

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

JANUARY 23, 2022

*He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good
news to the poor.*

SEASON OF EPIPHANY

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday After Epiphany

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....."Love Lifted Me"

Led by Sisters Gwen and Taya Hardnett

I was sinking deep in sin,
Far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within,
Sinking to rise no more;

But the Master of the sea
Heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me
Now safe am I.

Chorus
Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me. (Repeat chorus)

All my heart to Him I give,
Ever to Him I'll cling,
In His blessed presence live,
Ever His praises sing;

Love so mighty and so true
Merits my soul's best songs;
Faithful, loving service, too,
To Him belongs.

Souls in danger, look above,
Jesus completely saves;
He will lift you by His love
Out of the angry waves;

He's the Master of the sea,
Billows His will obey;
He your Savior wants to be,
Be saved today.

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

CHORAL RESPONSE.....“Pray For Me”

*Pray for me, pray for me
Oh my brother, pray for me
When you bow, at the altar
Please don't forget to pray for me.*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:14-21(NRSV).....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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 *Glorify 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.*

PASTOR'S WORDS

SERMONIC SELECTION.....Sisters Gwen and Taya Hardnett
"O Lord, How Excellent" (Perfect Praise)

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

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

An invitation to accept Jesus as your 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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BENEDICTION.....Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling