

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

**SAINT JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North • Birmingham, AL 35203

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor



**Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost**

**Order Of Worship**

*Sunday, October 10, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.*

**Prelude.....Music Ministry**

**Doxology**     *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.*

**Call to Worship.....Pastor Sterling**

Psalms 100; Psalms 101:1(NIV)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. I will sing of your love and justice; to you, Lord, I will sing praise.

**Hymn of Celebration....."How Great Thou Art"**

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow'r through-out the universe displayed.

*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim, My God, how great Thou art!

**Prayer.....Rev. Xavier Beasley**

**Choral Response....."Come Ye Disconsolate"**

*Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish,  
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.  
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;  
Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.*

**Scripture.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton**

**Hebrews 4:12-16 (NRSV)**

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Preface to the Decalogue**

*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.*

**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.*

**The Pastor’s Words**

**The Sermonic Selection.....Sister Yolonda Carter**

**The Sermon.....Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling**

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

**The Blessing of the Offertory (Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent)**

**The Affirmation of Faith**

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**

*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.*

**The Benediction.....Pastor Sterling**