

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

## Saint John AME Church

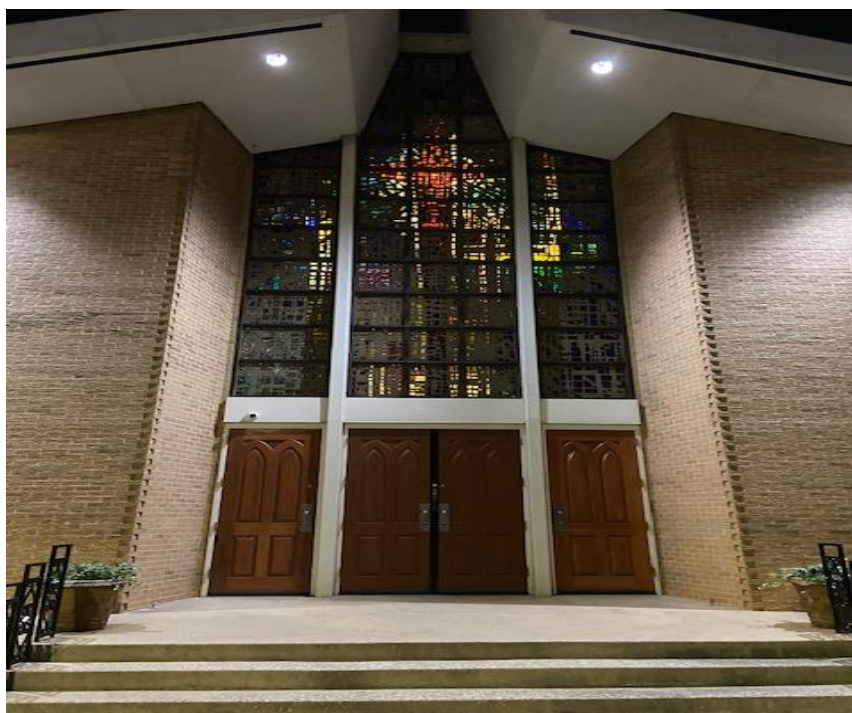
708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North

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, August 10, 2025**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**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.....Brother Freddie Robinson**

**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 Praise....."I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"**

I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
No turning back, no turning back!

Though no one join me, still I will follow,  
Though no one join me, still I will follow,

Though no one join me, still I will follow,  
No turning back, no turning back!

The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me,  
No turning back, no turning back!

**The Invocation.....Brother Brandon Cleveland**

**The Choral Response..... The Young Adult Choir**

**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

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

**Psalms 50:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> The Mighty One, God the Lord,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup> Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.

<sup>3</sup> Our God comes; he does not keep silence;  
before him is a devouring fire,  
around him a mighty tempest.

<sup>4</sup> He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

<sup>5</sup> "Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

<sup>6</sup> The heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge! *Selah*

<sup>7</sup> "Hear, O my people, and I will speak;  
O Israel, I will testify against you.  
I am God, your God.

<sup>8</sup> Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;  
your burnt offerings are continually before me.

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

**New Testament.....Sister Dawn Thomas**  
**Hebrews 11:8-16**

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

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

**Gospel .....Sister Megan Spears**  
**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**  
**Luke 12:32-40**

<sup>32</sup> "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

<sup>35</sup> "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so

that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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

### **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 (Summary)**

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 Greetings to Visitors...Sister Gwendolyn Hardnett**

**The Worship through Music.....The Young Adult Choir**

**The Message.....Brother Freddie Robinson**

## **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

### **Doxology (Contemporary)**

### **Benediction**