

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

## Saint John AME Church

708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

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

### Holy Communion



### Second Sunday of Easter Order of Worship

April 7, 2024

**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..... "All to Jesus I Surrender ( I Surrender All) "**

All to Jesus I Surrender,  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.

*Refrain*  
*I surrender all,*  
*I surrender all,*  
*All to Thee, my blessed Savior,*  
*I surrender all.*

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Humbly at His feet I bow,  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;  
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;  
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me,  
May I know Thy power divine.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power,  
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Now I feel the sacred flame;  
O the joy of full salvation!  
Glory, glory to His name.

**The Invocation ..... Brother Freddie Robinson**

**The Choral Response..... "Spirit of the Living God"**

Spirit of the living God,  
Fall fresh on me,  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall fresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me,  
Use me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall fresh on me.

**The Scripture Lesson**

**New Testament..... Brother Shaun Barnes**

**Acts 4:32-37**

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup> and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. <sup>36</sup> Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

**New Testament..... Rev. Laurel Thornton**

**John 20:19-31**

*(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)*

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." <sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the

Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." <sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies..... Rev. Laurel Thornton**

*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) ..... Rev. Laurel Thornton**

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 Hymn of Preparation.....Music Ministry**

**The Message..... Pastor Sterling**

**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 Communion Elevation..... I Know a Fount**  
*arr. Mary Ellen Kerrick*

**The Solicitation .....Pastor Sterling**

**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**

**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..... Pastor Sterling**