

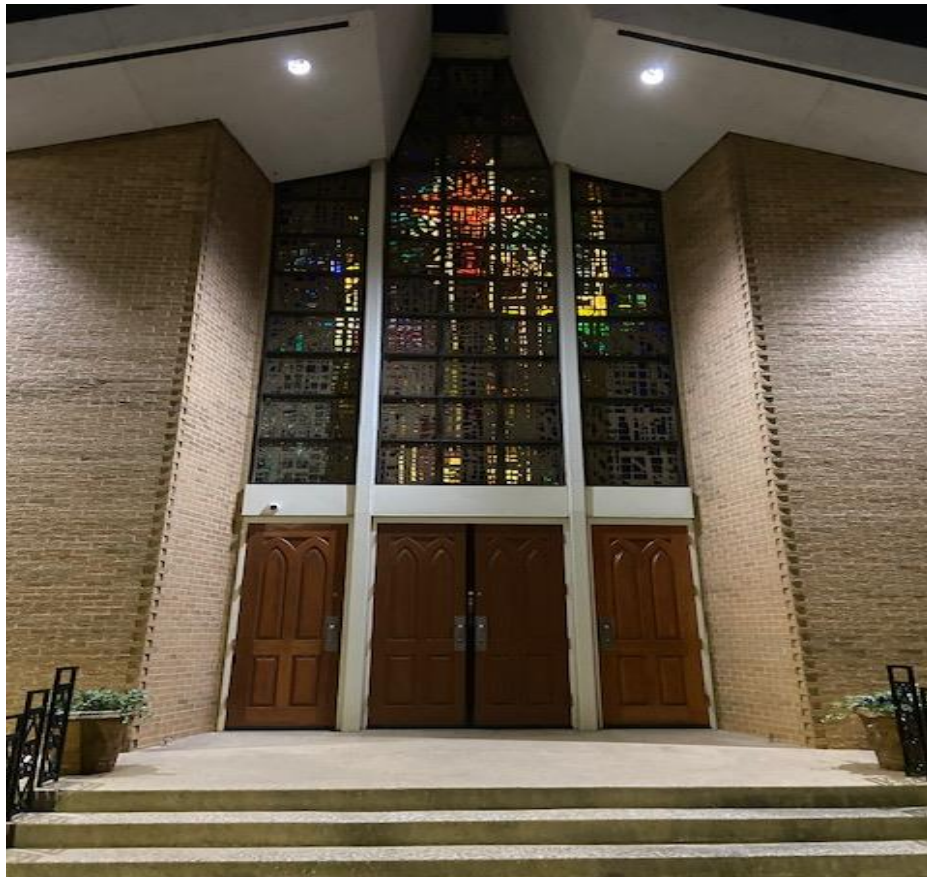
God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter,  
Humankind Our Family

## 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



### Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, June 30, 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 Hymn of Praise..... "Great is Thy Faithfulness"**

Great is Thy faithfulness,  
O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not,  
Thy compassions they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness,  
Lord unto me.

Summer and winter,  
And springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars  
In their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness,

Mercy and love.

Pardon for sin  
And a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

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

**The Choral Response....."Pray for Me"**

Pray for me, pray for me,  
O my brother pray for me.  
When you bow, at the altar,  
Please don't forget to pray for me!

**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

**Old Testament ..... Sister Vernice Byrd**

**Lamentations 3:22-33**

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
his mercies never come to an end;  
<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
<sup>24</sup> "The LORD is my portion," says my soul,  
"therefore I will hope in him."  
<sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul who seeks him.  
<sup>26</sup> It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the LORD.  
<sup>27</sup> It is good for a man that he bear  
the yoke in his youth.  
<sup>28</sup> Let him sit alone in silence  
when it is laid on him;  
<sup>29</sup> let him put his mouth in the dust—  
there may yet be hope;  
<sup>30</sup> let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,  
and let him be filled with insults.  
<sup>31</sup> For the Lord will not  
cast off forever,  
<sup>32</sup> but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;  
<sup>33</sup> for he does not afflict from his heart  
or grieve the children of men

**Epistle ..... Sister Yolonda Carter**  
**2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

<sup>7</sup> But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. <sup>8</sup> I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. <sup>10</sup> And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. <sup>11</sup> So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. <sup>12</sup> For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. <sup>13</sup> For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness <sup>14</sup> your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. <sup>15</sup> As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.”

**Gospel..... Sister Gwen Huggins**  
**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**  
**Luke 9:51-62**

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. <sup>53</sup> But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> And they went on to another village. <sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” <sup>59</sup> To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” <sup>61</sup> Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

**Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies ..... Sister Gwen Huggins**

*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 Gwen Huggins**

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 Gwen Huggins**  
*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**