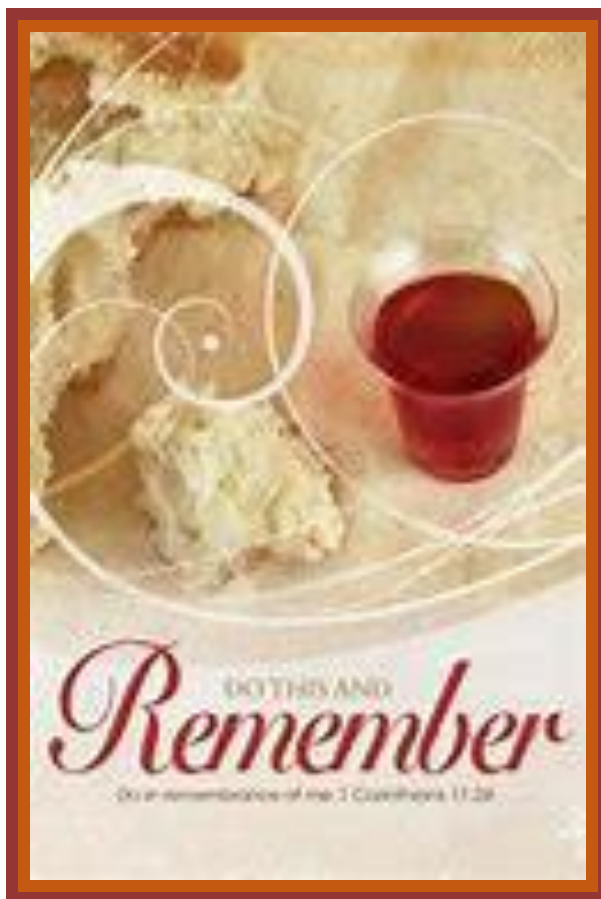


God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family

## Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

708 15th Street North | Birmingham, AL 35203

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor



## Order Of Worship

Sunday, January 2, 2022 – 10:00am

**THE PRELUDE**.....Music Ministry

**THE 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. Amen.*

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsively).....Pastor Sterling

Minister:           How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

**People:**           **The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts my King and my God.**

**Minister:**       Happy are they who dwell in your house! they will always be praising you. Happy are the people whose strength is in you! whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way. Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

**People:**           **They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion. Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob. Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

**Minister:**       For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

**Together:**       **For the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory; No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity. O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!**

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

**“Amazing Grace”**

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'This grace that brought me safe this far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

Praise God!

**THE INVOCATION.....Rev. Charles Marie Davis**

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

**THE CHORAL RESPONSE.....“We Need To Hear From You”**

*We need to hear from You  
We need a word from You*

*If we don't hear from You  
What will we do*

*Wanting You more each day  
To show us Your perfect way  
There is no other way  
That we can live.*

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS (NRSV)**.....Rev. Xavier Beasley

**Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

**THE 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.*

**THE 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.

**THE GLORIA PATRI**      *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Gho  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.*

**THE PASTOR'S WORDS**

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

**THE MESSAGE.....REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING, PASTOR**

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

*An invitation to accept Jesus as your Savior.*

**THE BLESSING OF THE OFFERTORY** *(Tithes / Offerings / Gifts)*

**THE COMMUNION.....REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING**

**THE COMMUNION HYMN.....“While We are Waiting, Come”**

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

**COMMUNION ELEVATION.....Gbo Ohun Awon Angeli**  
(Hear the Voices of Angels) arr. Godwin Sadoh

**THE SOLICITATION**

**THE 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.

**THE FIRST COLLECT**

**THE SECOND COLLECT**

**THE PRAYER OF ADORATION**

**THE PRAYER OF HUMILIATION**

**THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**THE ELEMENTS**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**THE 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 at 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. Amen.

**THE 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..*

**THE BENEDICTION**.....Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling

**THE POSTLUDE**.....Carol Miniature on See the Eastern Star)  
arr. Micheal Burkhardt

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**