

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

*Last Sunday After Pentecost*



## WORSHIP CELEBRATION

*Sunday, November 21, 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

The Lord *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.  
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.

...My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His Holy Name Forever and ever. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice In the Lord.

Praise the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord! But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.

**SONG OF CELEBRATION**.....Sister Terry Harper  
"I've Seen The Lightning Flashing" (No Never Alone)

1 I've seen the lightning flashing, And heard the thunder roll,  
I've felt sin's breakers dashing, Trying to conquer my soul;  
I've heard the voice of my Savior, Telling me still to fight on,  
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.

*Refrain:*  
No, never alone, No, never alone;  
He promised never to leave me,  
He'll claim for His own.  
No, never alone, No, never alone;  
He promised never to leave me,  
Never to leave me alone.

When in affliction's valley, I'm treading the road of care,  
My Savior helps me to carry My cross when heavy to bear,  
Though all around me is darkness, Earthly joys all flown;  
My Savior whispers His promise, "I never will leave thee alone."

2 He died for me on the mountain, For me they pierced His side,  
For me He opened the fountain, The crimson, cleansing tide;  
For me He's waiting in glory, Seated upon His throne,  
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.

**INVOCATION**

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

**CHORAL RESPONSE**....."Thank You Lord"

*Thank you Lord  
Thank you Lord  
Thank you Lord  
I just want to thank you Lord.*

**SCRIPTURE: PSALMS 103: 1-14 (NRSV)**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay

us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

**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**

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

**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**  
*An invitation to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior*

**BLESSING OF THE OFFERTORY** *(Tithes/Offerings/Gifts to be given after the benediction)*

**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 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 sin, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

**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..*

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