

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

Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

708 15th Street North || Birmingham, AL 35203

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor



Second Sunday in Advent & Communion

Sunday, December 05, 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 (*Responsively*).....Pastor Sterling

Minister: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

People: He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Together: Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life...To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN OF CELEBRATION.....Sister Monica Irish
"Come, We That Love The Lord"

Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne,
And thus surround the throne.

Chorus

We're marching to Zion,
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion,
The beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God;
But children of the heavenly King,
But children of the heavenly King,
May speak their joys abroad,
May speak their joys abroad.

Then let our songs abound,
And ev'ry tear be dry;
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,
To fairer worlds on high,
To fairer worlds on high.

INVOCATION.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton
A prayer inviting the power and presence of God to join and lead us in worship.

CHORAL RESPONSE....."Jesus, The Light of the World"

*We'll walk in the light, Beautiful light,
Come where the dew drops of mercy shine bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the Light of the world!*

SCRIPTURE READING.....Rev. Charles Marie Davis
Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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.*

CONTEMPORARY DECALOGUE

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but Me.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not commit murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not be a false witness.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

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.....Rev. & Sister Xavier & Evelyn Beasley

In these darkening days, we come seeking peace. We seek serenity within ourselves. We seek harmony within our families. We seek goodwill among our neighbors. We seek a ceasefire among all nations. We seek not just the absence of conflict, But the presence of shalom--the abiding peace, the healing life, the unrelenting justice, that God calls us to in Christ.

Today, we light another purple candle, and we light it in the name of Jesus, as we pray for PEACE; sweet peace that only God, the Father, Himself, through His Son, Jesus can give. In the name of Jesus, we seek PEACE as we light this candle.

PASTOR'S WORDS

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

SERMONIC SELECTION.....Sister Monica Irish

MESSAGE.....**REV. SHERITA MOON SEAWRIGHT**

WMS Supervisor of the Ninth Episcopal District A.M.E Church

DISCIPLESHIP

An invitation to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior

COMMUNION HYMN.....**THERE IS A FOUNTAIN"**

*There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains;
Lose all their guilty stains, Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains.*

SOLICITATION

GENERAL CONFESSION

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against Your Divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST COLLECT

SECOND COLLECT

PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRAYER OF HUMILIATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

ELEMENTS

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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"

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BENEDICTION.....Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright