

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



**& LOVE**

*Order of Worship*

Sunday, August 28, 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.....Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling Pastor**

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....."How To Reach The Masses"**  
(Lift Him Up)

How to reach the masses, men of every birth,  
For an answer Jesus gave the key;  
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,  
I'll draw all men unto Me."

Refrain

Lift Him up, lift Him up,  
Still He speaks from eternity:  
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,  
I'll draw all men unto Me."

Oh! the world is hungry for the Living Bread,  
Lift the Savior up for them see;;  
Trust Him and do not doubt the words that He said,  
"I'll draw all men unto Me."

Don't exalt the preacher, don't exalt the pew,  
Preach the gospel simple full and free;  
Prove Him and you will find that promise is true  
"I'll draw all men unto Me."

Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought,  
Let the world in you the Savior see;  
Then all will gladly follow Him who once taught,  
"I'll draw all men unto Me."

**INVOCATION.....Rev. Charles Marie Davis**

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

**CHORAL RESPONSE....."Give Me A Clean Heart"**

*Give me a clean heart, So I may serve Thee.  
Lord fix my heart so that I may be used by Thee.  
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings  
Give me a clean heart and I'll follow Thee.*

**SCRIPTURE READING.....Rev. Sherri Radney**

**LUKE 14:1, 7-14 (NRSV)**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely...When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."...He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

**GREETINGS TO FIRST TIME VISITORS**

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

**SERMONIC SELECTION**.....**Music Ministry**

**SERMON**.....**Rev. Xavier Beasley**  
*Saint John Ministerial Staff*

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

**BENEDICTION**.....**Rev. Xavier Beasley**

*Amen. Amen. Amen*