

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

Holy Communion

March 3, 2024



Celebrating 150 Years

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

The Reverend Anre’ D. Faush, *Guest Preacher*

Welcome.....Brother Garry Evans

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 Song of Celebration..... "Amazing Grace"

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there
Ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing
God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

Praise God!

The Invocation Brother Freddie Robinson

The Choral Response..... "Thank you, Lord"

Thank You, Lord,
Thank You, Lord,
Thank You, Lord,
I just want to thank You, Lord.

Been so good,
Been so good,
Been so good,
I just want to thank You, Lord.

Made a way,
Made a way,
Made a way,
I just want to thank You, Lord.

Been my friend,
Been my friend,
Been my friend,
I just want to thank You, Lord.

The Scripture Lesson

Old Testament..... The Reverend Xavier Beasley
Exodus 10:1-6

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them, ² and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD." ³ So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me. ⁴ For if you refuse to let

my people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country, ⁵ and they shall cover the face of the land, so that no one can see the land. And they shall eat what is left to you after the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field, ⁶ and they shall fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day they came on earth to this day.” Then he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

New Testament..... Sister Dawn Thomas

John 2:13-22

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸ So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰ The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies..... Sister Dawn Thomas

*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 Decalogue (Contemporary) Pastor Sterling

Minister: 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.

People: **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

People: **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

People: **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

People: **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: Honor your father and your mother.

People: **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not commit murder.

People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.

Minister: You shall not commit adultery.

People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.

Minister: You shall not steal.

People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.

Minister: You shall not be a false witness.

People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.

Minister: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.

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

The Presentation of the Preacher..... Pastor Sterling

The Hymn of Preparation.....Music Ministry

The Message..... The Reverend Anre' D. Faush
Allen Temple AME Church, Bessemer, Alabama

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Communion Hymn....."There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood"

There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see,
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away:
Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away;

And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb,
Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power,
Till all the ransomed Church of God Be saved,
to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed Church of God,
Be saved to sin no more.

The General ConfessionPastor Sterling

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

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..... The Reverend Anre' D. Faush
Allen Temple AME Church, Bessemer, Alabama

The Postlude

Guest Preacher
The Reverend Anré D. Faush

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: (2 Timothy 1:8-10)



Rev. Anre' D. Faush was born and raised in Birmingham, AL. He is the only son of Ms. Brenda C. Faush and the great-grandson of the late Hazel Freeman (Steward) of St. John A.M.E. Church. He was educated in the Birmingham Public City School system where he attended none other than A. H. Parker High School. Recognizing the importance of higher education, he went on to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History with a Minor in Mass Communications. As a son of St. John, Anre' confessed Christ at an early age and actively participated in many of the ministries of the church. In 1991, under the leadership of then Rev. James L. Davis, he accepted his call into the ministry, and began a journey of service for the Kingdom of God. Yet there was an

even greater call upon his life which led him to the pursuit of a seminary degree at Birmingham Theological Seminary (Briarwood). He also attended and earned his master's degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, LA., in 2023.

Rev. Faush is presently the illustrious pastor of Allen Temple AME Church in Bessemer, AL, where he was assigned in November of 2013. He has pastored three other churches: St. Paul AME Church in Fairfield, Alabama, where he served faithfully for 13 years; Lee's Chapel AME Church in Wylam Heights, where he successfully served 6 years; and Hopewell AME Church in Florence, AL 1 year. Pastor Faush is a powerful preacher and compassionate leader, who loves to serve the Lord and encourage His people.

Pastor Faush is married to his high school sweetheart, LaSharn, and they are the proud parents of four adult-children: Christopher (Manager/Mechanical Engineer-Toyota Motor Company Evansville, IN.), Jasmine (Speech and Language Pathologist-Bessemer City School System), Ashlee (Accountant-State of Alabama Montgomery, AL.), and Christen (Nurse Practitioner, Madison, AL.). Anre' and LaSharn are also the proud grandparents of one grandchild: Camden Christopher D'Anre' Faush-5 years old.