

“Bake the Praise” with Chef Rev. Kev

First District Lay Organization Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 25, 2020 | 10 a.m.



Credits



- **Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram**, *Presiding Prelate*
- **Rev. Dr. Jessica K. Ingram**, *Episcopal Supervisor*
- **Sis. Cheryl Hammond-Hopewell**, *First District Lay Organization President*
- **Sis. Josephine Fulcher-Anderson**, *First District Lay Organization Director of Lay Activities*
- **Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace**, *Presiding Elder, Boston-Hartford District*
- **Sis. Linda C. Gant**, *New England Conference Lay Organization President*
- **Allen Chapel AMEC**, *Hartford, CT*



AIMS

- Thank you for joining us for another episode of “Bake the Praise” where we always say, ***“forget the Crisco, now you’re cooking with Christ!”***
- Worshipping God is a lot like baking a cake: **it takes preparation, the best ingredients, focus and, of course, time**
- In that way, the Order of Service can be viewed like a recipe: follow these easy steps and in the end, we’ll be able to **“taste and see that the Lord is good”** (Psalm 34:8a)
- Moreover, when we follow the direction of the Holy Spirit our recipe can be transformed into **an awesome expression of praise unto God** (see John 4:22-24)
- We’ve got another action-packed episode of “Bake the Praise,” so let’s get started by taking a look at the ingredients of the worship experience at an A.M.E. Church

RECIPE FOR WORSHIP

*Ingredients (alphabetical order):**

- Acknowledgement of Visitors
- Announcements/Pastoral Highlights
- Apostle's Creed
- Benediction
- Call to Worship
- Decalogue
- Devotion
- Doxology
- Introit
- Invitation to Christian Discipleship
- Invocation
- Musical Selections
- Opening Song
- Prayer Response
- Processional
- Scripture
- Sermon
- Sermonic Selection
- Tithes/Offerings
- Worship through the arts (Liturgical Dance, Drama, Mime, etc.)



**Note: Ingredients may vary with altitude, Episcopal District, Annual Conference, pastoral preference, COVID-19 or move of the Holy Spirit*

RECIPE FOR WORSHIP

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Mix ingredients well, paying particular attention to the needs of the parishioners.
- **TOTAL PREP TIME:** 60-120 minutes.
- **REMEMBER:** We are serving an audience of one: God. All of our efforts are to present God with our best worship possible.



PRE-HEATING THE OVEN

- **DEVOTION** – generally lead by the Evangelists or Praise Team, the 15- minute period prior to the start of each service to set the atmosphere for worship.
 - Persons entering the sanctuary/logging into virtual worship during this time are to be reverent and reminded that preparation is being made for the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- **INTROIT** – music sung or played at the beginning of a worship service (e.g., “We Have Come into This House,” “Lord Prepare me to be a Sanctuary,” etc.).

THE GREAT PREHEAT DEBATE

Does it even matter?



BONUS QUESTION #1

What must we do prior to worship beginning to ensure that we are ready for service?

Provide your answer using the chat feature.



MIXING THE INGREDIENTS

- **PROCESSIONAL** – entrance of the choir(s), persons sitting on the pulpit, pastor and ministerial staff while an uplifting, upbeat song is being sung.
- **DOXOLOGY** – from the Greek words “doxa” and “logos,” which when translated means “glory words.” It’s a short song which offers praise to the triune God: the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.



“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.”

MIXING THE INGREDIENTS CON'T

CALL TO WORSHIP – the announcement that the worship service has begun; the invitation to worship the Lord collectively. Did you know that the Call to Worship of the AMEC is entirely Scripturally based?

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. (Psalm 122:1-2)

For a day in thy 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. (Psalm 84:10)

Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good. (Psalm 122:9)

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:13)

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. (Psalm 84:4) Lord, I have loved thy habitation, the place where thy honor dwelleth. (Psalm 26:8)

For the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. (Habakkuk 2:20)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight. O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. (Psalm 98:1a) Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises. (Psalm 98:4a)

BONUS QUESTION #2

On what page numbers in the *AMEC Hymnal* can you find responsive readings or other non-traditional calls to worship?

Provide your answer using the chat feature.



MIXING THE INGREDIENTS CON'T

- **OPENING SONG** – a congregational anthem or hymn of praise purposed to laud and magnify the Lord; sets the tone for the worship service.
- **INVOCATION** – also known as the “morning prayer,” the invocation “invokes” (invites) the presence of the Holy Spirit into the worship. Because the person praying is doing so on behalf of everyone present, it is not an opportunity to lift personal concerns unto the Lord, but rather a time to go to God with the concerns and praise of the entire Church.
- **PRAYER RESPONSE** – a short song or chant sung upon the completion of the invocation (e.g., “I Really Love the Lord,” “God is Here,” “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” etc.) sung in faith with the expectation that God heard and will answer the prayer just offered.



MIXING THE INGREDIENTS CON'T

SCRIPTURE – the Word of God, often read responsively. The morning scripture should relate to the sermon or the liturgical theme, when appropriate. In reverence for the Word, parishioners should cease in moving throughout the sanctuary.

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” –

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” –

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)



MIXING THE INGREDIENTS CON'T

DECALOGUE – the “deca” (ten) “logue” (laws) or Ten Commandments.

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:2-3)
2. You shall not make for yourself any graven image (Exodus 20:4-6)
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain (Exodus 20:7)
4. Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy (Exodus 20:8-11)
5. Honor your Father and Mother (Exodus 20:12)
6. You shall not murder (Exodus 20:13)
7. You shall not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14)
8. You shall not steal (Exodus 20:15)
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (Exodus 20:16)
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's (Exodus 20:17)



You may recall that traditionally on first Sunday, we recite the Decalogue in its entirety. But every other Sunday, we read the “Summary of the Decalogue.” Where does the “Summary” come from? In Mark 12:28–34 and Matthew 22:34-40 Jesus is asked which of the Ten Commandments is the greatest. We His response is the “Summary of the Decalogue.”

“Hear what Christ our Savior saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

MIXING THE INGREDIENTS CON'T

APOSTLE'S CREED –

“I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.”

Often when reciting the Apostle's Creed we refer to it as “affirming our faith.” According to *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary*, to “affirm” is to “express agreement with or commitment to;” thusly, we are expressing agreement with and commitment to the following beliefs:

1. God (*Genesis 1*)

- a) the Father (Matthew 6:9)
- b) Almighty (Genesis 17:1)
- c) maker of heaven and earth (Genesis 1:1)



MIXING THE INGREDIENTS CON'T

2. *Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:16)*

- a) His only Son; our Lord (John 3:16)
- b) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:26-35)
- c) born of the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1:25)
- d) suffered under Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19)
- e) was crucified, dead and buried (Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19)
- f) the third day He rose from the dead (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20)
- g) He ascended into heaven (Mark 16:19;20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12)
- h) sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty (Acts 2:32-35; Hebrews 10:12; Ephesians 1:20; 1 Peter 3:22)
- i) from thence He shall judge the quick and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1)



3. *The Holy Spirit (John 14:25-27)*

MIXING THE INGREDIENTS CON'T

4. *The Church Universal* (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:4-6; Colossians 1:18)
5. *The Communion of saints* (1 Corinthians 12; 1 John 1:3)
6. *The forgiveness of sins* (Acts 5:31; Acts 13:38; 1 John 1:6-9)
7. *The resurrection of the body* (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20)
8. *Life everlasting* (John 3:16)

The Apostle's Creed is not unique to the African Methodist Episcopal Church; these are some of the most important tenets of Christianity. When asked to explain your religious faith to that of someone else, the Apostle's Creed is great place to start.

Refer to *The S.A.T. Manual for African Methodism* by Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, for example, for a detailed discussion of the 25 Articles of Religion of the A.M.E. Church



MIXING THE INGREDIENTS CON'T

MUSICAL SELECTIONS/WORSHIP THROUGH THE ARTS – expressions of praise intended to glorify God and minister to the needs of the congregants. Selections should be appropriate to the liturgical themes/season.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS** – Persons who are visiting church for the first time should be made to feel welcome by a member of the ministerial staff and the congregation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PASTORAL HIGHLIGHTS** – Opportunity for the Pastor or his/her designee to highlight pertinent announcements and to request special prayer for sick and bereaved members.



****Like separating egg whites from the yolk to make meringue or being quick to put bread into the oven before the yeast begins to rise, it is important to proceed with caution when mixing these ingredients. Too many special announcements, for example, can quench the Spirit.**

BONUS QUESTION #3

Which department of the A.M.E. Church has downloads of instrumental music for the organ, Holy Communion, etc., among other resources for churches large and small?

Provide your answer using the chat feature.



MIXING THE INGREDIENTS CON'T

TITHES/OFFERINGS – worship of God through our financial resources. God commands us to worship Him with a tenth of all our financial increase, including our paychecks, allowance, retirement, tax refunds and other sources of income. Anything above and beyond the “tenth” is considered an offering.

*“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” – **Malachi 3:10***

*“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” – **2 Corinthians 9:6-7***

SERMONIC SELECTION – sung immediately before the sermon, the selection should relate to the message whenever possible and otherwise set the tone for the message.



INTO THE OVEN

SERMON – God’s Word explained and exclaimed by the pastor, or the person who God leads the pastor to select for such a time as this.

After our palettes have been whet as we’ve worshipped God through song, Scripture, our finances and fellowship, our hearts should be receptive to receiving what “thus saith the Lord.”

We should listen to the message intently as the Holy Spirit speaks to us through the preacher of the hour. Likewise, we must remain prayerful the Holy Spirit moves mightily.



ICING ON THE CAKE

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP – the opportunity to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. Also the chance to unite with the congregation or rededicate your life to Christ. Praying that the Holy Spirit moves mightily also means an expectation that the Holy Spirit will move on the heart of someone to live a new life for Jesus.

BENEDICTION – short blessing usually offered by the preacher of the hour asking the Lord to bless and keep the congregation until we assemble again



“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” – Jude 24-25

Concluding Thoughts

Well, we did it: we went through the AME Worship Recipe in its entirety. Prayerfully, you've taken good notes and you'll be ready to bake some praise during worship in the future.

*You know, all that talk of pre-heating the oven, mixing the ingredients, putting it in the oven and then icing the cake has made me hungry. How about you? **Bishop Ingram and Rev. Dr. Jessica, Sis. Cheryl Hammond-Hopewell, Sis. Josephine Fulcher Anderson, Presiding Elder Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace and Sis. Linda C. Gant: UPS has a special treat today just for you!***

Also, today's winners of our bonus questions and Conference Lay Presidents, expect a text with your gift before the worship service is over.

*Join us again friends for another episode of "Bake the Praise." I've been your host, Chef Rev. Kev. Remember, as we always say, **"forget the Crisco, now you're cooking with Christ."***



RESOURCES

NON-TRADITIONAL CALLS TO WORSHIP

- [AME Christian Education Department](#)
- [African American Lectionary](#)
- *AMEC Hymnal* – “Special Readings” are on Hymnal Pages 717-755

LECTIONARY

- *AMEC Hymnal* – See Hymnal page 795
- [Vanderbilt Lectionary](#)

MUSIC

- [AME Christian Education Department](#) – Music downloads for Hammond Organ, Pipe Organ, Communion Hymns and more
- [YouTube](#) (search Gospel Music, Praise and Worship Songs, Hymns, your favorite artist, etc.)
- [Morgan State University Choir](#) recorded dozens of songs from the *African-American Heritage Hymnal*

OTHER

- *The S.A.T. Manual for African Methodism* by Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram

LINKS

- [The Blood Still Works](#) (until 1:13) Puppet Ministry
- [Madea Praying](#) (from 1:35 to 3:22)
- [Comedian/radio personality Ricky Smiley](#), “Church Announcements” (from 1:22 to 2:43)
- [Christian Comedian Broderick Rice](#), “I’m getting ready to close” (from 2:48 to 3:28)
- [Praise God \(Doxology\) by Edna Tatum](#)

BONUS QUESTIONS

1. What must we do prior to worship beginning to ensure that we are ready for service? **Be in prayer, center your thoughts on Christ, have your your own moment of praise and worship.**
2. On what page numbers in the *AMEC Hymnal* can you find responsive readings or other non-traditional calls to worship? **Pages 717-755.**
3. Which department of the A.M.E. Church has downloads of instrumental music for the organ, Holy Communion, etc., among other resources for churches large and small? **AME Christian Education Department.**



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Complete the evaluation of today's workshop: <https://forms.gle/41ZyybZ7f9KifHD28>

Yes, I am available to present, preach and/or teach for your church or organization!

Join Allen Chapel for worship on Sundays at 11 a.m. and Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8940174582> or call (646) 558-8656, meeting ID: 894 017 4582;

Password: 781671 | email revkttaylor@hotmail.com for the bulletin and/or Bible Study Lesson

