

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

Holy Communion



HOPE • PEACE • JOY • LOVE

HOPE

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Order of Worship

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: Come, let us worship the Lord our God, who is our refuge and strength.
(Psalm 46:1)

People: We come, seeking God's presence and peace.

Minister: The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear? (Psalm 27:1)

People: We come, trusting in God's grace and love.

Minister: Let us lift up our hearts and voices in praise and thanksgiving. (Psalm 100:4)

People: We come, ready to worship and glorify God's holy name.

Minister: For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 100:5)

People: We come, rejoicing in the hope and promise of our Savior.

Minister: Let us worship the Lord with gladness and enter His presence with singing!
(Psalm 100:2)

All: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing! (Psalm 100:1-2)

The Song of Celebration..... "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely
exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high;
And close the path to misery.

The Invocation Brother Freddie Robinson

**The Choral Response.....Jesus, Jesus,
Jesus (There's Something About That Name)**

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus;
There's something about that name!
Master, Savior, Jesus,
Like the fragrance after the rain;
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
Let all heaven and earth proclaim;
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away,
But there's something about that name!

Old Testament Sister Sandra Calloway-Fields

Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

New Testament Sister Gwen Huggins

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Gospel..... Brother Brandon Cleveland

Luke 21:25-36

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)

And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say

to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

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 Decalogue (Contemporary)

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.

Baptism

The Pastor's Words and Greetings to Visitors

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

The Sermon.....**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.

Communion Elevation..... **No Room at De Inn**
By Jan Marvin Youngblood

The Solicitation

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

Postlude..... Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
arr. Robert Lau

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