

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

Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

708 - 13th Street North || Birmingham, AL 35203



Order of Worship

October 8, 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....."The Reason Why We Sing"

Someone asked the question:
Why do we sing?
When we lift our hands to Jesus
What do we really mean?

Someone may be wond'ring:
When we sing our song
At times we may be crying
And nothing's even wrong.

Refrain
*I sing because I'm happy.
I sing because I'm free. His eye is on the sparrow,
That's the reason why I sing.*

*Glory, Hallelujah! You're the reason why I sing.
Glory, Hallelujah! You're the reason why I sing.*

When the song is over,
We all say, "Amen."
In our heart just keep on singing,
And the song will never end.

If somebody asks you:
Was it just a show?
Lift your hands and be a witness,
And tell the whole world, "No."

And when we cross that river,
We'll study war no more.
We will sing our song to Jesus,
The One whom we adore.

Refrain.....
I sing because I'm happy.
I sing because I'm free.
His eye is on the sparrow,
That's the reason why I sing.

Glory, Hallelujah!
I give the praises to You!
Glory Hallelujah!
You're the reason why I sing.

The Prayer

Prayer Response..... "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes. Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me,
For the Bible tells me so.

The Scripture..... Sis. Dawn Thomas

Philippians 3:4-14 (ESV)

⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law,^[a] blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Introit:

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.

The Summary of the Decalogue:

Hear what Christ our Savior saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy 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.

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 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 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