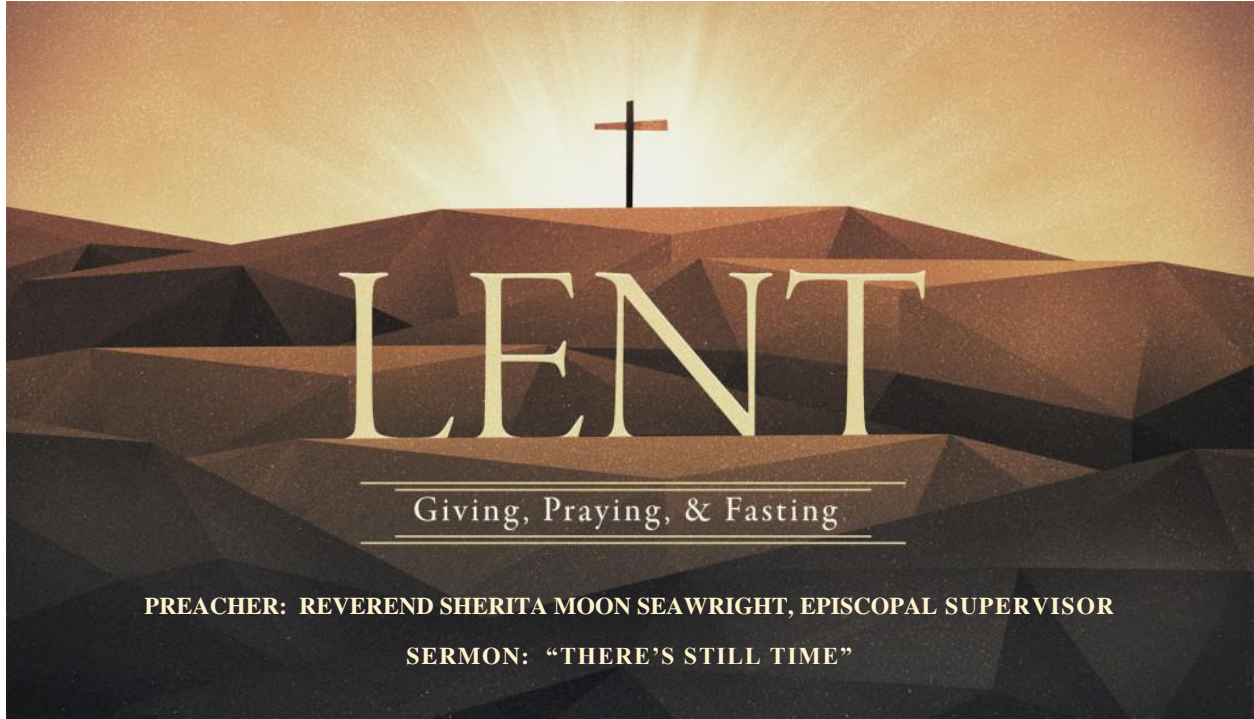


God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family.

SAINT JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

708 15TH Street North • Birmingham, AL 35203

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor



Order of the Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 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. Amen.*

Call To Worship.....Pastor Ronald D. Sterling
Traditional (1986)

Minister: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord' our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

People: **For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

Minister: Because of the house of the Lord, our God I will seek thy good.

People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Minister: Bless are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I have loved thy habitation, the place where thy honor dwelleth.

People: For 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 thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

People: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. Make A joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.

Hymn of Celebration....."Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changes not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

Invocation.....Rev. Charles Marie Davis

Prayer Response....."Father I Stretch My Hands To Thee"

*Father I stretch my hands to Thee;
No other help I know;
If Thou withdraw Thyself from me,
Ah whither shall I go?*

*What did Thine only Son endure,
Before I drew my breath!
What pain, what labor to secure
My soul from endless death!*

Confession of Sin (Unison)

Most gracious and most merciful God we confess to you and to one another that time after time we have entered your presence with countless prayers but with hearts that have been closed to your grace. We have lifted our hands to you in praise, but our feet have still walked in the ways of evil. We have rehearsed your commandments but have refused to see your face in the needs of our neighbor. We pray, Lord that you forgive our lack of faith and pardon our acts of injustice. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good News! There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Believe this Gospel and go forth to live in peace.

Scripture.....Rev. Xavier Beasley
Luke 13:1-9 (NRSV)

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them-do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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 Saviour 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.*

Worship Through Music.....Mass Choir

Pastor's Words & Greetings to Visitors

Blessing of the Offertory (*Tithes/Offerings/Gifts to be given after the benediction*)

Sermonic Selection.....**Music Ministry**

Sermon.....**Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright**
Episcopal Supervisor, Ninth Episcopal District

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

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.

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. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

Benediction.....**Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright**

