

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



Order of Worship

Sunday, June 19, 2022 – 10:00am

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**

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.

People: O 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....."Faith of Our Fathers"

Faith of our fathers! living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
When e'er we hear that glorious word!

Refrain

Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! faith and prayer
Have kept our country brave and free;
And through the truth that comes from God
Her children have true liberty.

Faith of our fathers! we will strive
To win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God
Mankind shall then be truly free.

Faith of our fathers! we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach thee, too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life.

INVOCATION.....Rev. Charles Marie Davis

Prayer inviting the power and presence of God to join and lead us in worship.

CHORAL RESPONSE..... "I Need Thee Every Hour"

*I need Thee every hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford,*

Chorus

*I need Thee, O I need Thee
Every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now my Savior,
I come to Thee!*

SCRIPTURE READING.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton
Psalms 103:13-22

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those

who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

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.*

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:
it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

FATHER'S DAY LITANY

L: Always-parenting God, we cry out to you with a prayerful heart on behalf of our fathers. Where our fathers have blessed us with their faithfulness, integrity, and love, deepen our gratitude.

P: LET OUR PRAYERS BECOME A SONG THAT PLEASES YOUR HEART.

L: Where our fathers have wounded, mistreated, or abandoned us, deepen our healing and forgiveness.

P: LET OUR PRAYERS BECOME AN EXPERIENCE OF YOUR EMBRACE.

L: Where children and fathers are alienated from one another, deepen either our reconciliation or our acceptance of necessary distance.

P: LET OUR PRAYERS BECOME INSTRUMENTS OF RECONCILIATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PEACE.

L: Where good men have never been called to be fathers, or have never been given the opportunity to raise children, deepen the fatherly role they play in the lives of many.

P: LET OUR PRAYERS BECOME AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL MEN AND AN ILLUMINATION OF THE CRITICAL ROLE THEY PLAY IN YOUR STORY.

L: Where fathers are grieving over the loss of their children and children over the loss of their fathers, deepen our awareness of your weeping and redeeming presence.

P: LET OUR PRAYERS BECOME THE CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH YOU MAKE YOUR WAY INTO OUR DEEPEST PAIN.

L: Where fathers are committed to loving their children comprehensively and raising them in a spirit of vulnerability, devotion, and gentleness, deepen the joy and purpose they find in fatherhood.

P: LET OUR PRAYERS BECOME A GRATITUDE THAT IS DEEPER THAN OUR WORDS.

L: Where fathers and children are struggling in relationships that feel broken, depleted or dysfunctional, deepen our shared compassion and encouragement.

P: LET OUR PRAYERS BECOME PART OF THE HEALING THAT YOU OFFER TO WOUNDED SOULS.

L: On this Father's Day, engage us in a more dynamic communion with your holy presence, where fatherhood always finds its origin, its meaning, and its redemption. We pray this in the name of Jesus, whose perfect relationship with the Father is the source of our deepest hope.

ALL: AMEN.

PASTOR'S WORDS & GREETINGS TO VISITORS

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

SERMONIC SELECTION.....Music Ministry

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

An invitation to accept Jesus as Savior

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"

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

Amen. Amen. Amen