

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

Saint John AME Church

708 15th Street North

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

The Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor || Sister Kim C. Sterling, First Lady



Sunday, March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Celebrating 150 Years

“Faithful Through the Ages: Celebrating God’s Grace and Mercy”

The Reverend LaChaune Nicole Slater, *Guest Preacher*

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 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!**

The Hymn of Praise..... "To God be the Glory"

To God be the glory,
Great things He hath done;
So loved He the world
That He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life
An atonement for sin,
And opened the lifegate
That all may go in.

Refrain
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us,
Great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

The Invocation Rev. Xavier Beasley

The Choral Response..... “Falling on My Knees”

Falling on my knees, I bow, bow down (repeat and follow leader)

Some things I can't see until I bow (repeat and follow leader)

I can see clearly now
Here on my knees. (repeat and follow leader)

I understand better now
Here on my knees. (repeat and follow leader)

The Scripture Lesson (s)

Old Testament Sister Jowanna Long
Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze^[a] serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Gospel Dr. Coretta Collins

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)

John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, [that] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies..... Dr. Coretta 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.*

The Summary of the Decalogue..... Dr. Coretta Collins

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 Blessing of the Offertory (Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent)

All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

The Pastor's Words and Greetings to Visitors

Saint John's History.....Sister Brenda S. Wright

**Sisters Working Together Ministry..... Sister Emma Allen
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

The Presentation of the Speaker

The Hymn of Preparation.....Music Ministry

The Sermon..... REVEREND LACHAUNE NICOLE SLATER

LEAD PASTOR, PAYNE AME CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Apostles' Creed

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

The Doxology

The Benediction..... REVEREND LACHAUNE NICOLE SLATER
LEAD PASTOR, PAYNE A.M.E. CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM

LaChaune Nicole Slater

Guest Speaker

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

-1 Corinthians 15:57



LaChaune Nicole Slater is a native of the Magic City - Birmingham, Alabama. Blessed with a servant's heart, Nicole is an ordained minister serving as Lead Pastor at Payne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

With over 15 years of experience in the death care industry at Davenport & Harris Funeral Homes, Inc, Nicole is credentialed with the International Conference of Funeral Service, and is a Licensed Funeral Director, Cremationist, and Pre-Need Salesperson. Additionally, she is a Certified Funeral Service General Manager (CFSGM).

Driven by service and making a difference, Nicole volunteers with several civic organizations and is a distinguished member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for F.I.R.E., Inc. and Davenport & Harris Funeral Homes, Inc.