

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

Wise men
still seek
HIM



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 16, 2022 - 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.....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
"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" led by Sister Allison Sanders

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! O fix me on it,
Mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to save my soul from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace, Lord, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

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

CHORAL RESPONSE....."We Are One"

*We are one, we are one,
We are one in the Spirit,
We are one.*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
We are one in the Spirit,
We are one.*

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NRSV).....Rev. Xavier A. Beasley

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit...Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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 *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.*

It Was Love, God's Love!
(In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Rev. Charles Marie Davis

SERMONIC SELECTION.....Sister Allison Sanders

MESSAGE.....**REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING**

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

An invitation to accept Jesus as your Savior

PASTOR'S WORDS/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. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling

