

*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



### *The Celebration of Communion*

*Sunday, April 3, 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**.....**Pastor Ronald D. Sterling**  
*Traditional*

**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.**

**THE HYMN OF CELEBRATION....."KING OF MY LIFE"**

King of my life I crown Thee now-  
Thine shall the glory be;  
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,  
Lead me to Calvary.

Refrain:

Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony,  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.

Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid,  
Tenderly mourned and wept;  
Angels in robes of light arrayed  
Guarded Thee whilst Thou slept.

Let me like Mary, thru the gloom,  
Come with a gift to Thee;  
Show to me now the empty tomb-  
Lead me to Calvary.

May I be willing, Lord, to bear  
Daily my cross for Thee;  
Even Thy cup of grief to share-  
Thou hast borne all for me.

**THE PRAYER.....Rev. Sherri Radney**

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

**CHORAL RESPONSE....."Anointing"**

*Anointing fall on me  
Anointing fall on me  
Let the power of the Holy Ghost fall on me  
Anointing fall on me*

**THE CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton**

**THE CONFESSION OF SIN: (In unison standing)**

O God, we confess our opposition against the authority of the shepherd you have placed over us; the one through whom you speak the word of salvation. Forgive us for murmuring, grumbling and complaining when you have watched over us day and night; healed our diseases; been our shelter in the time of storms and walked with us in the shadow of death. Forgive us O God, forgive us. Have mercy on our ungrateful hearts.

**THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. Amen.

**THE SCRIPTURE READING**.....Rev. Xavier Beasley

**John 12:1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

**THE PREFACE 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 Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.*

**THE PASTOR'S WORDS & GREETINGS TO VISITORS**

**THE BLESSING OF THE OFFERTORY** (*Tithes / Offerings / Gifts to be given after the benediction*)

**SERMONIC SELECTION**.....Mass Choir

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

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

*An invitation to accept Jesus as Savior*

**THE COMMUNION**

**THE COMMUNION HYMN**.....“There Is A Fountain”

*There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Immanuel's veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains:  
Lose all their guilty stains, Lose all their guilty stains;  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains.*

**COMMUNION ELEVATION**.....Two Settings of Kum Ba Ya  
arr. John Benkhe & Adolphus Hailstork

**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**

**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"

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*Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost..*

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

**POSTLUDE**.....All Hail King Jesus  
by Dave Moody