



## COMPONENTS OF OUR WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**PRELUDE** - Music played before the worship service begins, at 10:45a.m. Its purpose is to help set the tone for the worship experience. It is a time *for* silence and meditation as the people of God prepare to worship.

**CHIMES** – The sounding of the chimes is an official signal that the worship service is about to begin.

**PROCESSIONAL** - The choir marches into the sanctuary, sometimes with the minister. This is the beginning of the worship service. *(The congregation stands and no walking about)*

**INTROIT** – Sometimes an introit is sung before the processional begins. This is an important moment as it tells the congregation that we are about to worship the Lord and we should prepare our hearts to welcome Him. *(There should be no walking or talking during this moment and the doors should be closed)*

**DOXOLOGY** – The Doxology is the art or method of giving praise to God. It is during this time that the congregation stands as we sing words of praise. *(Church doors are closed and no walking about or talking)*

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him all Creatures here below; praise him above, ye Heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.**

**SCRIPTURE SENTENCES OR "THE CALL TO WORSHIP"** – The responsive reading of scripture sentences, serves to bring the people of God together for the cause of worship. *(Church Doors are Closed and no walking about or talking)*

### \*Scripture Sentences

**Minister:** 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)*

**People:** 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)*

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

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

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

**People:** For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him. *(Habakkuk 2:20)*

**Minister:** 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)*

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

**HYMN OF PRAISE** (The Opening Hymn) – The hymn of praise is a musical expression of one's faith in Jesus Christ. The congregation stands during the First Opening Hymn. The hymns should be sung in a lively fashion. (*Church Doors Open*)

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (THE APOSTLES' CREED)** – The Affirmation of faith is a statement what we believe as Christians. A creed is a statement of what we believe. When we talk about belief we are referring to those personalities and ways we accept as patterns by which to shape our lives. The Apostles were the 12 disciples selected by Jesus, to help Him, and they helped to shape and mold the early church after the death of Jesus Christ. The Apostle's Creed is the foundation of what we believe as followers of Christ. It has its foundation in Scripture. (*The Congregation stands and the doors are closed*)

**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 arose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the Communion of the Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

**MORNING PRAYER** – A prayer is a talk with God asking Him to come, be in our midst and bless us. It is often rendered by either the pastor, one of the stewards or whoever is so designated. (*The doors are closed, the people are seated and no walking about or talking*)

**CHORAL RESPONSE** – This is a song of praise by the choir and congregation after the prayer is given. (*The doors are closed and no walking about or talking*)

**SELECTION** – A song of praise - (*Church doors opened*)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** – A passage read to the congregation from the Holy Bible. It is God's message to His people. (*Doors are closed and the people are seated and no walking about or talking*)

**HYMN #10 AND THE DECALOGUE** – The Hymn # 10 is a musical expression of praise that is given before the reading of the Decalogue. The Decalogue is also known as the "Ten Commandments" that God gave to Moses to give to the children of Israel. Often times the "Summary of the Decalogue" is given which is a statement of what our relationship should be with God and with each other. (*The People stand and the doors are closed; there is to be no walking about or talking*)

**From all that dwells below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise. Let the Redeemer's Name be sung, through every land by every tongue.**

### Summary of the Decalogue

**Hear what Christ our savior saith, thou shall 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 to it. Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

**The Gloria Patri** (Latin for Glory Be to the Father) – Praise and honor to the three Persons of the Trinity.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without Visitors and Announcements end. AMEN**

**OFFERING** - This is when we present our tithes (1/10 of what we have) or monetary gifts and our offerings to the Lord. There are two (2) offerings that we have:

- A. Missionary Offering: To help those in need
- B. The Public Offering: To carry on the various programs of the church

The ushers may assist by passing the offering plates or baskets for each offering.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements of activities and important notices are read and shared with the congregation.

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

We are always grateful when persons from other churches in the community visit us. We pause to present them to the church family and thank them for joining us on that Sunday morning.

### **RESPONSE (PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING)**

The response is a song of praise rendered by the choir and congregation to present the offering before the Lord for his blessings upon our gifts. *(The doors are closed and no walking or talking).*

### **PRIVATE MEDITATION**

Private prayer and meditation is the time when the congregation is invited to come to the altar to say their own personal prayers - to talk to the Lord in their own way. Sometimes this is also done as you remain seated in your pews. It is a time for prayer for the individual. *(This is not a time for visiting with your neighbor)*

### **MEDITATION HYMN**

A musical interlude rendered softly by the musicians while the congregation is in private meditation. *(There should be no excessive walking about or talking.)*

### **YOUTH MOMENTS**

This is a time when the Pastor or others interact with the youth of the church, to share lessons from Scripture specific to the youth. Youth may from time to time present a special message to the congregation. *(There should be no excessive walking about or talking.)*

### **SERMONIC SELECTION**

This is a musical selection to prepare the congregation for the preaching of the Word of God. *(There should be no excessive walking about or talking.)*

### **SERMON**

The preached Word of God – a message to encourage, exhort, and invite the hearers. *(There should be no excessive walking about or talking.)*

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP** -This is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to make a decision for Christ. During this time a person can come forward for membership in the local congregation. *It is not a time to exit which is a disruption in the service because the focus will be on you leaving instead of someone coming forward to join the church or give their life to Christ.*

**ALTAR PRAYER** – An opportunity to request prayer. The congregation unites in prayer for the requests made.

**DOXOLOGY** – Praise to God for the experience of worship and the blessings He has bestowed.

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him all Creatures here below; praise him above, ye Heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.**

**BENEDICTION** means “Good Word”. This is a blessing upon the people as they depart to worship through service.

**POSTLUDE** – musical selection played as the congregation fellowships

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