

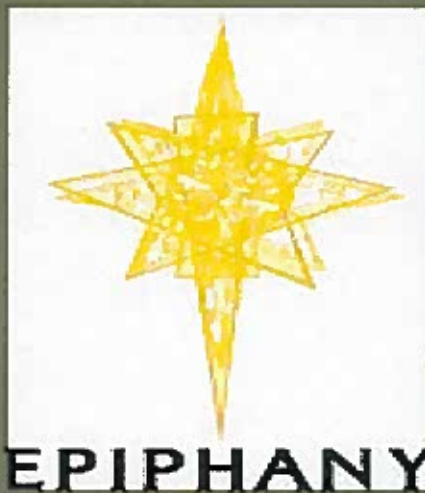
God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family

## Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church

708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North II Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor

*Do to others as you would have them do to you.*



### Celebration of Worship

*Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany - February 20, 2022 - 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 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 unto 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....."Time Is Filled With Swift Transition"**

Time is filled with swift transition,  
Naught of earth unmoved can stand,  
Build your hopes on things eternal,  
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Chorus  
Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand;  
Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand;  
Build your hopes on things eternal,  
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Trust in Him who will not leave you,  
years may bring;  
If by earthly friends forsaken,  
Still more closely to Him cling.

not this world's vain riches,  
That so rapidly decay;  
Seek to gain the heavenly treasures;  
They will never pass away.

When your journey is completed,  
If to God you have been true,  
Fair and bright the home in glory  
Your enraptured soul will view.

**INVOCATION.....REV. LAUREL J. THORNTON**

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

PRAYER RESPONSE....."Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"

*Pass me not, O gentle Savior,  
Hear my humble cry:  
While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.*

*Chorus*

*Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry,  
While on others Thou art calling,  
Do not pass me by.*

SCRIPTURE.....REV. CHARLES MARIE DAVIS

Luke 6:27-38 (NRSV)

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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. Amen.*

**PASTOR'S WORDS**

**SERMONIC HYMN.....MUSIC MINISTRY**

**SERMON.....REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING**

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

*An invitation to accept Jesus as your Savior*

**BLESSING OF THE OFFERTORY** (*Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent - 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 sins, 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. Amen...*

**BENEDICTION.....REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING**