

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

23rd Sunday after Pentecost



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Sunday, October 31, 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.....Brother Charles Horton
"Glory, Glory Hallelujah"

INVOCATION

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

CHORAL RESPONSE....."I Surrender All"

*I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

SCRIPTURE: Mark 12:28-34 (NRSV)

One of the scribes came near and heard the Saducees disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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....."He Looked Beyond My Faults and Saw My Needs"

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

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

An invitation to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and!

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, 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 at 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 sin, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

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

*Lift up your heads, O gates, And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts he is the King of glory!*

-Psalms 24:9-10 ESV