

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 First Sunday of Advent



Preacher: Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, Supervisor

Ninth Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society

Sermon Title: "Yes, I Do!"

Isaiah 2:1-5 (NRSV)

The Order of Worship

Sunday, November 27, 2022 - 10:00am

Prelude.....Music Ministry

Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessing 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.

Together: 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....."Lead Me, Guide Me"

Lead me, guide me, along the way
For if You lead me I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with Thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need Thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour,
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all of my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Invocation.....Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Pierce

Prayer Response....."Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!"

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!
There's just something about that name!

Master, Savior, Jesus! Like the fragrance after the rain;
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!
Let all heaven and earth proclaim:
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away,
But there's something about that name!

Scripture.....Brother Floyd Collins
Isaiah 2:1-5 (NRSV)

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Preface to the Decalogue (Standing).....Rev. Xavier Beasley

*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.*

Confession and Declaration of Pardon.....Brother Chaz Carter

Leader: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Leader and People:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Creator and Judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and offenses, which we have committed

against Your Divine Majesty by thought, word, and deed. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful; for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us our sins and offenses. And grant that we may ever hereafter, serve and please You in newness of life: To the honor and glory of Your Name; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Declaration of Pardon

Almighty God, our heavenly Father. Who of His great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who turn to Him with true repentance and sincere faith; have mercy upon us. Pardon and deliver us from all our sins. Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**The First Sunday of Advent
(Purple)**



**Candle Lighting: Candle of Hope.....Sister Linda Young,
Brother Nicholas Young & Brother Noah Young**

Today, we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent and light the Purple candle of Hope. We remember that Jesus Christ is our Hope in the time of sorrow; Hope that covers the heartbreak of every tomorrow; Hope that bends close and hears every tear; He doesn't just hear us He is the HOPE that listens to us and answers as He Heals every sorrow.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
-Romans 15:13 NIV*

Pastor's Words

Blessing of the Offertory *(Tithes / Offerings / Benevolent)*

Presentation of the Guest Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling

Sermonic Selection.....Music Ministry

SERMON.....THE REV. SHERITA SEAWRIGHT

Supervisor of the Ninth Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Affirmation of Faith

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 on 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 sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Benediction.....**Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling**
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.