

Text:
Topic:

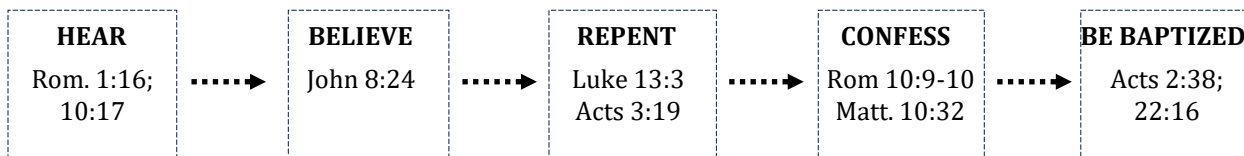
Sermon Notes



ORDER OF SERVICE

Song ~ Announcements ~ Song ~ Opening Prayer ~ Song ~ Scripture Reading ~ Song ~ Sermon ~ Song ~ Lord's Supper ~ Offering ~ Song ~ Closing Prayer

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?



THE MESSENGER

*"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." **1John 1:5***

Volume 3 **March 26, 2023** **Issue 4**

Minister: Robert Webster
(708) 752-5589
(robster67@gmail.com)

www.westhammondcoc.com
 westhammondcoc@gmail.com
 1138 173rd St., Hammond IN 46324

Secretary: Sis. Ruthie Gamble
(708) 743-5439
(whcocsecretary@gmail.com)

WELCOME VISITING FRIENDS

If you are one of our visitors today, please know that we are indeed honored to have you. If you are a member of the Lord's body, thanks for choosing to worship with us today. If you are not a member of the Lord's church, we would be happy to meet with you and discuss how one becomes a member of the church which we read about in the New Testament. We aim to speak as they spoke and do as they did. We also offer a free Bible Correspondence Course which can be mailed to you. Or, someone would be glad to meet with you for a one-on-one Bible study. You can indicate your desire on a visitor's card and place it in the collection tray located at the front on the communion table.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
Young Christians' Class10 a.m.
Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Worship Service11 a.m.

Wednesday
Bible Study (on Zoom)...7:00 p.m.

*I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Psalm 122:1*

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Loud as the Rolling Sea: A Brief Commentary on Black Music and “Hymns and Spiritual Songs”

It is difficult for one to speak of Black culture without speaking on Black music. The music of Black Americans and throughout the African diaspora is unique not only in sound, but also in content. The same can be said of the songs within Church of Christ worship and the “spiritual songs” we sing in our kitchens, showers and living rooms.

The melodic origins of Black music are traced to the plantations of the South during American slavery. During this time, enslaved Africans sang and created what we know now as “spirituals”. These songs are filled with messages of hope, faith, and escape. Songs such as “Wade in the Water” speak of trusting that God will intervene while treading through perilous waters, and also inform of the waterways that will be traversed on the way North. “Swing Low Sweet Chariot” speaks of going to glory and of angels coming to deliver us from this world. It also informs enslaved Africans of plans to leave and that “angels” are localizing to aid in their efforts. These spirituals, and later gospel music, share the “African custom of performer-audience participation” (Anderson and Stewart, 2007).

While an African custom, this method of singing has a scriptural base. We find in Ephesians 5:19, where Paul encourages Christians to speak to each other in “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs”. It is therefore clear that singing is more than entertainment, but is also a method of communication within a community bound by culture or conviction.

More recent genres such as rap, hip-hop, and R&B speak on the lived racialized experiences of Blacks in America and also on the joy. Rap was created by youth who wanted relief from despair and deprivation (Anderson and Stewart, 2007). These creative youth wanted to focus more on the happiness in their urban upbringing and not on the violence and drugs that plagued their streets. This is reminiscent of Paul encouraging the Philippians to think of the pure, lovely, and praise-worthy things in life (Philippians 4:8).

Bearing all this in mind, let us continue to lift every voice and sing.

Bro. EJ Taylor

... enslaved Africans sang and created what we know now as “spirituals”. These songs are filled with messages of hope, faith, and escape.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS:

~Please silence your *cell phones*.



~No *eating* in the auditorium.

New guest, please be sure to complete a Welcome Card.

Returning guest please **print** your name in the Returning Guest Log in the foyer.

Please send any *requests* and *announcements* to be made or to be included in the bulletin to Sis. Ruthie Gamble at 708-336-3120.

There is a *suggestion box* in the foyer.

Please review the *website* for any necessary updates. Also, if you would like a *year-end tax statement*, please contact Sis. Ruthie Gamble.

The *Ladies’ and Men’s Ministries* have resumed for 2023. We meet every other Thursday. The next meeting is scheduled for Thurs., April 6th at 6:30p.m. We had phenomenal classes this past Thursday. Please plan ahead to be in attendance. These classes are intended to promote a heightened spiritual and social boost. Ladies, if received, please bring your **Bridges or Barriers** booklets.

Annual Ladies Lectureship Retreat

Theme: *Christian Women Living Courageously in a Spiritual Pandemic*

Date: April 20-23, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Website: www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org

*****Check the Ladies Retreat website for updated information.**

FOR PRAYERS:

Prayers for Sis. Bria and the Hardy family who are out of town.

Sis. Payne, Sis. Conner, Sis. Cossom.

Sis Chaff’s cousin, Toya House suffered a brain aneurysm and is now on life support.

Sis. Linda Smith, wife of Bro. Ozell Smith.

The Cotton & Peden families, Sis. Helen McGee,

Sis. Ellis, the Brantfords, Sis. Glenda Carter, Stacye Forrest, cousin of the Cunningham/Gamble families, Young family, Bryant family, Sis. Kenya & Kristopher Strickland, Sis. Davis, J. W. Kinds, Sis. Cunningham and Bro. & Sis. Taylor.

FOR ENCOURAGEMENT:

Please continue to pray for and encourage our new members Sis. Terry Armmer who placed membership on March 12th, Bro. Kristopher Strickland, Bro. Croom, Sis. Reba & Michelle Metevia, and Sisters Tillman and McLaurin.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES:

Children’s Bible Class taught by Sis. Whitney Taylor (lower level).

Young Adult Class taught by Bro. Taylor. (upper level)

Adult Bible Class - main auditorium

We are seeking volunteers for *Sunday School teachers* for kids. Please see Bro. Webster for more information.

THIS WEEK:

NO BIRTHDAYS

NO ANNIVERSARIES

SKILLS BANK

Remember to submit your information to be added to the skills bank and be diligent to do your verification for relevant licensing.

Sis. WebsterReal Estate Agent

Sis. Debra WoodardFinancial Advisor

Gambles Property Preservation &

Custom Wood Work Décor/Signs (Home/Business)

Last Week’s Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom 78

Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom) 45

Last Sunday offering \$3859.47

Weekly Budget \$2625.00