

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

Saint John AME Church

708 15th Street North

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

The Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor || Sister Kim C. Sterling, First Lady

Founder's Day



Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

Sunday, February 11, 2024

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..... Brother Garry Evans

Leader: O God, You *are* my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You;
My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.

People: So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.

Leader: Because Your lovingkindness *is* better than life, My lips shall praise You.

People: Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

Leader: My soul shall be satisfied as with [a]marrow and fatness,

Together: And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

The Hymn of Praise..... "I Will Trust in the Lord"

I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord till I die.
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord till I die.

I'm gonna treat everybody right.....
I'm gonna stay on the battlefield
I'm gonna stay on bended knee.....

The Invocation Brother Freddie Robinson

The Choral Response..... Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

Jimmy Wright

Jesus, Jesus ,Jesus,
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus ,
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!

Savior, Savior, Savior,
Savior, Savior, Savior,
Savior, Savior, Savior,
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!

Healer, healer, healer,
Healer, Healer , Healer,
Healer, Healer, Healer,

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You,
Thank You, Thank You, Thank You,
Thank You, Thank You, Thank You,
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!

FOUNDER'S DAY LITANYBro. Samuel McKissick

Leader On this day, we pause to remember, reflect, reclaim, and recommit. We gather in your holy temple to worship you for your steadfast love and faithfulness to us, your children who bear witness under the banner of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

People **We give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader With thankful hearts, we remember the life, ministry, and vision of the founder of our church, your servant, Bishop Richard Allen, born a slave yet his freedom bought by his will, determination, giftedness, and hard work. His spirit set free years before through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ and God's grace and mercy. *Whom the son sets free is free indeed.*

People **We remember and we give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader While, we make no claim to be the one, true church, the best, or even the greatest, we give you thanks for this African Methodist Episcopal Church, a faithful part of the Church Universal founded by Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. We reflect on the rich legacy, which we have inherited from the leaders and countless dedicated members across the globe who you called to bear witness to your light and love. For the institutions, which they built, the lives, which they changed, the sacrifices, which they made, we are thankful. Reflecting on this heritage, which has been gifted to us, we worship you as the way making and miracle working God who is worthy of our praise and our service.

People **We reflect and give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader Where we have strayed, God return us to the path of righteousness. When we falter, please hear our cries and increase our strength of soul. When we would hesitate, make excuse, or say no to your call, remind us that your call is not dependent on our worthiness but on our willingness. We reclaim the call to live lives worthy of the name, "A liberating and reconciling people."

People **We reclaim our name and give you thanks, O Lord, with our whole hearts.**

Leader God, all you have created you called “good.” Yet sin and evil seek to contaminate and destroy. Haughtiness, greed, and the false belief that the creatures can be the Creator have wreaked havoc in our communities, countries, in creation, and even in the church. We hear these words, “For though the Lord is high, God regards the lowly; but the haughty God perceives from far away.” We also hear your call to us to holiness, both personal and social, that we might be partners with you in justice and peace, not because you need us; but, because you love us and have chosen us.

All **We recommit our whole selves to your purpose, knowing your purpose will be fulfilled. Your steadfast love endures forever. Your name be praised, hallelujah and Amen.**

By Rev. Garland F. Pierce, Executive Director, AMEC Department of Christian Education Inspired by Psalm 138 (Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, Year C)

The Scripture Lesson (s)

Old Testament **Bro. Brandon Cleveland**
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ² “When a person has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot, and it turns into a case of leprous disease on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests, ⁴⁴ he is a leprous man, he is unclean. The priest must pronounce him unclean; his disease is on his head. ⁴⁵ “The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip^[a] and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’ ⁴⁶ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp

New Testament **Brother Frank Roscoe**
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)
Mark 1:40-45

And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” ⁴¹ Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” ⁴² And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies..... **Brother Frank Roscoe**

*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..... Brother Frank Roscoe

Hear what Christ our Savior 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.

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 Blessing of the Offertory (Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent)

All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

The Pastor's Words and Greetings to Visitors

The Hymn of Preparation.....Music Ministry

The Sermon.....Pastor Sterling

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Apostles' Creed

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

The Benediction.....Pastor Sterling