

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

Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

708 15th Street North II Birmingham, AL 35203

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Sunday, October 24, 2021—10a.m.

PRELUDE.....Music Ministry

DOXOLOGY....."Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*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..*

CALL TO WORSHIP.....Pastor Sterling

Minister: 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.

Minister: 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.

Minister: 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.

Minister: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Together: Oh 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!

HYMN OF CELEBRATION.....Rev. Charles Marie Davis

“We’ll Understand It Better By and By”

We are often tossed and driv’n on the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempest oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain:

By and by, when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We’ll tell the story, how we’ve overcome,
For we’ll understand it better by and by.

We are often destitute of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands;
We are trusting in the Lord, and according to the Word,
We will understand it better by and by.

Temptations, hidden snares, often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed for A thoughtless word or deed;
And we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,
But we’ll understand it better by and by.

INVOCATION

A prayer inviting the power and presence of God to join and lead us in worship.

CHORAL RESPONSE.....”Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O, for grace to trust Him more!*

SCRIPTURE: Mark 10:46-52 (NRSV)

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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.*

SUMMARY OF THE DECALOGUE

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."

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.*

PASTOR'S WORDS

SERMONIC SELECTION.....Rev. Charles Marie Davis
"God Is"

MESSAGE.....**REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING, PASTOR**

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

An invitation to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and/or to become a member of the church.

BLESSING OF THE OFFERTORY *(Tithes/Offerings/Gifts)*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*

A statement of what we as Christians believe.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator 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 sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the church universal. the communion of saints., the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

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BENEDICTION.....Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling

*Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him,
since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)