

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

### Mission

Saint John's mission is to "love God and love others" by ministering to the social, spiritual, and physical development of all people.



### Twentieth Day After Pentecost

**Sunday, October 20, 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..... "Hold To God's Unchanging Hand"**

Time is filled with swift transition,  
Naught of earth unmoved can stand,  
Build your hopes on things eternal,  
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

*Refrain*

*Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand;  
Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand;  
Build your hopes on things eternal;  
Hold to God's unchanging hand.*

Trust in Him who will not leave you,  
Whatsoever years may bring;  
If by earthly friends forsaken,  
Still more closely to Him cling.

Covet not this world's vain riches,  
That so rapidly decay;  
Seek to gain the heavenly treasures;  
They will never pass away.

When your journey is completed,  
If to God you have been true,  
Fair and bright the home in glory  
Your enraptured soul will view.

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

**The Choral Response..... "We Are One"**

We are one, we are one.  
We are one in the Spirit,  
We are one.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
We are one in the Spirit,  
We are one!

**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

*A Survivor's Beat*

**Old Testament ..... Sister Janice Collins**

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

*Survivor*

**New Testament..... Sister Brittany Ford**

**Romans 8:37-39**

No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Care Giver*

**Gospel ..... Sister Yolonda Carter**

**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel and remain standing for the Litany)**

**Matthew 11:28-29**

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**Litany for Breast Cancer Awareness ..... Sister Kim C. Sterling**

Leader: Gracious God, we come before you with hearts full of compassion and hope, lifting up those affected by breast cancer.

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Grant those diagnosed with breast cancer strength and courage.

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For families and friends who support their loved ones, give them patience and love.

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For medical professionals and researchers, bless their hands and minds.

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who have lost their battle, may they rest in your peace.

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For survivors, may their stories inspire hope.

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For communities that rally in support, strengthen their bonds.

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who live in fear and uncertainty, remind them of your constant presence.

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Let us hold fast to the words of Isaiah 41:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

**Response: Amen.**

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

*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**

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.*

**Ministry of Stewardship** (Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent)

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

**Special Dance Presentation..... Zoey Jenkins**

*Title: How Long*

*Choreographer: Germaul Barnes*

*Music: Hannibal Lokumbe/African Portraits*

**Presentation of Honorees..... Sister Sandra Calloway Fields  
Brother Montell Washington**

**HONOREES**

*Minister Loretta Herring*

*Comedian Shelia "FreeU" Williams*

*Vice-Principle Toyla McCall*

*School Bus (chauffeur) Donnell Milliner*

**Announcements and Acknowledgements**

**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**