

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

## Saint John AME Church

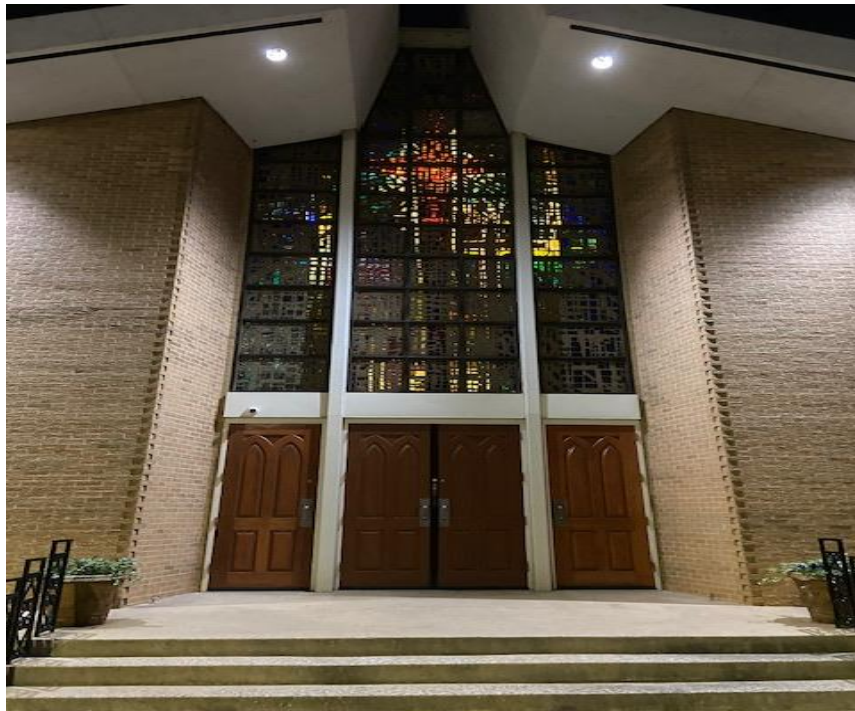
708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North

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 24, 2025

Eleventh 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.....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 Praise.....“Come, We That Love the Lord (We’re Marching to Zion)”**

Come, we that love the Lord,  
And let your joys be known,  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
And thus surround the throne,  
And thus surround the throne.

Refrain  
We are marching to Zion,  
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion,  
The beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing  
Who never knew our God;  
But children of the heavenly King,  
But children of the heavenly King,  
May speak their joys abroad,  
May speak their joys abroad.

The hill of Zion yields  
A thousand sacred sweets  
Before we reach the heavenly fields,  
Before we reach the heavenly fields,  
Or walk the golden streets,  
Or walk the golden streets.

Then let our songs abound,  
And every tear be dry;  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,  
To fairer worlds on high,  
To fairer worlds on high.

**The Invocation.....Brother Shaun Barnes**

**The Choral Response..... The St. John AME Church Choir**

## The Scripture Lesson (s)

Old Testament .....Sister Jackie Wilson

### Psalm 103:1-8

**103** Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!  
<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,  
<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
<sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

New Testament.....Sister Shirley Bailey

### Hebrews 12:18-29

<sup>18</sup> For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly<sup>[a]</sup> of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." <sup>27</sup> This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.

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

**Gospel .....Dr. June Payne**  
**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**  
**Luke 13:10-17**

<sup>10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability." <sup>13</sup> And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. <sup>14</sup> But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

**"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 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

## **Doxology (Contemporary)**

## **Benediction**