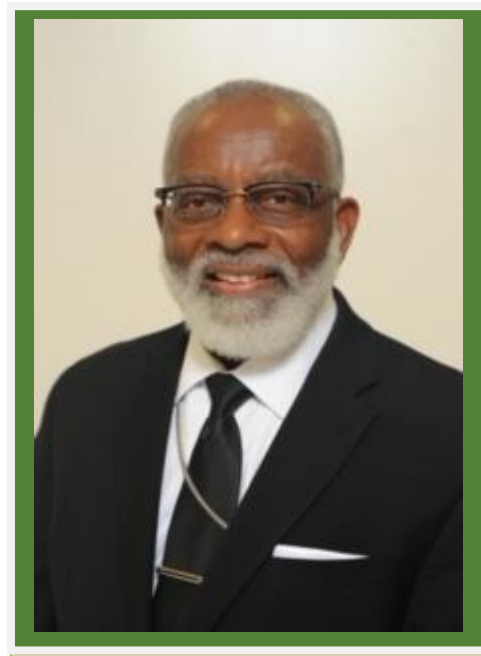


Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

708 15th Street North • Birmingham, AL 35203

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



Pastor Ronald D. Sterling

Pastor

Order of Worship

July 23, 2023 - 10:00am

*The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord is in His holy temple: Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him—Keep silence, keep silence before Him.*

Prelude.....Music Ministry

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

Call to Worship.....Pastor Ronald 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!**

Hymn of Celebration....."Come We That Love the Lord"

Come, we that love the Lord,
And let your joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne.
And thus surround the throne.

Refrain

We're marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion
We're marching upward to Zion
That beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God;
But children of the heavenly King,
But children of the heavenly King,
May speak their joys abroad,
May speak their joys abroad.

The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Or walk the golden streets,
Or walk the golden streets.

Then let our songs abound,
And every tear be dry;
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
To fairer worlds on high
To fairer worlds on high.

Prayer.....Brother Charles Horton

Prayer Response....."Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Make me and mold me After Thy will
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me,
Savior today!
Wash me just now Lord
Wash me just now,
As in Thy presence, Humbly I bow.

Scripture.....Rev. Xavier Beasley
Matthew 13:24-30 (English Standard Version)

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Introit to the Decalogue *(Please stand for the reading of the Summary of 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*

Summary of the Decalogue.....Rev. Xavier Beasley

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.*

Pastor's Remarks & Greetings to Visitors

Blessing of the Offertory *(Tithes / Offerings / Benevolent)*

Ministry of Music.....Music Ministry

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

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

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 on 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 sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessing 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

If the devil is knocking at your door
Let Jesus answer.