

# JUNETEENTH: BLACK JOY RISING



This year marks the 2nd National Observance of Juneteenth, a concession and response to the racial reckoning over the value of Black Lives. For sure, a holiday will not end discrimination, prejudice, or extrajudicial killings. However, our JOY is also a *tool of resistance*. So tomorrow the grills will blaze, the music will blare, and the jokes and spades will bust out across our community. The empire may remove diversity, equity, and inclusion from public discourse but the empire can never silence the call nor stop our fight for freedom. Let us always remember...*this JOY I have the world didn't give it to me!*



## WELCOME TO SWEET MAGNOLIA

Established in 1914, the name Magnolia honors the Mother Church founded in 1864 near Louisville.

Affectionately known as Sweet Magnolia, this ministry has stood as a physical representation of the hope and determination of the African American spirit. We are a Spiritual Anchor grounded in a liberation tradition operating as an African American Baptist community of faith.

We are unashamedly Black and unapologetically Christian!

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Rev. Dr. Francys Johnson, Senior Pastor

# Welcome to Sweet Magnolia



Its Summer! This Season of Pentecost is about Freedom! First, we acknowledge Pentecost, the day when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the gathered disciples after the resurrection of Jesus marking the beginning of the Christian church. Next, we acknowledge Juneteenth, the day we remember the coming of federal troops with the word that the Civil War and Chattel Slavery were over almost two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

**Pride, Pentecost, and Juneteenth may seem like strange bedfellows, but they have more in common than meets the eye.**

Each is disruptive—upsetting the status quo and the expectations that people had come to have about the way the world worked. The Spirit caused an outpouring of praise in numerous languages and broke down the barriers that separated people—barriers of race, national origin, language, and faith.

**SCHOLAR IN FOCUS |** James Hal Cone (August 5, 1938 – April 28, 2018) was an American theologian, best known for his advocacy of black theology and black liberation theology. His 1969 book *Black Theology and Black Power* provided a new way to comprehensively define the distinctiveness of theology in the black church. Cone's work was influential from the time of the book's publication, and his work remains influential today. His work has been both used and critiqued inside and outside the African-American theological community. He was the Charles Augustus Briggs Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Columbia University-affiliated Union Theological Seminary until his death.

**4 WAYS TO GIVE**  
TEXT BLESSED TO 912.274.8802

ONLINE SMART PHONE MAIL SUNDAY

ME WARE WO "I shall marry you" and symbolizes commitment and perseverance.

# Order of Service

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 18, 2023 | 9 AM

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teacher - Deacon Johnny Tremble

*Lesson 12: God's Servant King* from Ezekiel 37:21-28. Key Verse: My dwelling place shall be over them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Ezekiel 37:27)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Just Want to Praise You* by Maurette Brwon Clark with an Invocation and *Let the Words of My Mouth* as the Response.

### SERVICE OF LIGHTS

*Lift Every Voice and Sing* by James Weldon Johnson

Sweet Magnolia utilizes all our resources providing a Christ-centered setting where people in this community are redeemed to a personal relationship with Christ, reconciled to God and his people, restored to wholeness, to well-being, and revived for a full life involved in service to others. In this church, everyone is welcomed and affirmed. In this community, you can be redeemed, reconciled, restored, and revived.

### LIBATIONS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

Tithes and Offerings with *Brought Me Through This* by Rev. Timothy Wright

Offertory Claim - I am a consistent Tither, a Bountiful Sower, and a Cheerful Giver. I have confessed my sins; therefore, GOD rebukes the Devourer for my Sake, and GOD makes all Grace abound toward me! Malachi 3:1-11 and II Corinthians 9:5-8

### CELEBRATION OF THE LORDS TABLE

Drawn from Matthew 26:26-28, this celebration invites believers to recall the ultimate cost of discipleship with *Safe in His Arms* by Thompson Community Singers.

### THE PREACHED WORD

Rev. Dr. Francys Johnson

### BENEDICTION

Do not be afraid. Stop worrying. For your Father in heaven knows what you need, and he delights in giving you the kingdom. Instead, actively pursue his kingdom, and all the things you truly need will come to you as well. So go out from here, confident in the knowledge that God goes with you.

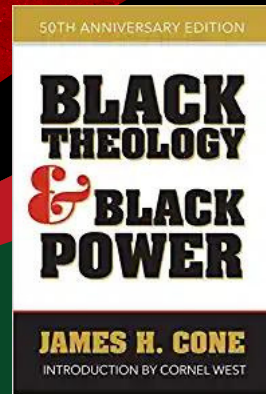
**Lectionary:** Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 • Exodus 19:2-8a and Psalm 100 • Romans 5:1-8 • Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)



**GYE NYAME** means "except for God" This symbolizes the Supremacy of God.

"In the act of worship itself, the experience of liberation becomes a constituent of the community's being . . . **It is the power of God's Spirit invading the lives of the people, "building them up where they are torn down and propping them up on every leaning side".**

JAMES CONE



Pride, too, is disruptive; it breaks down the walls that some people seek to erect to mark who is in and who is out. Pride says that everyone, without exception, is made in the image of God and belongs in the circle of love and grace.

Juneteenth is so disruptive that it's not clear how those with a vested interest in the status quo will deal with the contradictions the day presents. The one thing that is clear is where the spirit of the Lord is there is FREEDOM!

This Church's theological foundation is grounded in Liberation. Specifically, as carry out the Great Commission we are compelled to liberate people from the multiple forms of political, social, economic, and religious subjugation that contradict the biblical mandates and the abundant life promised through Jesus Christ.



**ADINKRAHENE** is the King of the Adinkra symbols meaning Authority

## About this Sunday

### FATHERS DAY

**Today, we give thanks for Black Fathers. Period. Full Stop.**

Some people will argue that such men are rare, or that they do not exist. They blame the violence and other social ills of impoverished communities on the absence of black men in their children's lives. They pretend as though single-parent homes are exclusive to African-Americans, and use this misinformation to make moral judgments about black women and the men who father their children. **Not this Church.**

They paint all black men with one broad stroke, as chronic baby-makers who abandon their responsibilities even before their children are born. And they paint the sons of these black men with the same brush, condemning them to repeat the mistakes learned from their birth fathers. **Not this Faith Community.**

**Today, we celebrate the gift of Fatherhood. We lift up the men in our lives who make a positive difference!**



A **man** never stands as **tall** as when he **kneels** to help a **child!**

KNIGHTS OF PYTHAGORAS



### Deeper Understanding

## BLACK FATHERS SERIES

Absentee fathers" only seem to come in one color: Black. Though there are fathers of all races and ethnicities who have a minimal presence in their children's lives, "absentee" isn't used to describe most of them. This racialized term uniquely targets Black fathers, inaccurately signaling that they willfully abandon their children. In reality, CDC data show that Black fathers are as likely to be involved as fathers of other races. There is, however, evidence that systemic racism has taken many Black fathers away from their families and communities through mass incarceration and early death.

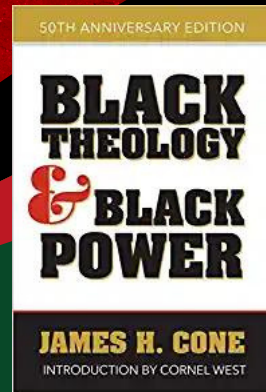


**ANANSE NTONTAN** means "spider's web" and symbolizes wisdom and creativity.

DOWNLOAD the REPORT using the QR Code.

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