

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

*Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church*  
*708 - 13<sup>th</sup> Street North || Birmingham, AL 35203*



## Order of Worship & Celebration of Communion

October 1, 2023 - 10:00 am

The Praise & Worship.....Music Ministry

**The 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.*

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!**

**Hymn of Celebration....."Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"**

Jesus, keep me near the cross;  
There a precious fountain,  
Free to all, a healing stream,  
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain  
In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
Love and mercy found me;  
Then the bright and morning star  
She'd its beams around me.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
Hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand  
Just beyond the river.

**The Prayer**

**Prayer Response.....“He is Exalted”**

He is exalted, the King is exalted,  
And I, will praise Him!  
He is exalted, the King is exalted  
And I, will praise His name!

He is Lord.  
Forever His truth shall reign.  
Heaven and earth,  
Exalts His Holy Name,

He is exalted, the King is exalted  
On High!

**The Scripture.....Rev. Xavier Beasley**

Matthew 21:23-27 (ESV)

*(Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Scripture and remain standing for the Contemporary Decalogue)*

<sup>23</sup> And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup> Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

**The Introit 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.*

**Contemporary Decalogue.....Rev. Xavier Beasley**

*(Read all before singing The Gloria Patri and seating the people)*

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, Celebrations, and Greetings to Visitors**

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

**The Sermonic Selection**.....**Music Ministry**

**The Message**.....**Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor**

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

**The Communion Hymn**.....**“There is a Fountain”**

**The Solicitation**

**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.

**The First Collect**

**The Second Collect**

**The Prayer of Adoration**

**The Prayer of Humiliation**

**The Prayer of Consecration**

**The Elements**

**The Prayer** (*Lord's Prayer or extemporaneous prayer*)

**The 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**

**The Benediction**.....**Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling**