



**ASH**  
**Wednesday**

**February 18, 2026**

**12Noon Worship**

**Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**

The Right Reverend Michael L. Mitchell, Presiding Prelate, 6th Episcopal District

Mrs. Cordelia Mitchell, Episcopal Supervisor, 6th Episcopal District

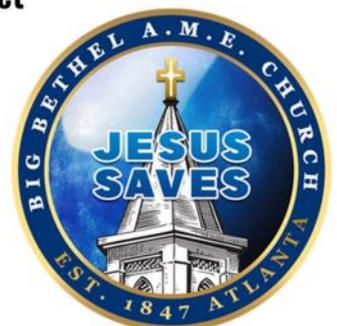
The Reverend Kimberly McMichael, Presiding Elder, North Atlanta District

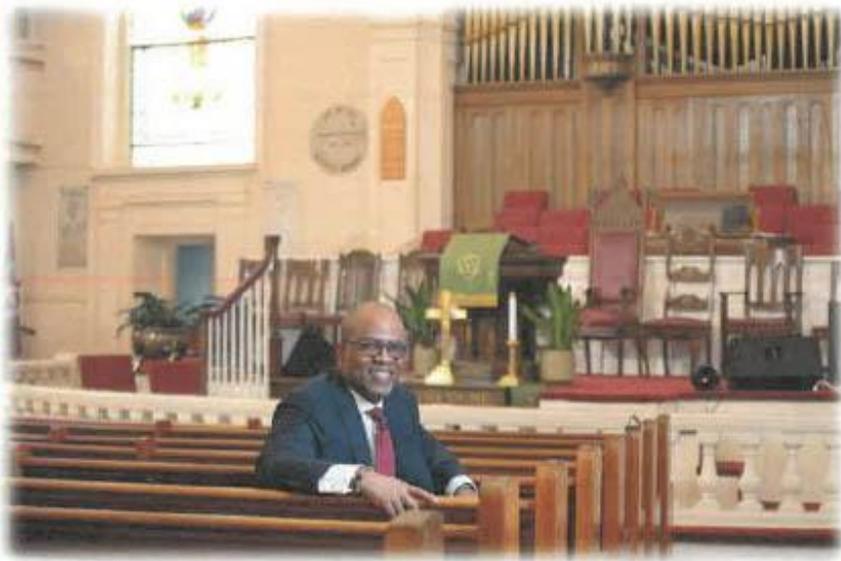
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The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor



**@BigBethelAMEChurch**





My Dear Big Bethel Family and Guests:

Today is **Ash Wednesday**, a day of deep reflection that begins the **Lenten Season**. Under normal circumstances, I most certainly would be at Big Bethel, in my pulpit, preaching a message that is theologically appropriate for the season. Regrettably, however, today's circumstances are anything but normal.

I am deeply thankful for the confidence of our presiding bishop, the **Right Reverend Michael Leon Mitchell**, for asking me to represent him in speaking at a **press conference** and offering **public testimony** before the **Georgia Board of Elections**, regarding the inappropriate raid of Fulton County ballot boxes, from the 2020 federal elections, and to address an agenda item that would authorize the state to potentially take over **administration of elections in Fulton County**.

How ironic, but arguably appropriate, that the state Board of Elections meeting was scheduled today. Ash Wednesday begins a time of introspective reflection, where we are called to penitently consider the wrongs we have committed. Indeed, **ALL have sinned and ALL have fallen short of the mark set by God**. My presence was necessitated, in Winder, Georgia, because of corrupt and biased acts that emphasize human frailties and transgressions. Inasmuch as I am praying for success at the press conference and public meeting, I am also praying for society, with all its factions and partisan vitriol. Most importantly, I trust God.

**Please be in prayer for me, and for our cause. We seek justice, fairness, and human equality. I trust God. I pray you will join me, in praying through this difficult season, and that you will trust God, too,**

In the Master's Service,

Reverend Jonathan C. Augustine, JD, DMin



# Ash Wednesday 12noon Worship

**The Order of Liturgy**  
**The Reverend Dr. Garland D. Higgins, Executive Minister**  
**Presiding Liturgist**

Praise and Worship ..... The Music Ministry

The Doxology .....AME Hymn #69..... All Worshipers

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.

The Opening Hymn of Praise ..... The Music Ministry

The Prayer of Invocation ..... The Reverend Gwen Senatle  
*(Prayer Chant)*

Worship in Music ..... The Music Ministry

The Scripture Readings..... Sister Arial Nash

The Old Testament.....Psalm 51:1-17  
The New Testament ..... Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-21

Worship in Giving ..... Reverend Senatle

The Significance of Ash Wednesday ..... Dr. Higgins

## The Imposition of Ashes

The Music of Preparation .....The Music Ministry

The Proclaimed Word....."It's a Sure Thang" ..... The Reverend Monica C. Jones, PhD  
*(Psalm 23:6)*

The Invitation .....Dr. Higgins

The Doxology ..... All Worshipers (standing)

The Benediction .....Dr. Jones

**Visitors, please register your attendance  
on the Big Bethel Guest Registration Form  
by scanning the QR code to the right.  
Thank you for worshipping with us.  
You are always welcome!!!!**





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**The Reverend Dr. Jonathan C. Augustine, Senior Pastor**

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