

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, July 6, 2025

Third Sunday after Pentecost

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**

**Leader:** 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.**

**Leader:** 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.**

**Leader:** 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.**

**Leader:** 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..... "Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross"**

Jesus, keep me near the cross;  
There a precious fountain,  
Free to all, a healing stream,  
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

**Refrain:**

In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
Love and mercy found me;  
There the bright and morning star  
Shed its beams around me.

Near the Cross! O Lamb of God,  
Bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day  
With its shadow o'er me.

Near the Cross I'll watch and wait,  
Hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand  
Just beyond the river.

**The Invocation**

**The Choral Response.....Saint John AME Choir**

**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

**Old Testament .....Sister Brittany Ford**

**Isaiah 66:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,  
all you who love her;  
rejoice with her in joy,  
all you who mourn over her;

<sup>11</sup> that you may nurse and be satisfied  
from her consoling breast;  
that you may drink deeply with delight  
from her glorious abundance."

<sup>12</sup> For thus says the Lord:

"Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,  
and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;  
and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip,  
and bounced upon her knees.

<sup>13</sup> As one whom his mother comforts,  
so I will comfort you;  
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;  
your bones shall flourish like the grass;  
and the hand of the Lord shall be known to his servants,  
and he shall show his indignation against his enemies.

**"The Word of God for the people of God."**

**New Testament .....Sister Kim C. Sterling**

**Galatians 6:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup> But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>5</sup> For each will have to bear his own load.

<sup>6</sup> Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.

**"May the Lord bless the hearers and doers of His Word."**

Gospel.....Sister Shirley Bailey  
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)  
Luke 10:16-20

<sup>16</sup> "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" <sup>18</sup> And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

**"This is the Word of the Lord."**

**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)**

**Leader:** 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.**

**Leader:** You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** Honor your father and your mother.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You shall not commit murder.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You shall not commit adultery.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You shall not steal.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** You shall not be a false witness.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** 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**

**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**

### **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**