

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



Sunday, March 24, 2024

Palm Sunday

Celebrating 150 Years

“Faithful Through the Ages: Celebrating God’s Grace and Mercy”

The Reverend Dr. Willie E. Marshall, *Guest Preacher*

Presiding Elder of the Ozark-Troy District

Welcome.....Brother Garry Evans

Processional....."O Magnify the Lord"

O magnify the Lord!
For He is worthy to be praised.

O magnify the Lord!
For He is worthy to be praised.

Hosanna!
Blessed be the rock, blessed be the rock of my salvation!

Hosanna!
Blessed be the rock,
Blessed be the rock of my salvation!

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 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 Praise..... “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
The wormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at His feet,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Go spread your trophies at His feet,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all!

The Invocation Brother Freddie Robinson

The Choral Response..... “We are One”

We are one, we are one.
We are one in the Spirit,
We are one.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
We are one in the Spirit,
We are one!

The Scripture Lesson (s)

Old Testament Brother Brandon Cleveland
Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River^[a] to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Gospel Brother Freddie Thomas
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)
Mark 11:1-10

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies..... Brother Freddie Thomas

*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 Freddie Thomas

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

Angels of Jeremiah Praise Dance

The Presentation of the Speaker Sister Gwen Huggins Hardnett

The Hymn of Preparation.....Music Ministry

The Sermon..... Rev. Dr. Willie E. Marshall

Presiding Elder, Ozark-Troy District

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..... Rev. Dr. Willie E. Marshall

Presiding Elder, Ozark-Troy District

Rev. Dr. Willie Eugene Marshall
Guest Preacher



The Reverend Dr. Willie Eugene Marshall is a native of Peterman, Alabama. He was born in Monroeville, Alabama, the birthplace of the movies, "To Kill a Mockingbird," and "Just Mercy." Reverend Marshall is the son of both the late Presiding Elder James Marshall and Mrs. Lucy Ree Watts Marshall. Reverend Marshall is a son, son-in-law and nephew of Presiding Elders Willis Nathaniel Huggins, Sr., and the late Harold Huggins.

He is a 1983 graduate of J.F. Shields High School in Beatrice, Alabama, also the alma mater of the former NBA Superstar, the late John Drew. Dr. Marshall is a 1988 graduate of Troy University in Troy, Alabama with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, and a minor in General Social Services.

Dr. Marshall is a 1993 graduate of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia with a Master of Divinity degree in Christian Education. In 2008 he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree in Leadership Development and Organization Dynamics from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

He is a Licensed Chaplain and Dr. Marshall is also a Motivational Speaker. One of his greatest passions is to encourage others to achieve and to feel good about themselves.

Dr. Marshall is the founder and owner of the Just Staying Positive Virtual Counseling Center, LLC., and the Staying Encouraged Matters, LLC.

He has served as a pastor in the African Methodist Episcopal Church for 33 years both in the State of Alabama and Missouri.

Dr. Marshall was appointed a Presiding Elder in 2020 overseeing the Ozark-Troy District in the Southeast Alabama Annual Conference of the 9th Episcopal District of the AME Church which consist of 28 churches in 7 counties.

He is a published author of two books, Putting My Stuff in the Past, Healing and Reconciliation, and Just Staying Positive: Sermon Outlines and most recently, "I ALMOST GAVE UP: The Struggle Is Real," with Co-Authors Kimberly Marshall and Joshua Marshall.

Dr. Marshall served as a Faculty Doctoral Co-Mentor at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio 2017 - 2020 for the Doctor of Ministry Focus Group, "Leadership Development and Spiritual Transformation for Healing and Reconciliation."

He has served as an Online Adjunct Professor at Jarvis Christian University in Hawkins, Texas, since 2021.

Dr. Marshall is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., a Master Mason, and a member of TA SETI Temple #253, Oasis of Dothan, Desert of Alabama Prince Hall Shrinedom. Reverend Marshall has traveled all over the USA and the world.

For 30 years he has been happily married to Madam Kimberly Renee Huggins Marshall; together they have one awesome son, Master Joshua James Huggins Marshall. Reverend Marshall is a candidate for Episcopal Service in the AME Church. The election will take place July 2024 in Columbus, Ohio.