

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



**Worship & Celebration of Holy Communion**

*Sunday, September 4, 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 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....."I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"**

I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
No turning back, no turning back!

Though no one join me, still I will follow,  
Though no one join me, still I will follow,  
Though no one join me, still I will follow,  
No turning back, no turning back!

The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me,  
No turning back, no turning back!

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

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

**THE PRAYER RESPONSE....."Because Of Who You Are"**

Because of who You are, I give You glory  
Because of who You are, I give You praise  
of who You are, I will lift my voice and say

Lord, I worship You because of who You are  
Lord, I worship You because of who You are.

Jehovah Jireh, my provider  
Jehovah Nissi, Lord You reign in victory  
Jehovah Shalom, my Prince of Peace  
Lord, I worship You because of who You are.

**THE SCRIPTURE READING.....Rev. Xavier Beasley**  
**Luke 14:25-33 (NRSV)**

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

**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**.....**Music Ministry**

**THE MESSAGE**.....**REV. CHARLES MARIE DAVIS**

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

*An invitation to accept Jesus as Savior*

**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 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"**

*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.*

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