

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 describing most of them. This racialized term uniquely targets Black fathers, inaccurately signaling that they willfully abandon their children. In reality, data from the CDC show that Black fathers are equally as likely to be involved in their children’s care 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. **DOWNLOAD** the REPORT using the QR Code.



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 a Baptist community of faith.

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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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 4, 2023 | 9 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Teacher - Deacon Johnny Tremble

Lesson 10: Stop The Chaos: The Lesson aims to encourage learners to view the history of persecution and chaos they may have faced in light of God's continued plan of salvation and victory of God's saints through Jesus Christ.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Emanuel by Norman Hutchins with the Responsive Reading followed by *Let the Words of My Mouth* as the Response.

SERVICE OF LIGHTS

Lord, Keep Me Day by Day by Eddie Williams

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.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Collection of Tithes and Offerings with *Great Things* by Preashea Hilliard.

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION

More Than Anything by Anita Wilson

THE PREACHED WORD

Rev. Dr. Francys Johnson


BENEDICTION

As you enter a new week, may you experience God's presence. May you feel God pouring out the Holy Spirit over your heads and your thoughts and the words of your lips, over your hearts and your feelings and emotions and your compassion for all others, and over your hands and your feet as you put into action all that God commands you.

Lectionary: Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 8 • 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 • Matthew 28:16-20

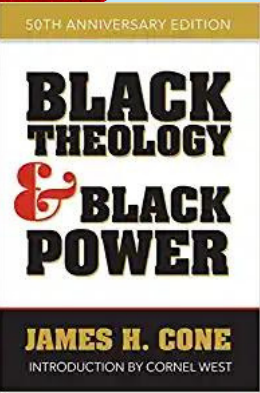


GYE NYAME means "except for God" This symbolizes the Supremacy of God.



"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

Responsive Reading

PENTECOST MEANS FREEDOM

God of rushing wind, coming from where it wants and going to where it wants.
Pour out your Spirit upon us. Pentecost is about Freedom.

God of fire, blazing on us as disciples and burning away our stubborn pride.
Pour out your Spirit upon us. Pentecost is about Inclusive Liberation.

God of the miraculous, speak to our hearts about what is happening around us.
Pour out your Spirit upon us. Pentecost is about Shared Salvation.

God of the young who sees visions, of the old who dream dreams, and of the prophets.
Pour out your Spirit upon us. All of us.

God of wonders above and the signs below, God of blood, fire, and towering smoke,
Pour out your Spirit upon us. All of us.

You raised up Peter to prophesy on Pentecost, Peter to preach straight truth to a crooked generation, Peter to accuse people he loved of complicity in the death of Jesus.
Pour out your Spirit upon us. Pentecost is about Freedom.

You raised up the Church to preach Jesus to a skeptical world, and with the two-edged sword of the Word you can cut through the armor of a crooked generation, you are pricking our hearts and saving us again.
Great God, send your Spirit to save all who call upon your Name.

Thank you for your Spirit that speaks repentance and faith, baptism and forgiveness, teaching and fellowship, communion and prayer. Pour out your Spirit Upon us. Great God, we are on fire with Holy Ghost!

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY | Next Sunday, June 11, 2023, we will recognize the Class of 2023 as well as the academic success of our students during worship. For more information, please contact Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson.



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