

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 15, 2023 – 10:00am



The Order of Worship

The Prelude.....

The Doxology 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.....” This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.

Shine, shine, shine , I'm gonna let it shine.

The Prayer.....Sister Linda Young

Prayer Response.....“Come Ye Disconsolate”

Come, ye disconsolate, where're ye languish.
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel;
Here bring your wounded hearts,
Here tell your anguish:
Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.

The Scripture.....Sister Kionna Hooks

Matthew 5:3-12 (English Standard Version)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Introit 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 Summary of the Decalogue

Hear what Christ our Savior saith, You shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment, and the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend 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, Amen.

The Litany For Martin Luther King Day.....Sister Kierra Giles

Episcopal Litany for Social Justice

Leader: Siblings, God commands us through Jesus Christ to love one another. In baptism, we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves and to strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being. Let us now honor those vows and pray for our nation in this election season, for wise and just leaders, and for the needs of others throughout our country and the world.

Leader: We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world. God of peace and gentleness,

Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our siblings throughout the world; for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and for an end to the cycles of violence that threaten our future. God of generosity and compassion,

Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that it may be an instrument of your healing love. God of outreach and restoration,

Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart. God of eternal life and resurrecting love,

Hear our prayer.

Together: Almighty God, you have promised to hear what we ask in the name of your Son. Watch over our country now and in the days ahead, guide our leaders and all who will vote, guide them in all knowledge and truth and make your ways known among all people. In the passion of debate give them a quiet spirit; in the complexities of the issues give them courageous hearts. Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Musical Selection....."If I Can Help Somebody"

Pastor's Words and Greetings to Visitors

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

The Sermonic Selection.....Music Ministry

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

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

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

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

The Postlude....."We Shall Overcome"

We shall overcome, we shall overcome
We shall overcome someday

[Refrain]

Oh deep in my heart, I do believe
That we shall overcome someday.

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand
We'll walk hand in hand someday (Refrain)

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace
We shall live in peace someday (Refrain)