

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

### Holy Communion



Sunday, March 2, 2025

### Transfiguration Sunday

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

**The Doxology**

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

*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 Celebration..... "How Great Thou Art"**

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed,

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;  
How great Thou art,  
How great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;  
How great Thou art,  
How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God, His son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

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

**The Choral Response**

**Old Testament ..... Sister Katricia F. Cleveland**  
**Exodus 34:29-35**

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.<sup>30</sup> Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup> But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. <sup>32</sup> Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. <sup>33</sup> And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. <sup>34</sup> Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, <sup>35</sup> the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

**New Testament ..... Brother Shaun Barnes**  
**2 Corinthians 3:12-18;4:1-2**

<sup>12</sup> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice  cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

**Gospel..... Sister Gloria Vail**  
***(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)***  
**Luke 9:28-36**

<sup>28</sup> Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup> And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup> As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” <sup>36</sup> And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

### **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.*

**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”**

**Communion Elevation .....I Know a Fount Medley**  
*arr. Mary Ellen Kerrick*

**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.....How Great**  
*arr. Anna Laura Page*

**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**