



**Christian Education
Emphasis Month**

Richard Allen Young Adult Council

The
Inaugural
RAYAC
SUNDAY

September 17, 2023

WORSHIP RESOURCES

A GLOBAL CELEBRATION



GRAPHICS

BULLETIN COVER

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POWERPOINT BACKGROUND

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FACEBOOK COVER PICTURE

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Richard Allen Young Adult Council

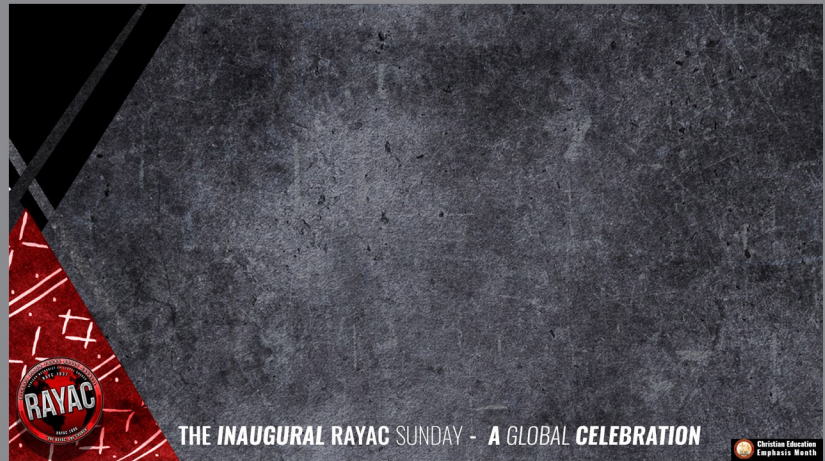


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THE INAUGURAL RAYAC SUNDAY



Richard Allen Young Adult Council

Dear AME Church Family,

During Christian Education Emphasis Month, The Connectional Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church introduces its Inaugural RAYAC Emphasis Sunday! On Sunday, September 17, 2023, we ask ALL churches and members to empower and utilize our members between the ages of 18 and 45 in worship. We will emphasize our talents, our strengths, and bring awareness to our ministry.

Today The Richard Allen Young Adult Council is a ministry that creates, cultivates and engages young adults. God has called us, young adults of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to minister to ALL needs of His people. We invite you to utilize the attached Resource Guide that includes a Litany, and Call to Worship, Hymn, Scriptures and Social Media Graphics that can be used for the occasion.

As you celebrate, and post photos to your social media platforms, please utilize the hashtags [#AGlobalCelebration](#) and [#AMERAYAC](#). We will highlight you on our platforms. Let's be about our Father's business and let's celebrate!

**Jeremy D. Satterwhite
Connectional President
Richard Allen Young Adult Council
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

THE INAUGURAL RAYAC SUNDAY



YOUNG ADULT CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jessica Buford, MDiv.

Thrive: College & Young Adult Pastor

Leader: In a world filled with confusion, we come knowing that with You all things are possible.

Response: Lord, we need you!

Leader: In a world of social unrest, there are powers trying to eradicate the change paid for by the blood of our ancestors.

Response: Lord, just as our ancestors needed you then, we need you now!

Leader: As we step out to be change agents, we face eradication and hatred; Be a fence, lead, and guide us as we continue to fight for justice, peace, and equality.

Response: Lord, we need you now!

Leader: As we Celebrate Globally together, posing the question from Micah 6:8, “...what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God?” We will fight to overcome; we will fight with our faith as our foundation of what is right and good. For we know that God is with us.

Response: Lord, we need you always!

All: As ‘The Richard Allen Young Adult Council’ we stand together globally to continue fighting the good fight of faith because we know God is our salvation; we will trust, and we will not be afraid; for the Lord is our strength and our might (Isaiah 12:2). We will rise and our dungeons will shake, and the chains will be loose.



RAYAC HEART SONG (2023)

“Lift Him Up” (How To Reach The Masses)

In a world filled with streaming and social media, some churches are having difficulty connecting with those outside their church. A question constantly plaguing the church is “how do we get more young people in our church?” From Dress Down Sundays to Open Mic Nights, we try several different tactics to appeal to the highly stimulated, yet less tolerant heart and mind of young people.

But, the response to this nagging question sits right under our noses. We recite it often and pass it down to generations who follow. We place great energy in the words we say, yet somehow the connection is lost when we ask the question “what can we do?” But, journey with me through one of the great hymns of our church, and discover how Johnson Oatman Jr. penned the words that provide the instruction we seek.

Johnson Oatman Jr. grew up in the Methodist Episcopal Church, where he became a licensed and ordained minister at the age of 19. He grew up on the hymns of the church and took a special liking to them. After an illness forced him into retirement, he used his remaining years penning the words to over 7,000 hymns - one being “Lift Him Up” better known as “How To Reach The Masses”

In this energetic hymn of the church, Johnson not only provides us with an answer, he expounds on the needs of people, issues a warning, and ends with command - all of which gives voice to the thoughts and feelings of young people.

*1 How to reach the masses, those of every birth,
For an answer Jesus gave the key:
“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
Will draw all men unto Me.”*

Right from the beginning, the first verse gives us the solution we are seeking - Lift Him Up. Him being Jesus. We don't need lights and theatrics, world-renowned musicians and speakers (although they are very entertaining). Simply lift up Jesus, and He will draw all the world to Him.

*2 Oh! the world is hungry for the Living Bread,
Lift the Savior up for them to see;
Trust Him, and do not doubt the words that He said,
“I'll draw all men unto Me.”*



RAYAC HEART SONG (2023)

Johnson goes on to explain that the people are looking for food. We are hungry. The world (and the church) gives us so much junk food, but we need something sustainable that will satisfy the longing in our hearts and the aches in our spirit. We need the living bread - a word that is alive and speaks to the core of where we are in my life; encourages us to remember the ministry, works, and Faith of Jesus; and shows us Jesus is alive and a very present help. If the church would simply trust Jesus to do what He said He would, then we will confidently lift Him up.

*3 Don't exalt the preacher, don't exalt the pew,
Preach the Gospel simple, full and free;
Prove Him and you will find that promise is true,
"I'll draw all men unto Me."*

The next two verses take somewhat of a shift and go from what to do to what not to do. It also takes a communal approach to reaching the masses. Church is not about the preacher, how well they whoop, if they hollered, or got Jesus up on the third day. Church is also not about the number of people sitting in the pew. Those things are minimal in the grand scheme of reaching young adults, who would rather receive a word that is clear, understandable, and applicable. We are not concerned with the number of bodies on the pews - only that those bodies welcome us to the pew. Again, expose the ways of Jesus to us, and He will do the rest.

*4 Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought,
Let the world in you the Savior see;
Then men will gladly follow Him who once taught,
"I'll draw all men unto Me."*

In this final stanza, Johnson leaves the church with the command to live like Jesus - feeding the lamb, tending to the sheep, and feeding the sheep. Church goes beyond Sunday morning, and we are looking for you in our everyday lives. Do we see you only in church when we share a pew? Or, have you shown an interest outside those four walls? We want to see your sermon. We want to see your talk. We want to see Jesus in you, which will inspire us to follow you because we want to learn more about this man named Jesus.

The context of this hymn is what most, if not all, young adults are asking for. We want a church that Lifts Up Jesus - not just the healing, delivering, saving Jesus, but the water into wine, defiant, table-flipping Jesus. We are hungry for the LIVING bread - not the dead, stale bread that we've been eating for decades



RAYAC HEART SONG (2023)

because “this is the way we’ve always done it.” We need the church to preach the gospel simple, full, and free and stop exalting the leaders and the number of bodies in the pews. Lift Jesus up by your living. Let us see how God has moved in your life. And, please stop acting like you haven’t done anything or been through anything. Let us see how Jesus has worked on you because your testimony inspires and encourages our walk. Simply:

Lift Him up, (Lift the precious Savior up),
Lift Him up, (Lift the precious Savior up),
Still He speaks from eternity:
“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
Will draw all men unto Me.”

This is our humble plea.
This is our heart song!

Rev. Tashara S. Void, M.Div., MACE



Scriptures: NIV

Luke 2:49

49 “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”^[a]

Micah 6:8

8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.



RAYAC 2023 LITANY

Rev. Tashara S. Void, Connectional RAYAC Chaplain

CALL:Just as God called Joshua to lead the children of Israel into the Promise Land, God is calling a rising generation to minister to the intellectual, physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of the people.

RESPONSE:I AM RAYAC! I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS!

CALL:Just as God called Samuel to proclaim the word, God is calling for a rising generation to use their God-given gifts and talents to serve as God's ambassadors and ministers of reconciliation in the midst of life's transition.

RESPONSE:I AM RAYAC! I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS!

CALL:Just as God called Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem, even so, God has called a rising generation to rebuild the tables of thought, decision-making, and proclamation, asking tough questions and giving voice the concerns of a rising generation.

RESPONSE:I AM RAYAC! I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS!

CALL:Now is the time to take our place in the struggle for justice and liberation in the church and in the community.

RESPONSE:I AM RAYAC! I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS!

CALL:Now is the time to serve the present age effectively representing and voicing the concerns of not only new generations but of the community at large.

RESPONSE:I AM RAYAC! I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS!

CALL:Now is the time to fulfill our calling – speaking for those who have no voice and building bridges for those who have no access.

RESPONSE: I AM RAYAC! I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS!

TOGETHER:The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because [God] has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. **I AM RAYAC! AND I AM ABOUT MY FATHER'S BUSINESS!**



Richard Allen Young Adult Council

**THANK
YOU**

THE INAUGURAL RAYAC SUNDAY