

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

## Saint John AME Church

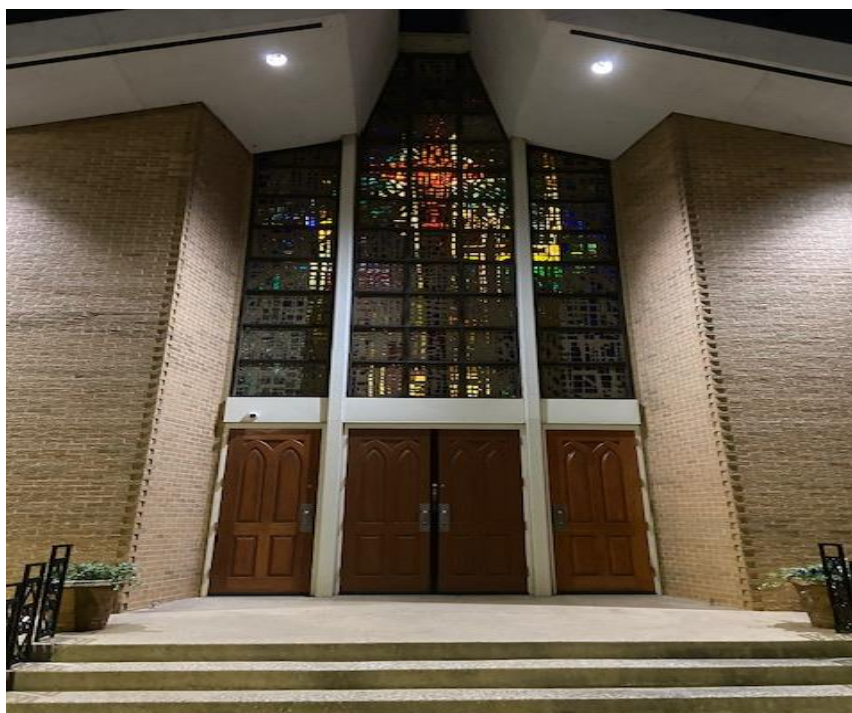
708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North

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, September 28, 2025**

**Sixteenth 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.....“Joys Are Flowing Like A River  
(Blessed Quietness)”**

Joys are flowing like a river,  
Since the Comforter has come,  
He abides with us forever,  
Makes the trusting heart His home.

### **Refrain**

Blessed quietness,  
Holy quietness,  
What assurance in my soul!  
On the stormy sea  
He speaks peace to me,  
How the billows cease to roll!

Bringing life and health and gladness,  
All around this heavenly Guest,  
Banished unbelief and sadness,  
Changed our weariness to rest.

Like the rain that falls from heaven,  
Like the sunlight from the sky,  
So the Holy Ghost is given,  
Coming on us from on high.

What a wonderful salvation,  
Where we always see his face!  
What a perfect habitation, what a quiet resting place!

### **The Invocation**

**The Choral Response.....“We Are One”**

We are one, we are one,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one.

## **The Scripture Lesson (s)**

**Old Testament .....Brother Rodney Davidson**

### **Psalm 91:1-6**

**91** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

**2** I will say<sup>[a]</sup> to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."

**3** For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.

**4** He will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

**5** You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

**6** nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

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

**New Testament.....Sister Doris Hardy**

### **1 Timothy 6:6-10**

**6** But godliness with contentment is great gain, **7** for we brought nothing into the world, and<sup>[a]</sup> we cannot take anything out of the world. **8** But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. **9** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

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

**Gospel .....Brother Raymond Oliver**  
**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**  
**Luke 16:19-31**

<sup>19</sup> "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, <sup>23</sup> and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. <sup>24</sup> And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup> And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' <sup>30</sup> And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

**"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 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**