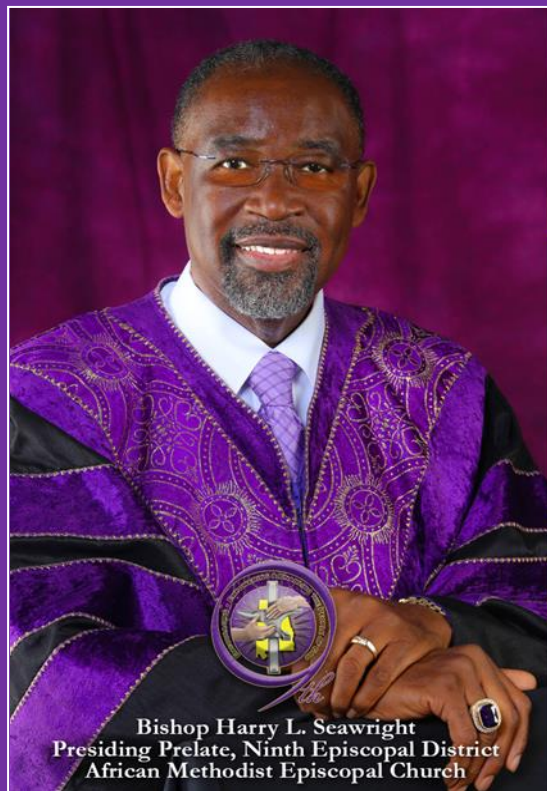


Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

708 15th Street North • Birmingham, AL 35203

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



Bishop Harry L. Seawright
Presiding Prelate, Ninth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Guest Preacher

Order of Worship

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. - Psalm 5:7

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.....**"Trust and Obey"**

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will
He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey

Refrain

Trust and obey,
for there's no other way

To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side on the way;
What He says we will do, where He leads we will go
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Prayer.....Brother Raymond Oliver

Prayer Response:“Pray for Me”

Pray for me, pray for me
O my brother , pray for me.
When you bow, down at the altar
Please don't forget to pray for me!

**Scripture.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (ESV)**

¹⁶“But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.” ...²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.^[a] ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you

rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

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)*

Introduction of Bishop Harry L. Seawright.....Rev. Dwight E. Dillard

Presiding Elder of the Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa District

Sermonic Selection.....Music Ministry

Sermon.....BISHOP HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT

Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District

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.....Bishop Harry L. Seawright

Feed your faith,
and your doubts will starve
to death.

