

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

*The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost*

**SAINT JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

708 15th Street North || Birmingham, AL 352030

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor



**Worship & Celebration of Holy Communion**

*Sunday, October 2, 2022- 10:00am*

**THE PRELUDE.....Music Ministry**

**THE 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.*

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....Pastor Ronald D. Sterling**

Minister: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord! Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!"

People: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand, elsewhere, I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Minister: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

People: They are planted in the house of the Lord, they flourish in the courts of our God.

Minister: O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.

People: But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer.

People: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, sing praises!

**THE HYMN....."Great Is Thy Faithfulness"**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime sun harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

**THE PRAYER.....Brother Jeffrey Brooks**

*Prayer inviting the power and presence of God to join and lead us in worship.*

**THE PRAYER RESPONSE....."The Lord Is My Light"**

The Lord Is my light and my salvation,  
The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
Whom shall I fear.

Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear.  
The Lord is the strength of my life,  
Whom shall I fear.

**THE SCRIPTURE READING.....Brother Chaz Carter**

**Psalm 37:1-10 (NRSV)**

Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong. For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away. Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and feed on its riches. Take delight in the LORD, and he shall give you your heart's desire. Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, and he will bring it to pass. He will make your righteousness as clear as the light and your just dealing as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him. Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes. Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil. For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.

**THE PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE**

*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.*

**THE CONTEMPORARY DECALOGUE.....Rev. Xavier Beasley**

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but Me.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not commit murder.

You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not be a false witness.  
You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**THE 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.*

**THE PASTOR'S WORDS & GREETINGS TO VISITORS**

**THE BLESSING OF THE OFFERTORY** *(Tithes / Offerings / Gifts to be given after the benediction)*

**SERMONIC SELECTION.....Music Ministry**

**THE MESSAGE.....REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING**

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

*An invitation to accept Jesus as Savior*

**COMMUNION HYMN....."There Is A Fountain"**

*There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Immanuel's veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains:  
Lose all their guilty stains, Lose all their guilty stains;  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains*

**THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against Your Divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**"JESUS, REMEMBER ME"**

**THE FIRST COLLECT**

**THE SECOND COLLECT**

**THE PRAYER OF ADORATION**

**THE PRAYER OF HUMILIATION**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**THE ELEMENTS**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH\***

*A statement of what we as Christians believe.*

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.

**THE 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.*

**BENEDICTION.....Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling**

**POSTLUDE.....”Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**  
arr. Daniel E. Gawthrop