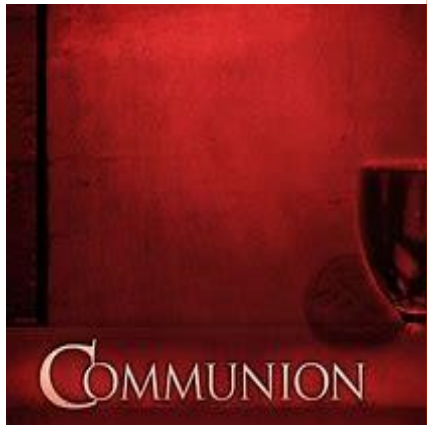


God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our Family



SAINT JOHN

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

708 15th Street North || Birmingham, AL 35203

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor

Sunday, January 1, 2023 – 10:00am

The Worship and Service of Holy Communion

The Prelude.....Music Ministry

The 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.*

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....."Jesus, the Light of the World"

Hark the herald angels sing, Jesus, the light of the world,
Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the light of the world.

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world!

Joyful, all ye nations rise, Jesus the light of the world,
Join the triumph of the skies, Jesus, the light of the world.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Jesus the light of the world,
Christ, the everlasting Lord, Jesus, the light of the world.

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace, Jesus, the light of the world,
Hail, the Son of righteousness, Jesus the light of the world.

The Invocation.....Rev. Xavier Beasley

The Prayer Response:....."Thank You Lord"

*Thank You Lord, Thank You Lord,
Thank You Lord,
I just want to thank You Lord!*

*Been so good, been so good,
Been so good,
I just want to thank You Lord.*

*Made a way, made a way,
Made a way,
I just want to thank You Lord.*

The Scripture.....Brother Kweston Hill

Psalm 8 (ESV)

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Introit to the Decalogue.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton

*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.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton

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, Amen.*

Litany for the Close of the Year.....Sister Tierney Wesley

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: Unto You do we lift up our souls. Your mercy endures forever,
and Your compassions fail not.

Leader: We thank You for all that the closing year brought to us of mercy
and truth. Let not the experiences of our past days be lost upon us.

People: Fix in our minds every lesson of faith and duty which You have
been teaching us. Take from our hearts every veil that would hide
from us the shining of the heavenly light.

Together: Grant unto us, before the record of this year has been finished and
sealed, a fresh consecration and a true desire to live according to
Your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Pastor's Words and Greetings to Visitors

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

The Sermonic Hymn.....**Music Ministry**

The Message.....**Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor**

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Solicitation

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

The Prayer of Consecration

The Elements

The Prayer (*Lord's Prayer or extemporaneous prayer*)

The 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. Amen.*

The Benediction.....Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling

Postlude....."Good Christian Men, Rejoice"
arr. Tedd Smith