

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



The Third Sunday in Advent "Joy"

Sunday, December 12, 2021—10a.m.

Worship Leader, Rev. Xavier Beasley

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).....Rev. Xavier Beasley

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....."While We Are Waiting, Come"
 Sister Yolonda Carter

While we are waiting, come;
 While we are waiting, come,
 Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
 While we are waiting, come.

With pow'r and glory, come;
 With pow'r and Glory, come,
 Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
 While we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly, come;
 Come, Savior, quickly, come,
 Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel
 While we are waiting, come.

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

CHORAL RESPONSE....."Sanctuary"

*Lord, prepare me To be a sanctuary,
 Pure and holy, tried and true*

*And with thanksgiving,
 I'll be a living Sanctuary for You.*

SCRIPTURE READING.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton
Zephaniah 3:14-17 (ESV)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

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.*

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

SERMONIC SELECTION.....Sister Yolonda Carter

MESSAGE.....**REV. CHARLES MARIE DAVIS**
Ministerial Staff/Saint John AME Church

DISCIPLESHIP
An invitation to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and/or to become a member of the church.

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.

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BENEDICTION.....Rev. Charles Marie Davis

