

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

## Saint John AME Church

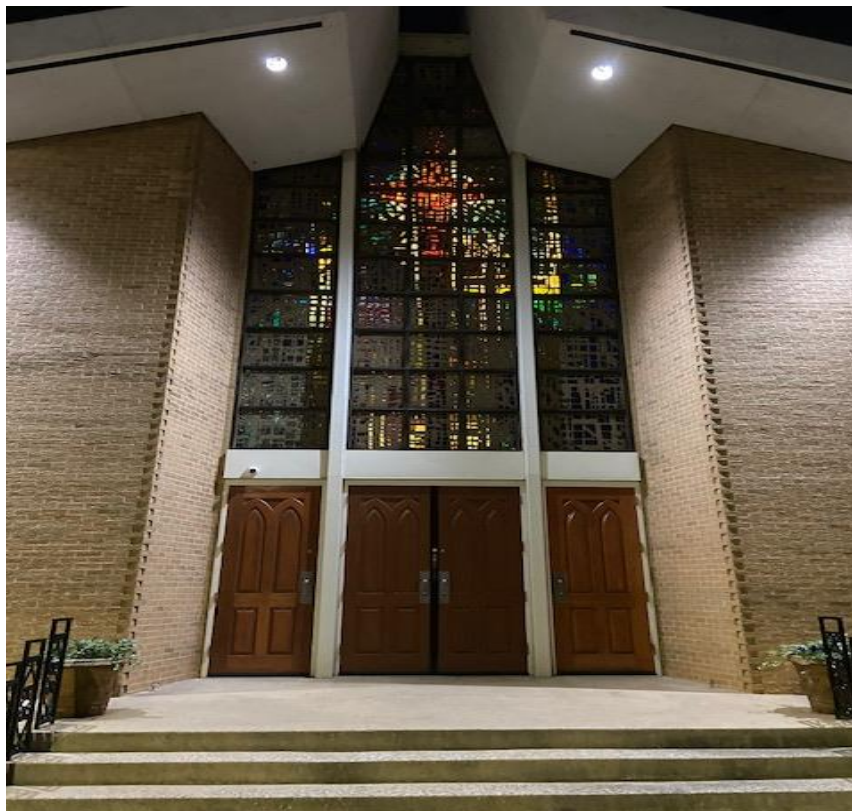
708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North

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.



**Sunday, January 19, 2025**

**The Praise & Worship.....Music Ministry**

**The Doxology**

**AMEC Hymn No. 647 [Tune: Old 100]**

Praise God, from whom all blessings 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 has 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 endured,  
Thy 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 ..... Brother Freddie Robinson**

**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 Prayer of Confession (Minister and the People)**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Creator and Judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and offenses, which we have committed against Your Divine Majesty by thought, word, and deed. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father: For Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, forgive us our sins and offenses. And grant that we may ever hereafter, serve and please You in newness of life: To the honor and glory of Your Name; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**The Declaration of Pardon (Minister)**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Who of His great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who turn to Him with true repentance and sincere faith, have mercy upon us. Pardon and deliver us from all our sins. Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

**Old Testament ..... Brother Joel Bjornstad**  
**Isaiah 62:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.  
<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
<sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,  
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,  
and your land Married;  
for the LORD delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.  
<sup>5</sup>For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your sons marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.

**New Testament..... Sister Katricia D. Cleveland**

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

**Gospel .....**

**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**

**John 2:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup> This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

**The Preface to the Decalogue**

**AMEC 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 (Abridged)**

**Leader:** And God spake all these words saying, "I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

**People:** Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

**Hymn:**            *Nearer my God, to thee!*  
                         *Nearer to thee, E'en though it be a cross*  
                         *That raiseth me;*  
                         *Still all my song shall be,*  
                         *Nearer, my God, to thee,*  
                         *Nearer, my God, to thee,*  
                         *Nearer to thee.*

**Leader:** 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, 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** ..... **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 (Contemporary)**

**Benediction**