The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

**LAY SUNDAY 2020**

An Order of Worship for Virtual Settings

Thematic Focus: “Reaching Our Potential”

**Call to Worship** – Psalm 100 NRSV

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is good;  his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

**Invocation**

**Opening Hymn:** “Are You Able, Said the Master” – Vocal or Instrumental Solo/or Recording

**Responsive Reading**

**Ephesians 6:10-17, 24.25** NRSV

“Spiritual Equipment to Prepare for Service in Kingdom Building”

*Leader****:*** *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.*

**People:** **Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

*Leader****:*** *For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

**People:** **Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.**

*Leader****:*** *Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.*

**People: As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.**

*Leader****:*** *With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

**People: Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

*Leader****:*** *Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*.

**All: Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Lay Sunday Order of Worship (continued)

**Affirmation of Faith** The Apostle’s Creed

The Affirmation for Laity (to be read by the local Lay Council president)

We the Active Members of the Connectional Lay Council do solemnly believe, and firmly advocate, and admirably support the following affirmation of Lay Operation.

* We endorse and need an articulate Self Purpose
* We endorse and need open minds, a faith in Christian Religion
* We endorse and need people who understand all sides to questions, for herein is Wisdom
* We endorse and need human decency, good manners, humor and compassion, for each must be considered as blessed as we
* We endorse and need openness, truthfulness and honesty
* We endorse and need courage to stand for each creedal, it is our rock of affirmation

Our mission thus remains as stated that of actively involving more people for Peace, Justice, Christian Teaching and Living for the Brotherhood of Man, Under the Fatherhood of God, and the Leadership of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

**Lessons from the Holy Scriptures**

**Old Testament:** Psalm 139:1-18

**New Testament:** John 10:1-10

**Ministry of Music**: “The Lord Is My Light” – Vocal or Instrumental Solo/or Recording

**The Giving of Tithes & Offerings**

The Lay Sunday Appeal

**Offertory**

**Announcements**

**Special Presentation:** “Giving Honor Where Honor is Due”

Thematic Focus: “Reaching Our Potential”

Explication: The historical inspiration for our Connectional Lay Council theme this year, “Reaching Our Potential” is Bishop Jermain Wesley Loguen. Bishop Loguen was a man who rose from slavery to the service as the 13th bishop in the A.M.E. Zion Church. He faced danger as a fugitive slave; yet he advertised his home as a station on the Underground Railroad as he and his family helped over 1,500 on their way to freedom. The Connectional Lay Council has studied the characteristics of Bishop Loguen that made him such a hero in the history of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and African American history.

Lay Sunday Order of Worship (continued)

Alternative: Show the visual presentation or read the script on Bishop Jermain Wesley Loguen presented during in the virtual Lay Academy on Thursday, September 10, 2020. (Can be downloaded from the “Resources Tab” on the connectionallaycouncil.org website.)

Based on our historical inspiration, we honor this year a lay person of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name of local church) A.M.E. Zion Church\* who has demonstrated (or demonstrates) the characteristics exemplified by Bishop Jermain Wesley Loguen, which enabled him to reach his potential as a witness for Christ in kingdom-building.

1. Continuous Faith in the Power and Love of God
2. Devotion to a Noble Cause
3. Courage in the Face of Danger or Ostracism
4. Determination to Make a Difference
5. Love and Nurture of Family

**Ministry of Music:** “My Whole Life I Give to You ” (Luther Barnes) – Vocal or Instrumental Solo/or Recording

**The Message**

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

**Period of Meditation** – “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder” – Vocal or Instrumental Solo/or Recording

**The Lay Council Closing Prayer**

Oh God, our Father, pour out your steadfast love upon us and keep us in your care, now and forever more. Amen.

**\***The person selected to be honored should be selected by the Executive Committee of the local Lay Council.

CLC Education Committee