

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

Saint John AME Church

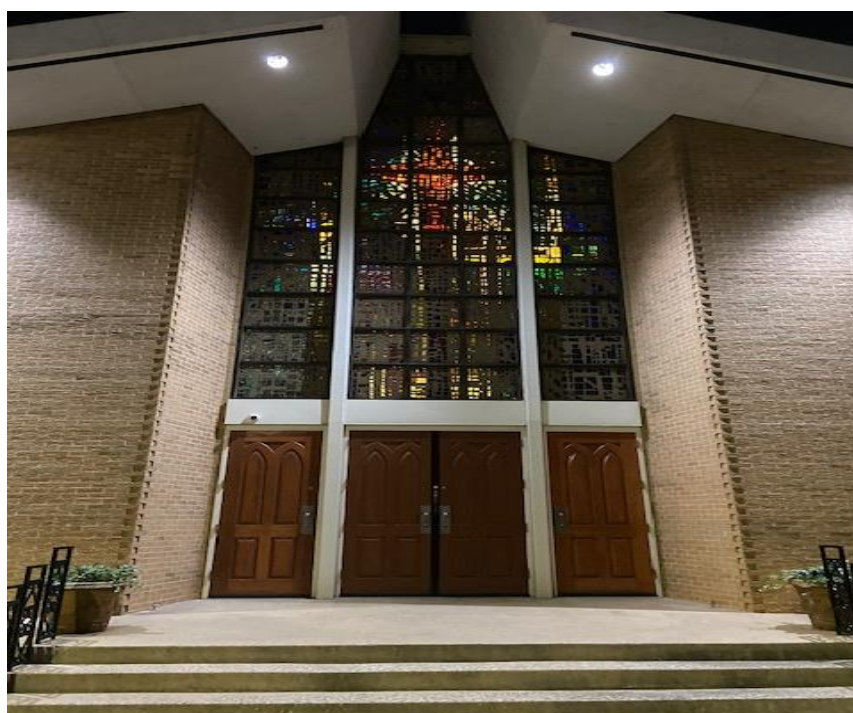
708 15th Street North

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

The Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor || Sister Kim C. Sterling, First Lady

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 31, 2025

Twelfth 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 Eron Collins

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....."There Is A Name I
Love To Hear (O How I Love Jesus)"**

There is a name I love to hear;
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest name on earth.

Refrain
O how I love Jesus!
O how I love Jesus!
O how I love Jesus! Because He first loved me.

It tells me of a Savior's love,
Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood,
The sinner's perfect plea.

Jesus! The name I love so well,
The name I love to hear;
No saints on earth its worth can tell,
No heart conceive how dear.

The Invocation.....Brother Micah Eli Wright

The Choral Response.....The Children and Youth Choir

The Scripture Lesson (s): Easy-to-Read Version

Old TestamentSister Miranda Mede
Psalm 112

112 Praise the Lord!

Great blessings belong to those who fear and respect the Lord,
who are happy to do what he commands.

² Their descendants will be given power on earth.
Those who do right will be greatly blessed.

³ Their family will be very rich,
and their goodness will continue forever.

⁴ A light shines in the dark for those who are good,
for those who are merciful, kind, and fair.

⁵ It is good for people to be kind and generous
and to be fair in business.

⁶ Such good people will never fall.
They will always be remembered.

⁷ They will not be afraid of bad news.
They are confident because they trust in the Lord.

⁸ They remain confident and without fear,
so they defeat their enemies.
⁹ They freely give to the poor.
Their goodness will continue forever.
They will be honored with victory.
¹⁰ The wicked become angry when they see this.
They grind their teeth in anger, but then they disappear.
They will never get what they want most.

"This is the Word of the Lord."

New Testament.....Brother Charleston Collins
Hebrews 13:1-8

13 Continue loving each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. ² Always remember to help people by welcoming them into your home. Some people have done that and have helped angels without knowing it. ³ Don't forget those who are in prison. Remember them as though you were in prison with them. And don't forget those who are suffering. Remember them as though you were suffering with them.

⁴ Marriage should be honored by everyone. And every marriage should be kept pure between husband and wife. God will judge guilty those who commit sexual sins and adultery. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money. And be satisfied with what you have. God has said,

"I will never leave you;
I will never run away from you."
⁶ So we can feel sure and say,
"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
People can do nothing to me."

⁷ Remember your leaders. They taught God's message to you. Remember how they lived and died, and copy their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

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

GospelBrother Montell Washington
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)
Luke 14:7-14

⁷ Then Jesus noticed that some of the guests were choosing the best places to sit. So he told this story: ⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding, don’t sit in the most important seat. They may have invited someone more important than you. ⁹ And if you are sitting in the most important seat, they will come to you and say, ‘Give this man your seat!’ Then you will have to move down to the last place and be embarrassed.

¹⁰ “So when someone invites you, go sit in the seat that is not important. Then they will come to you and say, ‘Friend, move up here to this better place!’ What an honor this will be for you in front of all the other guests. ¹¹ Everyone who makes themselves important will be made humble. But everyone who makes themselves humble will be made important.”

¹² Then Jesus said to the Pharisee who had invited him, “When you give a lunch or a dinner, don’t invite only your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. At another time they will pay you back by inviting you to eat with them. ¹³ Instead, when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, and the blind. ¹⁴ Then you will have great blessings, because these people cannot pay you back. They have nothing. But God will reward you at the time when all godly people rise from death.”

"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..... The Children and Youth Choir

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