

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



Sunday, April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

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..... " The Power of the Cross"

Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary,
Tried by sinful men
Torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

Refrain
This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame, bore the wrath, we stand forgiven at the cross!

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face, Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, Ev'ry evil deed,
crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath Quakes as its maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life "Finished!" the victory cry.

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds, For through Your suffering I am free!
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live, won through Your selfless love!

Refrain 2
This the pow'r of the cross
Son of God, slain for us.
What a love, what a cost, we stand forgiven at the cross!

The InvocationSister Shirley Bailey

The Choral ResponseGive Me a Clean Heart

Give me a clean heart
So I may serve Thee
Lord, fix my heart,
So that I may be used by Thee.

For I'm not worthy
Of all these blessings.
Give me a clean heart,
And I'll follow Thee.

Id TestamentBrother Derrel Nunn

Psalm 126

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 3 The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad.
- 4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!
- 5 Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
- 6 He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

New Testament

Philippians 3:4-14

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel.....Dr. June Payne

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)

John 12:1-8

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

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 ElevationHoly Art Thou, Lord God Almighty
(G. F. Händel)

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.....Verso in E-Minor (D. Zipoli)

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