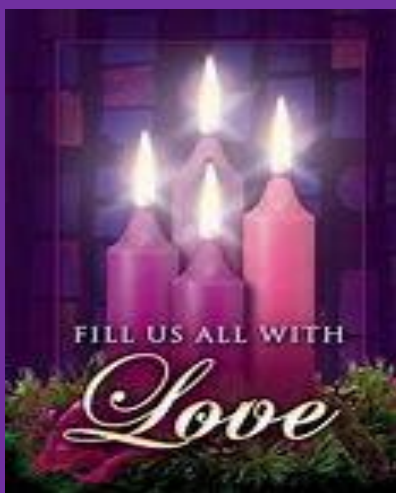


God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family

Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church
708 15th Street North II Birmingham, AL 35203
Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor



The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 19, 2021 - 10am

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.....Music Ministry

“Joy To The World”

Joy to the world!
The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart
Prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and
Nature sing.

Joy to the world!
The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world
With truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

INVOCATION.....Bro. Freddie Robinson

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

CHORAL RESPONSE....."O Come Let Us Adore Him"

*O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

*For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy,
Christ the Lord.*

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:39-45(NRSV).....Rev. Xavier Beasley

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be^[a] a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

INTROIT TO THE DECALOGUE *From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise ;
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.*

LIGHTING OF CANDLE OF LOVE: *Ministerial Staff*

PASTOR'S WORDS

The Children of Saint John

Home for the Holiday: The Miracle of Christmas

SERMONIC SELECTION.....Music Ministry

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"

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Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost..

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

Merry Christmas!