



Saint John AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

708 15TH STREET NORTH BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor

March 12, 2023—10:00am

3rd Sunday in Lent

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

Order of Worship

Sunday, March 12, 2023—10:00am

PRELUDE

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..*

CALL TO WORSHIP*Pastor Sterling
Responsive reading which summons our attention to worship.

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.

Together: **Oh sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth sing praises!**

HYMN OF CELEBRATION.....”I’m So Glad”

*I’m so glad Jesus lifted me,
I’m so glad Jesus lifted me,
I’m so glad Jesus lifted me,
Singin’ Glory Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!*

*Satan had me bound; Jesus lifted me ...
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me*

INVOCATIONRev. Xavier Beasley
prayer inviting the power and presence of God to join and lead us in worship.

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE....."Fill My Cup, Lord"

*Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up Lord
Come and quence this thirsting of my soul
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!*

SCRIPTURE.....Sister Deborah Thomas
John 11: 45-53 (ESV)

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

INTROIT TO THE DECALOGUE.....Rev. Charles Marie Davis

*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 THE DECALOGUE

Hear what Christ our Saviour saith, thou shalt love the Lord thou 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*

CONFESSION: IN UNISON, LET US CONFESS OUR SIN:.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton

Dear Heavenly Father, we lower our heads before you and we confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours. Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God and we fall short of being a credible witness for You. For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength. Give us clear minds and open hearts so we may serve as a credible witness for You in our world. Remind us to be who You would have us to be regardless of what we are doing or who we are with. Hold us to You and build our relationship with You and with those You have given us on earth.

DECLARATION OF PARDON.....REV LAUREL THORNTON

Almighty God, who does freely pardon all who repent and turn to Him, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace; forgiving all our sins, and cleansing us from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PASTOR'S WORDS

OFFERTORY (*Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent*)

WORSHIP THRU MUSIC.....Music Ministry

MESSAGE.....REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING, PASTOR

INVITATION

An invitation to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and/or to become a member of the church.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*

A statement of what we as Christians believe.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator 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 sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the living 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"

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Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

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

A blessing spoken over the congregation before they depart.

POSTLUDE

God has made this day—but it's up to you what to make of the day