

God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family

## SAINT JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

708 15th Street North || Birmingham, AL 35203

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor

Sister Evelyn Beasley, Local WMS President

Sister Thomasine Jackson, NWC/WMS President

Mrs. Susie Jones Bonner, Ninth District WMS President

Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Ninth District WMS Supervisor

### SERMON: COMMISSIONED BY GOD FOR THE MISSION

-Joshua 1:1-9



## *Bertha T. Johnson Annual Missionary Day*

Sunday, April 24, 2022 - 10:00am

Worship Leader, Sister Evelyn Beasley

PRELUDE.....Music Ministry

DOXOLOGY....."Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP.....Sister Brenda Clayton**  
*Gaines Chapel AMEC, Forestdale - Local WMS President/Ninth District WMS Treasurer*

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord' our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

**People: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

Leader: Because of the house of the Lord, our God I will seek thy good.

**People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.**

Leader: Bless are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I have loved thy habitation, the place where thy honor dwelleth.

**People: For the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.**

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

**Together: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.**

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION.....Sister Evelyn Beasley**  
**"This Is My Mission"** *Local WMS President/Worship Leader*  
*(Tune - Blessed Assurance)*

Blessed with His goodness, Blessed with His love  
Blessed with His showers That come from above  
Blessed with His sunshine Blessed with His air  
I'll go on helping everywhere.

*CHORUS*

This is my mission, This is my prayer  
Helping the needy Everywhere  
This is my mission, This is my prayer  
Helping the needy everywhere

God gives the Courage Faith leads the way  
Onward we travel Happy and gay  
Thinking of others Willing to share  
Taking God's message everywhere

Remembering others Whenever I pray  
Looking to Jesus He is the way  
Onward I travel Him by my side  
I'll never falter He is my guide.

**INVOCATION.....Sister Rosemary Range**  
*A prayer inviting the presence of God to lead worship* *Saint Paul AMEC, Smithfield - Ninth District WMS/PME Director*

**CHORAL RESPONSE.....“Sweet Hour of Prayer”**

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
My soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

**CONFESSION OF SIN (Standing - congregation in unison)**

O God, who on the first day made light, and whose Spirit fills the world, allow me, to confess that I have not seen all my sin with clarity. Open me up O God, help me receive more of Your light so that I can see my sinfulness with clearness. Shine Your divine light on my neglects, my offenses and abuses, and all manner of darkness that has replaced Your grace in my heart. Let me rejoice in what You find delightful, and hate what You hate, so as to become more like You, and obey Your ways having received Your forgiveness. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON.....Rev. Charles Marie Davis**  
*Saint John AMEC Ministerial Staff*

Forgiveness comes from God, who does not count our sin against us. For God has reconciled us through Christ, and entrusts to us the message of reconciliation. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Isaiah 55:7 (nrsv) ... let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. My friends believe the gospel! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God, the Father! Amen.

**SCRIPTURE: Joshua 1:1-9 (NRSV).....Sister Lue Ellen McCrary**  
*Bethel AMEC, Ensley - Local WMS President/Ninth District WMS Worship Leader*

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

**SUMMARY OF THE DECALOGUE.....Sister Christine Dillard**  
*Saint John AMEC, Birmingham – NWAC WMS Life Member*

*From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise:  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung. Through every land by every tongue.*

**Summary of Decalogue:** Hear what Christ our Saviour saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.*

**MISSIONARY LITANY.....Sister Evelyn Beasley**

- Leader: Let us work together in unity as sister to sister
- People: Lord, grant that we may become bonded in sisterly love.**
- Leader: Let us strive to trust each other and treat each other kindly
- People: Lord, grant that we may become bonded in sisterly love.**
- Leader: Let us build each other up rejoicing in each other’s achievements and successes.
- People: Lord, grant that we may become bonded in sisterly love.**
- Leader: May we become agents of good will and peace in a world where peace is not a top priority
- People: Lord, grant that we may become bonded in sisterly love.**
- Leader: Help us to be rooted and grounded in a faith that causes us to live by the word of God..
- People: Lord, grant that we may become bonded in sisterly love.**
- Leader: Help us to answer the age-old question “Who can find a virtuous woman in a beautiful and positive way?
- Together: Lord, grant that we may know and understand that her price is far above rubies. Amen. Amen.**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC.....Instrumentalists**  
Sister Alicia Hill, Flautist - *Payne Chapel AMEC* Brother Cedric Jordan, Pianist – *Church Unlimited, Birmingham*

**PASTOR’S WORDS & GREETINGS TO VISITORS**

**BLESSING OF THE OFFERTORY.....Sister Kim Carrell Sterling**  
(*To be given after the benediction*) *Saint John AMEC – NWAC WMS Carrie Russell Area Chairperson*

**INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton**  
*Saint John AMEC Ministerial Staff*

**SERMONIC SELECTION.....Mass Choir**

**MESSAGE.....REV. SHERRI T. RADNEY**  
*Saint John AMEC Ministerial Staff*

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**  
*An invitation to accept Jesus as Savior*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Sister Doris Hardy**  
*A statement of what we as Christians believe.* *Saint John AMEC –NWAC WMS, Life Member*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the church universal the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

**DOXOLOGY....."Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

**MISSIONARY BENEDICTION.....Rev. Sherri T. Radney**

*In the name of the Triune God, may the spirit of Christian missions enter every heart. May the spirit of Christian missions enter every heart. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.*