

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

Mission

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



Twenty-Sixth Day After Pentecost

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Outlaw, PhD

Sunday, November 10, 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..... "I Am On The Battlefield for My Lord"

Refrain

*I am on the battlefield for my Lord,
I am on the battlefield for my Lord,
And I promised Him that I would serve Him till I die.
I am on the battlefield for my Lord.*

I was alone and idle, I was a sinner too;
I heard the voice from the voice from heaven say there is work to do.
I took the Master's hand, and I joined the Christian band;
I'm on the battlefield for my Lord.

I left my friends and kindred,
bound for the promised Land,
The Grace of God upon me,
The Bible in my hand.
In distant lands I trod,
crying sinner come to God;
I am on the battlefield for my Lord.

Now when I met my Savior,
I met Him with a smile;

He healed my wounded spirit,
and owned me as His child,
Around the throne of grace, He appoints my soul a place;
I am on the battlefield for my Lord.

The Invocation Brother Freddie Robinson

The Choral Response..... "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!"

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

The Scripture Lesson (s)

Old Testament Sister Doris Hardy
2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet." ⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." ¹⁰ And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." ¹¹ And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

**New Testament..... Brother Sherman Frazier
Sister Rose Frazier**

Hebrews 10:11-18

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. ¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” ¹⁷then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

**Gospel Sister Dawn Thomas
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**

Mark 13:24-32

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

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

Announcements and Acknowledgements

Lighting of the Unknown Soldier Sister Katie Kendrick McAdams

Introduction of Speaker Sister Gloria Kendricks Elcock

The Worship through Music..... Music Ministry

The Message..... Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Outlaw, PhD

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

Bio of the Reverend Dr. Patricia Anne Outlaw

Reverend Dr. Patricia Anne Outlaw, Ph.D., D.Min. is an Associate Professor of Divinity Emerita at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama. She is the first African-American woman and the first African Methodist Episcopal clergyperson to be appointed to the interdenominational faculty of Beeson Divinity School.

Dr. Outlaw is the author of *Soul Food for Hungry Hearts* published by Gateway Press, 2005. She also wrote a chapter, "God the Father and Prayer," in *Giving Ourselves to Prayer*, compiled by Dan Crawford and released by Prayer Shop Publishers in July 2008. A native of Baltimore City, Dr. Outlaw attended the Baltimore City Public Schools. She received her Associate of Arts Degree (1966) from Mount Providence Junior College; she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree (1968) and Master of Arts in School Psychology (1971) from Towson State University. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Human Development (1977) from the University of Maryland, College Park. She earned a Master of Arts Degree in Theology (1985) from St. Mary's Seminary & University. Dr. Outlaw completed her second doctoral degree, the Doctor of Ministry Degree in 2002 from Beeson Divinity School, Samford University and is the first woman to obtain the Doctor of Ministry Degree from that institution.

She is a licensed psychologist (Maryland), and she is one of the original regional trainers certified by the American Psychological Association's HIV/AIDS HOPE PROJECT. She was a senior psychologist at Spring Grove Hospital Center from 1992 until her retirement from Maryland State Service in 1997. Through her private practice, Outlaw and Associates, Dr. Outlaw served as a ministerial assessment specialist for the Baltimore/Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. In addition, she worked as a clinical consultant to law enforcement agencies. She provided a range of psychological services to women, adolescents, and couples. Dr. Outlaw served as an adjunct professor of spirituality and pastoral counseling at St. Mary's Seminary & University, Baltimore, Maryland for fifteen years. She also served as an adjunct professor of psychology, Director of the Study Skills Center and an Associate Dean of Students at Towson State University. An ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Dr. Outlaw is the current co-chair of the Board of Examiners for Ministers in training of the 9th Episcopal District of the AME Church. She is a former pastor of Mt. Joy AME Church, Monkton, Maryland. Dr. Outlaw has served as an associate minister at St. John AME Church, Hemingway AME Church, and Payne Memorial AME Church in Baltimore City until her move to Birmingham, Alabama in January 2001. Dr. Outlaw served as the pastor of St. Paul AME Church-Adamsville from 2004 to 2012. She also served as pastor of Bethel AME Church-Homewood for two years and served as the pastor of Bethel AME Church-Rising for three years until her recent appointment as pastor of Oak Grove AME Church located in Florence, Alabama.

Dr. Outlaw has over thirty years of experience working in the field of mental health as a clinical psychologist, consultant, university professor, workshop leader, and administrator. She is a Founding Member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women-J.S.S. County Alliance, Inc. Outlaw is also a Founding Board Member of Birmingham Faith in Action. In addition, she has traveled extensively preaching and teaching in the USA, Kenya, Bermuda, Guatemala, Israel, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and the Kingdom of Lesotho. She enjoys traveling, swimming, and going to the movies. Her favorite Scripture verse is 2 Timothy 1:7. "For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of a sound mind."