

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, February 19, 2023 - 10:00am

Order of Worship

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.

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!**

Hymn of Celebration....."Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun , moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

Prayer.....Rev. Xavier Beasley

Prayer Response....."We Are Standing On Holy Ground"

*We are standing on Holy Ground,
And I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in His presence on Holy Ground.*

**Scripture.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton
Matthew 17:1-9 (ESV)**

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son,^[a] with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. ⁹And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Introit to the Decalogue (*Standing*).....**Rev. Sherri Radney**

*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 Traditional Decalogue.....**Rev. Sherri Radney**

Hear what Christ our Saviour 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.*

Pastor's Words and Greetings to Visitors

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

Sermonic Selection.....**Music Ministry**

SERMON.....**REV. DR. RONALD D. STERLING**

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

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