

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 352030

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor



Second Sunday in Advent



The Advent Worship & Celebration of Communion

Sunday, December 04, 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: This is none other than the house of God.

People: **The hour cometh and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship in spirit and in truth.**

Minister: For the Father seeketh such to worship Him.

Together: **Let us worship Him in deed, in spirit, and in truth. Amen.**

THE HYMN.....“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David. come, and open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

THE PRAYER.....Brother Freddie Robinson

THE PRAYER RESPONSE.....” While We Are Waiting, Come”

*While we are waiting come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

*With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

*Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

THE SCRIPTURE READING.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton

Matthew 3:1-12 (NRSV)

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” ...Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins...But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, it is not from these stones that I can raise children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire...” “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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 CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF PARDON.....Sister Terry Beasley

Leader: Let us now examine ourselves before God, humbly confessing our sins and watching our hearts, lest by self-deceit we shut ourselves out from His presence. Let us pray.

Leader and People: *(Printed on screen)*

Oh God our Father, who hast set forth the way of our life for us in thy beloved Son: We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our reluctance to follow Him. Thou hast spoken and called, and we have not given heed, thy beauty hath shown forth, and we have been blind; thou hast stretched out thy hands to us through our fellows, and we have passed by. We have taken great benefits with little thanks; we have been unworthy of thy changeless love.

The Declaration of Pardon *(Printed on paper)*.....**Sister Terry Beasley**

Eternal God who committest to us the swift, the solemn trust of life; since we know not what a day may bring forth, but only that the hour for serving you is always present, may we wake to the instant claim of thy holy will. Lay to rest, by the persuasion of thy Spirit,

the resistance of our passion, indolence, or fear. Consecrate with thy presence the way our feet may go; that the humblest work may shine and the roughest places may be plain. Lift us above unrighteous anger and mistrust into faith and hope and charity by as simple and steadfast reliance on thy sure will. In all things draw us to the mind of Christ, that thy lost image may be traced again in us, and that thou mayest own us as one with him and thee, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (PEACE).....The Music Ministry
"You Are My Peace" by Juanita Bynum



Candle Lighting - Sister Vernice Davis and Sister Gwendolyn Huggins

THE PASTOR'S WORDS & GREETINGS TO VISITORS

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

THE MESSAGE.....REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

An invitation to accept Jesus as Savior

THE 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 COMMUNION ELEVATION....."He Shall Feed His Flock"
(with Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus) arr. Anna Laura Page

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.

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

POSTLUDE....."Ijo Keresimesi"
by Godwin Sadoh