

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 THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Sunday, November 28, 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!**

SONG OF CELEBRATION.....Sister Gwendolyn Hardnett  
"O Come O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
Ransom captive Israel  
Mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Shall come to thee  
O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heavenly home  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path to misery

#### INVOCATION

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

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel  
His name is called  
Emmanuel

God with us  
Revealed in us  
His name is called Emmanuel.

**ADVENT SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

**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.*

**CANDLE LIGHTING: Words of Assurance**

"The days are coming", says the prophet Isaiah, "when all God's promises will be fulfilled (Isaiah 11:1-16)" These promises of hope, peace, joy, and love are for you. Receive the hope that God offers to you today. Today we light one purple candle - the Candle called HOPE, a reminder that God's promises are real and they are true.

**PASTOR'S WORDS**

**SERMONIC SELECTION**

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

**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