

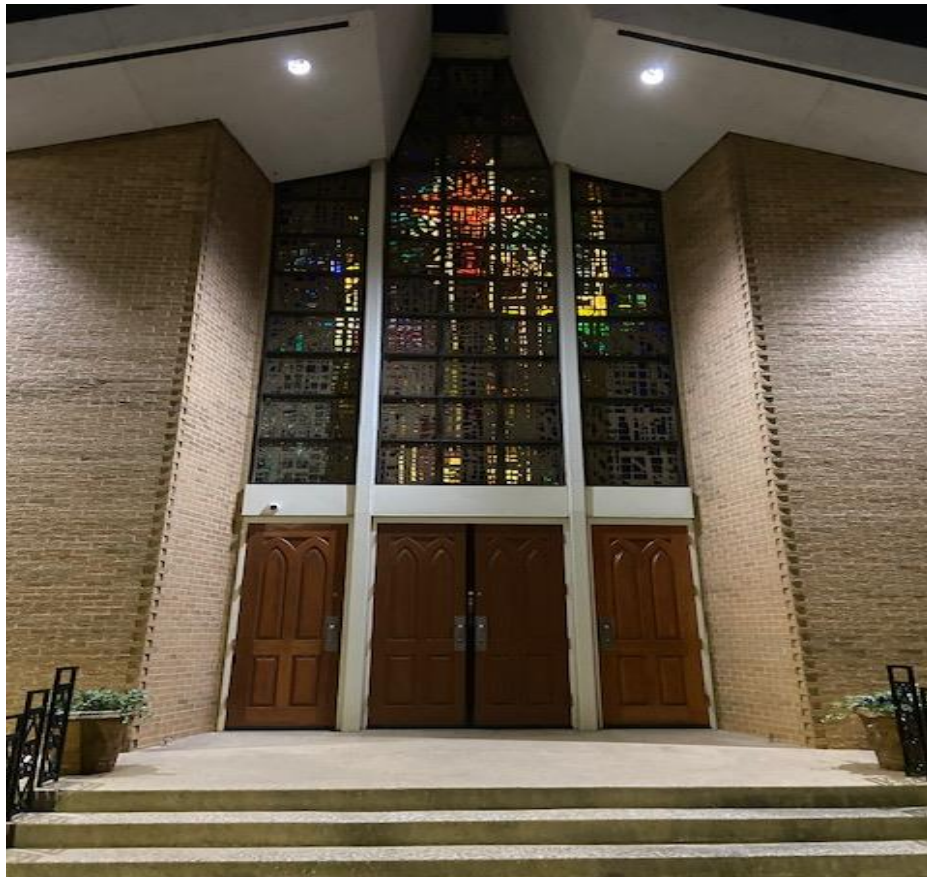
God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter,  
Humankind Our Family

## 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



### Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, June 23, 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 unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within thy gates O Jerusalem.

**People:** For a day in your courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

**Minister:** Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

**People:** Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

**Minister:** Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I have loved thy habitation, the place where thy honor dwelleth.

**People:** For 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 thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

**ALL:** O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.

**The Hymn of Praise....."We Are Often Tossed and Driven  
( We'll Understand It Better By and By)"**

We are often tossed and driven  
On the restless sea of time,  
Somber skies and howling tempests  
Oft succeed a bright sunshine,  
In that land of perfect day,  
When the mists have rolled away,  
We will understand it better by and by.

*Refrain*  
*By and by,*  
*When the morning comes*  
*All the saints of God*  
*Are gathered home,*  
*We'll tell the story*  
*How we've overcome,*  
*For we'll understand it better by and by.*

We are often destitute  
Of the things that life demands,  
Want of food and want of shelter,  
Thirsty hills and barren lands,  
We are trusting in the Lord,  
And according to His word,

We will understand it better by and by.

Trials dark on every hand,  
And we cannot understand,  
All the ways that God would lead us  
To that blessed Promised Land;  
But He guides us with His eye  
And we'll follow till we die;  
For we'll understand it better by and by.

**The Invocation** ..... **Sister Shirley Bailey**

**The Choral Response**..... **"I Need Thee Every Hour"**

I need Thee every hour,  
Most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine  
Can peace afford.

Refrain  
I need Thee,  
O I need Thee,  
Every hour I need Thee;  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to Thee!

**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

**Old Testament** ..... **Sister Kim C. Sterling**  
**Job 38:1-11, 16-18**

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

<sup>2</sup>“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

<sup>3</sup>Dress for action like a man;

I will question you, and you make it known to me.

<sup>4</sup>“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

<sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone,

<sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together

and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup>“Or who shut in the sea with doors

when it burst out from the womb,

<sup>9</sup>when I made clouds its garment

and thick darkness its swaddling band,

<sup>10</sup>and prescribed limits for it

and set bars and doors,

<sup>11</sup>and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be stayed'?

**Job 38:16-18**

<sup>16</sup>"Have you entered into the springs of the sea,  
or walked in the recesses of the deep?  
<sup>17</sup>Have the gates of death been revealed to you,  
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?  
<sup>18</sup>Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?  
Declare, if you know all this.

**Epistle ..... Sister Camilla Avery**  
**2 Corinthians 5:14-17**

<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. <sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.<sup>[a]</sup> The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**Gospel..... Sister Gloria Vail**  
**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**  
**Mark 4:25-41**

<sup>25</sup>For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away." <sup>26</sup>And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." <sup>30</sup>And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." <sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything. <sup>35</sup>On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. <sup>38</sup>But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup>And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

**Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies ..... Sister Gloria Vail**

*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 ..... Sister Gloria Vail**

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 ..... Sister Gloria Vail**  
*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.*

**Ministry of Stewardship** (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 .....Pastor Sterling**

**The Worship through Music.....Music Ministry**

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

**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**

**Benediction**