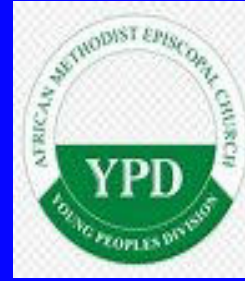




**God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer  
The Holy Spirit Our Comforter  
Humankind Our Family**



**Celebration of the Women's Missionary Society  
and  
Young People's Division**

**Theme: A Heart That Cares**

*God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what  
pleases him. -Philippians 2:13*

**Sunday, April 30, 2023**

**Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor**

708 15th Street North

Birmingham, AL 35203

# Order of Celebration

Sunday, April 30, 2023—10:00am

Worship Leader, Taya Hardnett

**PRELUDE.....Youth 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..*

**CALL TO WORSHIP.....Brother Enron Collins**

*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.....Sister Taya Hardnett**

“We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”

We are climbing Jacob’s ladder,  
We are climbing Jacob’s ladder,  
We are climbing Jacob’s ladder,  
Soldiers of the cross.

Ev’ry round goes higher, higher,  
Ev’ry round goes higher, higher,  
Ev’ry round goes higher, higher,  
Soldiers of the cross.

Sinner, do you love my Jesus?  
Sinner, do you love my Jesus?  
Sinner do you love my Jesus?  
Soldiers of the cross.

If you love Him, why not serve Him?  
If you love Him, why not serve Him?  
If you love Him, why not serve Him?  
Soldiers of the cross.

Rise, shine, give God glory,  
Rise, shine, give God glory,  
Rise, shine, give God glory,  
Soldiers of the cross.

**INVOCATION.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton**

**PRAYER RESPONSE....."Jesus Is The Answer"**

*Jesus is the answer for the world today,  
Above Him there's no other, Jesus is the way.  
Jesus is the answer for the world today,  
Above Him there's no other, Jesus is the way.*

**SCRIPTURE.....Sister Michaiiah Wesley**

**Philippians 2: 1-8 (ESV)**

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**INTROIT TO THE DECALOGUE (Please stand for the Decalogue).....Brother Charleston Collins**

*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.....Brother Charleston Collins**

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.*

*Please remain standing for the Litany*

**YPD LITANY.....Sister London Davis**

***A LITANY OF WHOLENESS***

**Leader:**            Missionaries, YPD and all of God’s people, the world is dark and broken. We are the light-the light of the world.

**People:**            **God we need You to make us whole.**

**Leader:**            The world is filled with sadness, loneliness, and grief. But we know that the JOY of the Lord is our strength.

**People:**            **God we need You to make us whole.**

**Leader:**            The Covid -19 pandemic came like a thief to steal, kill and destroy. But God sent His son so that we would have life and have it abundantly.

**People:**            **God we need You to make us whole.**

**Leader:**            We have an interconnectedness that spans across the globe. We worship together with different languages, cultures and appearances. But through You O God, all things work TO-GETHER for good.

**People:**            **God we need You to make us whole.**

**Leader:**            We stand firm on the knowledge that with all things are possible. God is working in the background and bringing to the forefront the answers to our uncertainty.

**All:**                 **God we love, trust you, and need you in these uncertain times to make us whole.**

**MOMENTS OF REFLECTION.....Sister Evelyn Beasley**

**MINISTRY OF DANCE.....Angels of Jeremiah**

**OFFERTORY (tithes, offering , benevolent).....Sister Christine Dillard**

**PASTOR'S REMARKS AND GREETINGS TO VISITORS.....Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling**

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER.....Sister Kionna Hooks**

**WORSHIP THRU MUSIC.....Youth Music Ministry**

**SPEAKER.....Sister Kierra Giles**  
*Episcopal YPD President*

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

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Rev. Sherri Radney**  
*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.

**INTROIT TO MISSIONARY BENEDICTION .....”Spirit of the Living God”**

*Spirit of the living God, Fall fresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me  
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the Living God, Fall fresh on me.*

**MISSIONARY BENEDICTION.....Sister Kierra Giles**

*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.*



