life. That is the reason we can celebrate Christmas with joy, peace, and hope. That ordinary life, Mary, through whom God gave us a precious gift, His Son Jesus Christ, was God's plan since the beginning of the world. As you blend in with the hustle and bustle of this Christmas Season, shopping for gifts for family and friends, think about this: God's Christmas gift is the most expensive gift you will ever receive; His Christmas gift is the only gift you will ever receive that will last forever; His Christmas gift is extremely practical – one you will use every day for the rest of your life; His Christmas gift is love, peace and joy. Pay it forward! Amen.

Sunday Worship Webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/93197056304> - **Webinar ID:** 931 9705 6304 –

Dial in +1 (646) 931-3860 - **Then dial** 931 9705 6304 #

Bible Study, Meetings, Church School & Special Services - Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/99882887220> -

Meeting ID: 998 8288 7220 **Mobile** +1 (301) 715-8592 then dial 998 8288 7220#

ANNOUNCEMENTS - "Virtual Bible Study" – Tuesdays @ 7:30p – CANCELLED All are Welcome!

TODAY @ 7:00 p.m. – "Christmas Eve Hour of Power Service" via our Zoom Line. All are Welcome.

Bible Study is CANCELLED - Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd .

Sunday, Dec. 31st – is "Scholarship Sunday" donations are taken for our college students.

Sun., Dec. 31st @ 7:00 p.m. - "New Year's Eve Hour of Power Service" - via our Zoom line:

Sat., Jan. 20th @ 3:00 p.m. "Zoom Church School" All are welcome. Via our Zoom line,





Scripture of the Month: 'If you can?' said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

Order of Service

Mark 9:23 NIV

Call To Worship – Isaiah 9:2, 6; John 1:4, 5, 14)

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

All: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.

Opening Hymn – "Jesus the Light of the World"

Prayer 

Prayer Response

Worship through Music

Declaration **Brother Robert Love** – This is my Bible. I am what it says I am. I can have what it says I can have. I can do what it says I can do. Today I will be taught the word of God. My mind is alert. My heart is receptive. I'll never be the same again. In Jesus' name. Amen

Reading of the Will- Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:14-22

New Testament ~ Galatians 4:21-27

The Gospel - Luke 1:26-38

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

Gloria Patri – "Glory Be To The Father"

Sermon **Rev. Dr. Louis P. Attles, Pastor**

Invitational

Giving of our Tithes/Offering

The Pastor's Word/Announcements

4th Sunday of Advent Presentation **Sister Linda Taylor**

Benediction "Reach out and Touch Somebody's Hand"

Brett Patterson's brother and Natasha's brother-in-law, Bryan Patterson. He is in the hospital for diabetes and heart emergencies, Bro. Carl Rollins and Sis. Maggie Bullard at home healing, Our country, Our youth and senior citizens, Bro. Leroy Williams, husband of Sis. Debbie Williams,, Sister Lottie Chisholm's mother, Lula King, Tuwana Jones, niece of Sis. Mary & Keith English, Rev., Dr. & Mrs. Melvin D. Wayns, Sis. Deb Williams' Mom & Dad, Bro. Bill Walker, Brother of Sis. Wanda Samuels, and All those who have family members and friends who are sick and have lost loved ones.

All those who have **Birthdays or Anniversaries** in the Month of Dec.,

Happy Birthday **December** - Pastor Attles - Dec. 7th

Happy Anniversary – **December** - Natasha & Brett Patterson 31st - 13 years 

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The Blessings Of
Christmas
PEACE★HOPE★JOY★LOVE

