

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



PENTECOST

Third Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, June 18, 2023 – 10:00am

The outpouring of the spirit

Remembering the Emanuel Nine!

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 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....."Faith of Our Fathers"

Faith of our fathers! Living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to Thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! Faith and prayer
Have kept our country brave and free;
And through the truth that comes from God
Her children have true liberty.
Faith of our fathers holy faith!
We will be true to Thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! We will strive
To win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God
Mankind shall then be truly free.
Faith of our fathers holy faith!
We will be true to Thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! We will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach thee, too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers holy faith!
We will be true to Thee till death.

Prayer.....Brother Charles Horton

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 heaven cannot heal.

Scripture.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton
Romans 5:1-8 (ESV)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Introit to the Decalogue (*Please stand for the reading of 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*

Summary of the Decalogue.....Rev. Laurel J. Thornton

Hear what Christ our Saviour saith, thou shalt love the Lord thou 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.*

Remembering the Emanuel Nine

Litany.....Sister Doris Hardy
The Doors of the Church Are Still Open - A Litany by Bishop Adam J. Richardson

0Leader: "The doors of the Church are open" is an announcement made at nearly every service. It was regularly spoken at Emanuel Church of Charleston, known to us as the "Mother" of African Methodism in the Deep South. As members of the AME Family, we feel a connection with the Connection, even on Father's Day, and today our proud connection is more keenly felt.

People: O God, "The doors of the Church are still open.

Leader: Hate and Evil - armed and dangerous - came to an intergenerational Bible Study and Prayer Meeting Wednesday night at Mother Emanuel, accompanied by unfathomable horror, leaving a trail of blood and hurt across the African Methodist Connection, Charleston and the world.

People: O God, "the doors of the church are still open," and still we believe that "We sorrow not as those who have no hope." (1 Thessalonians 4:13)

Leader: The "Emanuel Nine" had names - and families, and lives, and careers, and places to go and things to do. They were colleagues, friends and kin: the Honorable Rev. Clementa Pinckney (41), the Rev. Daniel "Super" Simmons (74), the Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton (45), Brother Tywanza Sanders (26), Sister DePayne Middleton Doctor (49), Sister Cynthia Hurd (54), Sister Myra Thompson (59), Sister Ethel Lance (70), and Sister Susie Jackson (87). Then pure evil showed up at Bible Study and turned their lives to past tense, and our lives to turmoil, and made an infamous name for himself.

People: O God, "The doors of the church are still open," and we affirm Your Word that "Perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18)

Leader: Our faith will not be stolen, even by violence as heinous as the assassination of nine innocent people, and the terror that left bodies wounded and souls injured among those who survived the attack.

People: O God, "The doors of the church are still open," and "our faith looks up to Thee" and "will not shrink though pressed by every foe."

Leader: The evil one wanted a race war, instead there came an outpouring of love, sympathy and tears from white people; fervent prayers offered for him by Black people. With shock and anger still wafting in the air, family members amazingly spoke words of forgiveness, and the community sang together and spoke of hope. We have learned at least this much in our walk with God in Christ: "Unmerited suffering is still redemptive."

People: O God, "The doors of the church are still open," and we affirm Word of Christ, "Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:27b)

Leader: While we are called to a heightened sense of vigilance to protect the lives of those who walk through "open doors" to find an open Altar, and to worship and study in peace, we will encourage ourselves in the Word of God, in fellowship, sharing our mutual woes and joys.

People: Holy God, amid so much sorrow and so many questions, we affirm Your Word, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. (2 Cor. 1:3-4) O God, we declare and decree, "The doors of the church are still open!

Pastor's Remarks & 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**