

*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



### ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Sunday, December 26, 2021 - 10a.m.*

**PRELUDE**.....Music Ministry  
"Come Let Us Worship the Lord In the Beauty of Holiness"

**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 will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

**People:** For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

Minister: The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

All: You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God...and we shall worship You forever. Hallelujah!

**HYMN OF CELEBRATION**.....Music Ministry

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, o come ye  
To Bethlehem,

Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels:

Chorus

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing;

**INVOCATION**.....Rev. Xavier Beasley

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

**CHORAL RESPONSE**.....”Walk In the Light”

Walk in the light,  
Beautiful light,  
Come where the dewdrops  
Of mercy shine bright,

Shine all around us  
By day and by night,  
Jesus the light of the world.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:22-32 (NRSV).....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

**INTROIT 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**      *Glorify 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**

**INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER**.....**REV. DWIGHT E. DILLARD, SR.**  
*Presiding Elder of the Birmingham Florence Tuscaloosa District*

**SERMONIC SELECTION**.....Music Ministry

**MESSAGE**.....**BISHOP HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT**  
*Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District A.M.E. Church*

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

*An invitation to accept Jesus as your 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**.....Bishop Harry L. Seawright

*Happy New Year!*

*For a successful end,*

*Begin your year with hope, peace, joy and love  
and you will never go wrong.*