



# BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH

Bethel AME Church Newsletter

April 9, 2020

## *Holy Week Timeline:*

### *From Palm Sunday to the Resurrection*

*While the exact order of events during Holy Week is debated by Biblical scholars, this timeline represents an approximate outline of major events of the most holy days on the Christian calendar. Follow along with the steps of Jesus Christ from Palm Sunday through Resurrection Sunday, exploring the major events that occurred on each day.*

#### *Day 1: Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday*

*On the Sunday before his death, Jesus began his trip to Jerusalem, knowing that soon he would lay down his life for our sins. Nearing the village of Bethphage, he sent two of his disciples ahead, telling them to look for a donkey and its unbroken colt. The disciples were instructed to untie the animals and bring them to him.*

*Then Jesus sat on the young donkey and slowly, humbly, made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling the ancient prophecy in Zechariah 9:9:*

*"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*

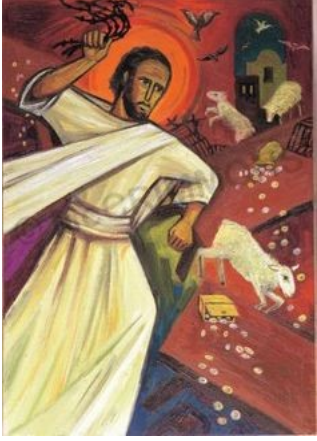
*The crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches in the air and shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"*

*On Palm Sunday, Jesus and his disciples spent the night in Bethany, a town about two miles east of Jerusalem. This is where Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead, and his two sisters, Mary and Martha, lived. They were close friends of Jesus, and probably hosted Him and His disciples during their final days in Jerusalem.*

*Jesus' triumphal entry is recorded in Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19.*



## Day 2: On Monday, Jesus Clears the Temple



*The following morning, Jesus returned with his disciples to Jerusalem. Along the way, he cursed a fig tree because it had failed to bear fruit. Some scholars believe this cursing of the fig tree represented God's judgment on the spiritually dead religious leaders of Israel. Others believe the symbolism extended to all believers, demonstrating that genuine faith is more than just outward religiosity; true, living faith must bear spiritual fruit in a person's life.*

*When Jesus arrived at the Temple, he found the courts full of corrupt money changers. He began overturning their tables and clearing the Temple, saying, **"The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves"** (Luke 19:46).*

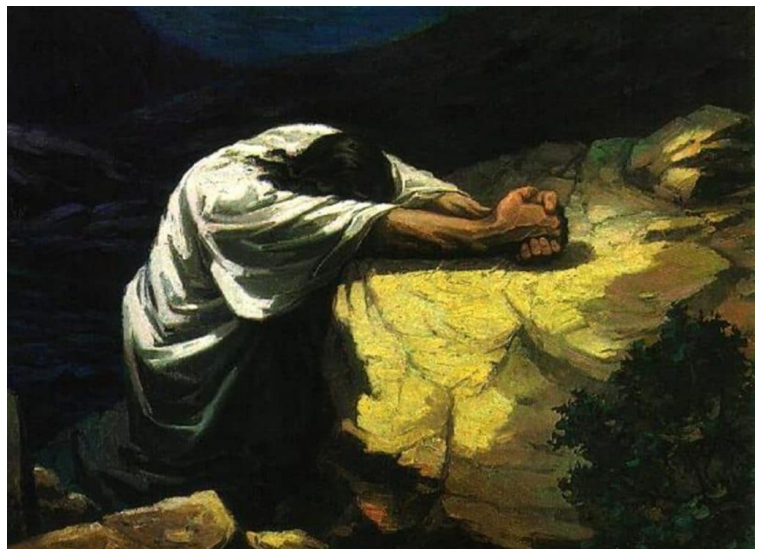
*On Monday evening Jesus stayed in Bethany again, probably in the home of his friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.*

*Monday's events are recorded in Matthew 21:12–22, Mark 11:15–19, Luke 19:45–48, and John 2:13–17.*

## Day 3: On Tuesday, Jesus Goes to the Mount of Olives

*On Tuesday morning, Jesus and his disciples returned to Jerusalem. They passed the withered fig tree on their way, and Jesus spoke to his companions about the importance of faith.*

*Back at the Temple, religious leaders were upset at Jesus for establishing himself as a spiritual authority. They organized an ambush with the intent to place him under arrest. But Jesus evaded their traps and pronounced harsh judgment on them, saying:*



***"Blind guides!...For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness...Snakes! Sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell?"** (Matthew 23:24–33)*



## Day 3: On Tuesday, Jesus Goes to the Mount of Olives Continued:

*Later that afternoon, Jesus left the city and went with his disciples to the Mount of Olives, which sits due east of the Temple and overlooks Jerusalem. Here Jesus gave the Olivet Discourse, an elaborate prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the age. He speaks, as usual, in parables, using symbolic language about the end times events, including His Second Coming and the final judgment.*

*Scripture indicates that this Tuesday was also the day Judas Iscariot negotiated with the Sanhedrin, the rabbinical court of ancient Israel, to betray Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16).*

*After a tiring day of confrontation and warnings about the future, once again, Jesus and the disciples returned to Bethany to stay the night.*

*The tumultuous events of Tuesday and the Olivet Discourse are recorded in Matthew 21:23–24:51, Mark 11:20–13:37, Luke 20:1–21:36, and John 12:20–38.*

## Day 4: Holy Wednesday

*The Bible doesn't say what the Lord did on the Wednesday of Passion Week. Scholars speculate that after two exhausting days in Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples spent this day resting in Bethany in anticipation of Passover.*

*Just a short time previously, Jesus had revealed to the disciples, and the world, that he had power over death by raising Lazarus from the grave. After seeing this incredible miracle, many people in Bethany believed that Jesus was the Son of God and put their faith in him. Also in Bethany just a few nights earlier, Lazarus' sister Mary had lovingly anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive perfume.*



## Day 5: Passover and Last Supper on Maundy Thursday

*Holy Week takes a somber turn on Thursday.*

*From Bethany, Jesus sent Peter and John ahead to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to make the preparations for the Passover Feast. That evening after sunset, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as they prepared to share in the Passover. By performing this humble act of service, Jesus demonstrated by example how believers should love one another. Today, many churches practice foot-washing ceremonies as a part of their Maundy Thursday services.*

*Then, Jesus shared the feast of Passover with his disciples, saying:*



*"I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." (Luke 22:15-16, NLT)*

*As the Lamb of God, Jesus was about to fulfill the meaning of Passover by giving his body to be broken and his blood to be shed in sacrifice, freeing us from sin and death. During this Last Supper, Jesus established the Lord's Supper, or Communion, instructing his followers to continually remember his sacrifice by sharing in the elements of bread and wine (Luke 22:19-20).*

*Later, Jesus and the disciples left the Upper Room and went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony to God the Father. Luke's Gospel says that "his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44, ESV).*

*Late that evening in Gethsemane, Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas Iscariot and arrested by the Sanhedrin. He was taken to the home of Caiaphas, the High Priest, where the whole council had gathered to begin making their case against Jesus.*

*Meanwhile, in the early morning hours, as Jesus' trial was getting underway, Peter denied knowing his Master three times before the rooster crowed.*

*Thursday's events are recorded in Matthew 26:17-75, Mark 14:12-72, Luke 22:7-62, and John 13:1-38.*



## *Day 6: Trial, Crucifixion, Death, and Burial on Good Friday*



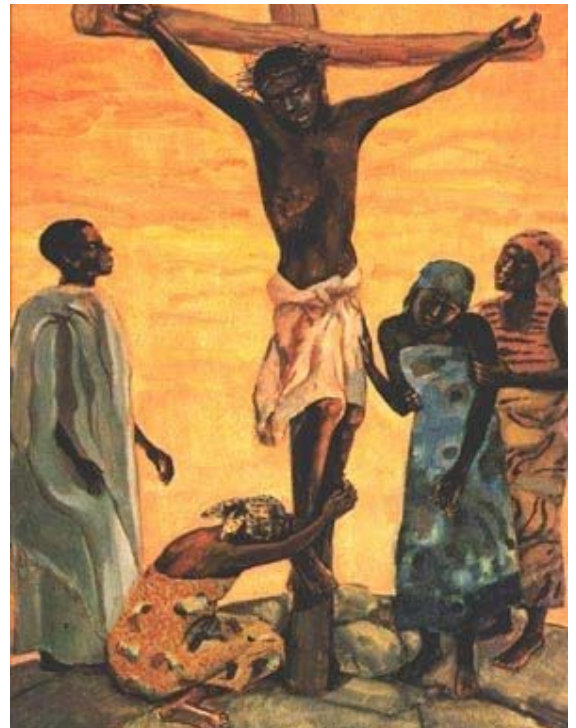
*Good Friday is the most difficult day of Passion Week. Christ's journey turned treacherous and acutely painful in these final hours leading to his death.*

*According to Scripture, Judas Iscariot, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was overcome with remorse and hanged himself early Friday morning.*

*Meanwhile, before the third hour (9 a.m.), Jesus endured the*

*shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings, and abandonment. After multiple unlawful trials, he was sentenced to death by crucifixion, one of the most horrible and disgraceful methods of capital punishment known at the time.*

*Before Christ was led away, soldiers spit on him, tormented and mocked him, and pierced him with a crown of thorns. Then Jesus carried his own cross to Calvary where, again, he was mocked and insulted as Roman soldiers nailed him to the wooden cross.*



*Jesus spoke seven final statements from the cross. His first words were, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34, NIV). His last words were, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46, NIV)*



*Then, about the ninth hour (3 p.m.), Jesus breathed his last breath and died. By 6 p.m. Friday evening. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body down from the cross and lay it in a tomb.*

*Friday's events are recorded in Matthew 27:1-62, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 22:63-23:56, and John 18:28-19:37.*



## *Day 7: Saturday in the Tomb*

*Jesus' body lay in its tomb, where it was guarded by Roman soldiers throughout the day on Saturday, which was the Sabbath. When the Sabbath ended at 6 p.m., Christ's body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices purchased by Nicodemus:*

*"He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth." (John 19: 39-40, NLT)*

*Nicodemus, like Joseph of Arimathea, was a member of the Sanhedrin, the court that had condemned Jesus Christ to death. For a time, both men had lived as secret followers of Jesus, afraid to make a public profession of faith because of their prominent positions in the Jewish community.*

*Similarly, both were deeply affected by Christ's death. They boldly came out of hiding, risking their reputations and their lives because they had come to realize that Jesus was, indeed, the long-awaited Messiah. Together they cared for Jesus' body and prepared it for burial.*

*While his physical body lay in the tomb, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin by offering the perfect, spotless sacrifice. He conquered death, both spiritually and physically, securing our eternal salvation:*

*"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." (1 Peter 1:18-19, NLT)*

*Saturday's events are recorded in Matthew 27:62-66, Mark 16:1, Luke 23:56, and John 19:40.*



## *Day 8: Resurrection Sunday*

*On Resurrection Sunday, or Easter, we reach the culmination of Holy Week.*

*The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event of the Christian faith. The very foundation of all Christian doctrine hinges on the truth of this account.*

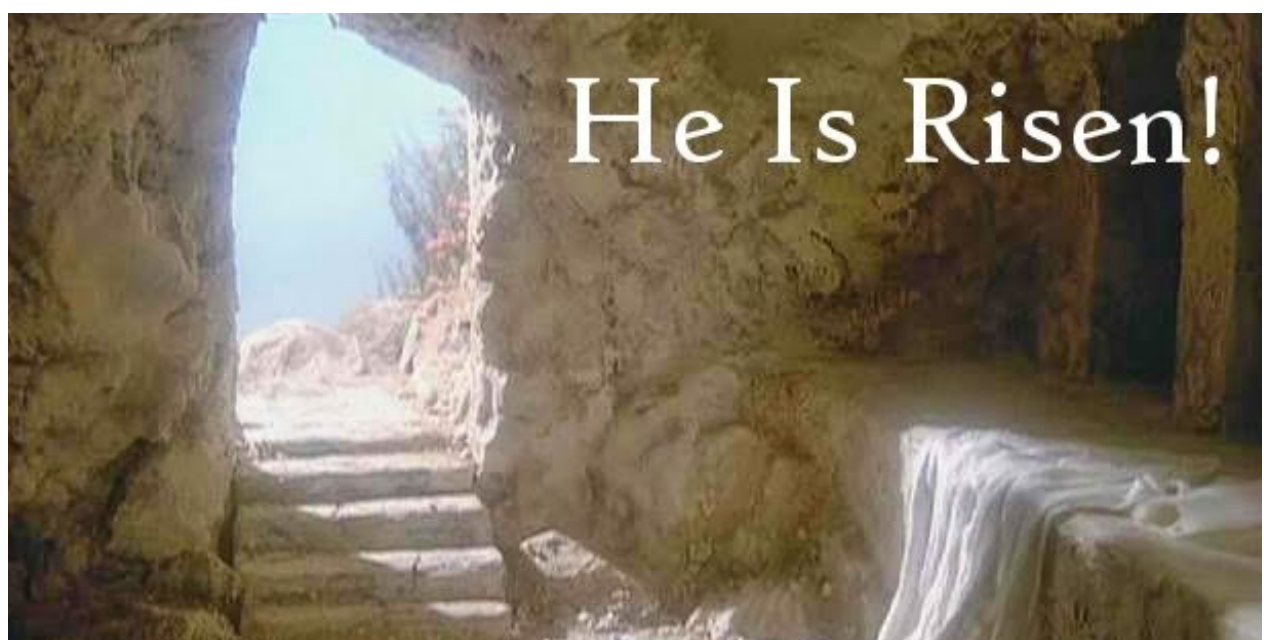
*Early Sunday morning, several women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, and Mary the mother of James) went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away. An angel announced:*

*"Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen." (Matthew 28:5-6, NLT)*

*On the day of his resurrection, Jesus Christ made at least five appearances. Mark's Gospel says the first person to see him was Mary Magdalene. Jesus also appeared to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all of the disciples except Thomas, while they were gathered in a house for prayer.*

*The eyewitness accounts in the Gospels provide what Christians believe to be undeniable evidence that the resurrection of Jesus Christ did indeed happen. Two millennia after his death, followers of Christ still flock to Jerusalem to see the empty tomb.*

*Sunday's events are recorded in Matthew 28:1-13, Mark 16:1-14, Luke 24:1-49, and John 20:1-23.*





# He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

Jesus Christ.



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!

## *Easter Sunday Prayer*

*Lord God, You loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, everyday. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon Your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen.*





# Sick & Shut-in



## What would Jesus do?

Let us remember those of our church family and community who are sick and shut-in, those who are bereaved, those who are incarcerated, and especially those in our military, they also need our prayers. Please remember our listed sick, by calling them or visiting them or sending them a card. Above all, please remember them in your prayers.

For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you Fear not, I will help you.

Isaiah 41:13



THE POWER OF PRAYER

### SICK AND SHUT-IN

Sis. Jacqueline Benberry.....36 Rendon Dr., Hampton, VA 23666

Sis. Melane Johnson .....41 Moss Ave., Hampton, VA 23669

Sis. Eunice Thomas.....210 Prince George Dr., Hampton, VA 23669

Bro. George Williams.....101 Glicia Ct, Hampton, VA 23666

Bro. Willie Morton.....2 Toledo Ct., Hampton, VA 23666

Sis. Doris Whitehead.....2 Gayle St, Hampton, VA 23669

Sis. Henrietta Barrett..... 6101 Grenfell Loop, Bowie, MD 20720

Sis. Marie Evans.....2116 Middleton St., Cayce, SC 29033

Bro. Phillip Powell.....1209 Parkside Ave, Hampton, VA 23669

Sis. Lila Colbert.....5210 Arlington Ave., Newport News, VA 23605

Sis. Ruth Mouton.....40 Stevens Ct., Hampton, VA 23666

Sis. Elveter Bernard.....151 Old Buckroe Rd #234, Hampton, VA 23666

Sis Dorothy Harden.....3626 Moore St., Hampton, VA 23669

### Our Members in Hospitals, Assisted Living & Convalescent Centers

#### Master Tyree Campbell

St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children  
6171 Kempsville Circle  
Norfolk, VA 23503

#### Bro. Clayton Drake

Waterside Health & Rehab  
249 Newton Rd South, #207  
Norfolk, VA 23502

#### Sis. Dorothy Torrence

Morningside of Newport News  
655 Denbigh Blvd, Rm 115  
Newport News, VA 23608

#### Bro. Brother Winston Bernard (Elveter)

Coliseum Convalescent & Rehabilitation Center  
305 Marcella Rd  
Hampton, VA 23666

Heavenly Father,

We pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their painful circumstances. May they know that You are always with them, specially through these difficult times.

In Jesus, we pray. Amen

*In Loving Memory*



*Mildred Margaret Luff*

*Mildred Margaret Luff*

### *Obituary*

*Mrs. Mildred Margaret Luff answered the call of the Master on April 1, 2020. She was the daughter of the late William Henry Robinson and Annie Allison Robinson.*

*Mrs. Luff was married to Chief Master Sergeant Ronald Luff. She traveled extensively in Europe when her husband was stationed in Germany, Spain, Holland, Italy, England and Austria. They were the proud parents of four children. Her daughter Sheila preceded her in death, as well as her beloved husband, Ronald in June 2002.*

*Mrs. Luff was a faithful member of Bethel AME Church and attended the 8am worship service. She served as secretary of the Pulpit Ministry and Leader of Class #11. Sister Luff loved her Bethel church family.*

*Mrs. Luff was employed with the Department of Defense for twenty-eight and one-half years, retiring in 1977. Mrs. Luff served as a volunteer at the Senior Citizen Center, Kecoughtan Road and North Phoebus Community Center, Hampton, VA*

*Mrs. Luff is survived by three sons; Karl Luff (Lajohn) of Washington, D.C., Jeffery Luff and Michael Luff of Hampton, VA; an adopted daughter Faye Dennis of Upper Marlboro, MD; grandchildren; Carla, Kyle, Jermaine, LaToya and Brian Luff and Marquis and Monique Dennis, and 4 great grandchildren.*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



*SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES  
WILL BE ONLINE VIA  
FACEBOOK AND CONFERENCE  
CALL BEGINNING AT 9:00AM*



*DRIVE THROUGH PRAYER AND  
SPIRITUAL IMPARTATION ON  
SUNDAY WILL BE FROM  
10:00AM UNTIL 12:00PM*

Study <sup>the</sup> Bible  
with us



**WEDNESDAYS**

**11:45AM AND 6:46PM**

**VIA CONFERENCE**

**CALL: 339-207-7996**

## ***STAYING CONNECTED***

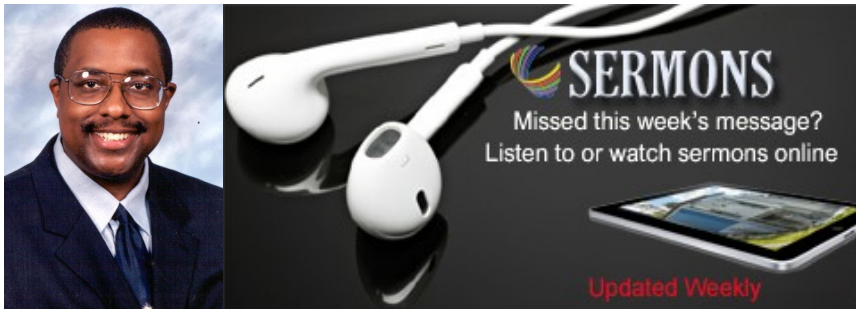
***Conference Call # - 339-207-7996***

***Facebook page - bethelHAME***

***Website - bethelhame.com***

***Information Line - 1-641-715-3800***

***Access code - 48145#***



- 1.Go to [www.Bethelhame.com](http://www.Bethelhame.com)***
  - 2.Click Online Giving***
  - 3.Log In or Create an account***
  - 4.Choose the type of contribution***
  - 5.Enter the amount***
  - 6.Choose recurring or one time for contribution type***
  - 7.Click Continue***
  - 8.Enter payment information***
  - 9.Click continue***
- 

## **Contact Us**

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## ***DID YOU KNOW***

***you can WORSHIP  
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your smart phone?***



- 1. Go to your App Store***
- 2. Download the Vanco  
Giving + App***
- 3. Enter the Churches zip code***
- 4. Click on Bethel African  
Methodist Episcopal  
Church***
- 5. Create an account***
- 6. Now you can Give from  
your phone***

***OR TEXT TO GIVE  
BY: INSTRUCTIONS  
NEXT PAGE***



***Bethel A.M.E. Church***



# TEXT TO GIVE

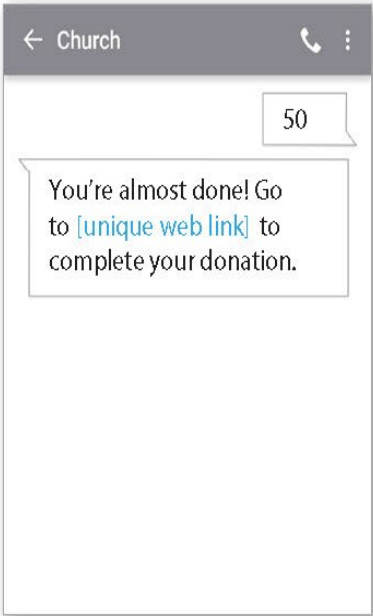
Church Name   Bethel African Methodist Ep

10-Digit GivePlus Text #   833-948-2117

## Quick Guide

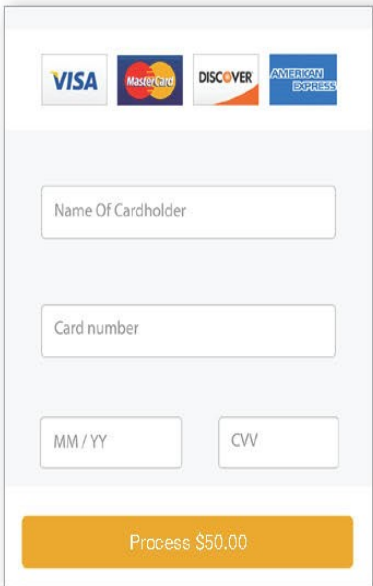
### 1. Get Started

Enter your 10-digit GivePlus Text number and the amount you wish donate, then press send.



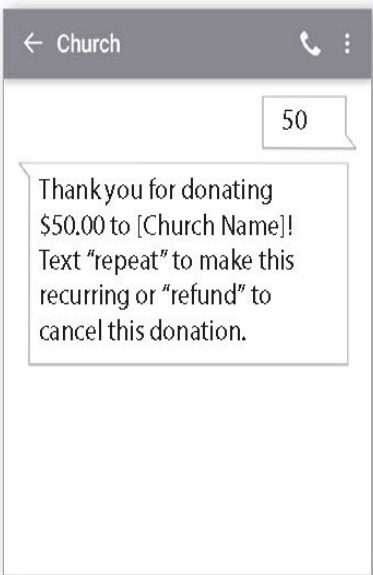
### 2. Register

You will receive a registration link. Click the link and enter your contact and payment information. Tap "Process."



### 3. Give

After registration is complete, you will receive a verification text as well as a receipt via email.



### 4. Repeat

For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically.

