

# SAINT JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

708 15th Street North || Birmingham, AL 35203

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor

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



## *The Celebration of Holy Communion*

Sunday, May 1, 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**

**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.

**Together:** 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....." Down At The Cross"**

Down at the cross where my Savior died,  
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,  
There to my heart was the blood applied;  
Glory to His name!

Chorus  
Glory to His name, Glory to His name,  
There to my heart was the blood applied;  
Glory to His name!

I am so wondrously saved from sin,  
Jesus so sweetly abides within,  
There at the cross where He took me in;  
Glory to His name!

O precious fountain that saves from sin,  
I am so glad I have entered in;  
There Jesus saves me and keeps me clean;  
Glory to His name!

Come to this fountain so rich and sweet;  
Cast Thy poor soul at the Savior's feet;  
Plunge in today and be made complete;  
Glory to His name!

**THE PRAYER.....Brother Raymond Oliver**

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

**PRAYER RESPONSE....."Through It All"**

Through It all, through it all,  
I've learned to trust in Jesus,  
I've learned to trust in God.

Through it all, through it all,  
I've learned to depend upon His Word.

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

Psalm 30:1-6 (NRSV)

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me. O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health. You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave. Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness. For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favor for a lifetime. Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning.

**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 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*

**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 COMMUNION ELEVATION.....When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**  
Roy Brunner

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

*Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

**THE POSTLUDE.....March Manifique  
by Mark Williams**