

*Saint John African Methodist Episcopal Church*

*708 - 15<sup>th</sup> Street North || Birmingham, AL 35203*

*February 05, 2023 - 10am*

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



**Order of Worship & Celebration of Communion**

**The Praise & Worship.....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:**    Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful. Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

**People:**      **Let them praise his Name in the dance; let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp. For the LORD takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory.**

**Minister:**    Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds. Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand; To wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples;

**Together:**    **To bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron; To inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!**

**The Hymn of Celebration....."Holy, Holy, Holy!"**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;  
God In three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy! There is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;  
God In three persons, blessed Trinity!

**The Prayer.....Brother Freddie Robinson**

**The Prayer Response....."I Surrender All"**

*All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give ;  
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.*

*Refrain*

*I surrender all, I surrender all.  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.*

**The Scripture.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton**

Matthew 5:13-20 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that<sup>[a]</sup> they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Please stand for the Contemporary Decalogue (Sister Deborah Harris)**

**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.*

**Contemporary Decalogue.....Sister Deborah Harris**  
*(Read all before singing The Gloria Patri and seating the people)*

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, Celebrations 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 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 Communion Elevation.....There's a Balm in Gilead  
arr. Adolphus Hailstork**

**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

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

**The Postlude.....Great Day  
arr. Robert Powell**