

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 Order of Worship

September 11, 2022

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 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!

THE HYMN OF CELEBRATION....."AMAZING GRACE"

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

THE PRAYER.....REV. XAVIER BEASLEY

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

THE PRAYER RESPONSE....."GLORY, GLORY, HALLELUJAH!"

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

THE SCRIPTURE READING.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 (NRSV)

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse-- a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them. "For my people are foolish, they do not know me; they are stupid children, they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good." I look on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro. I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled. I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger. For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end. Because of this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above grow black; for I have spoken, I have purposed; I have not relented nor will I turn back.

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.*

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."

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.....Music Ministry

THE MESSAGE.....REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING
The New Pastor of Saint John A. M. E. Church

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

An invitation to accept Jesus as Savior

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.

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Amen.

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