

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

## Saint John AME Church

708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

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



## Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 21, 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 Connie Tripp**

**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..... Sister Kionna Hooks**

*We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder*

We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,  
Soldiers of the cross.

Ev'ry round goes higher, higher,  
Ev'ry round goes higher, higher,  
Ev'ry round goes higher, higher  
Soldiers of the cross.

Sinner do you love my Jesus?  
Sinner do you love my Jesus?  
Sinner do you love my Jesus?  
Soldiers of the cross.

If you love Him, why not serve Him?  
If you love Him, why not serve Him?  
If you love Him, why not serve Him?  
Soldiers of the cross.

Rise, shine, give God glory,  
Rise, shine, give God glory,  
Rise, shine, give God glory,  
Soldiers of the cross.

**The Invocation ..... Rev. Laurel Thornton**

**The Choral Response..... “Jesus Is The Answer”**

Jesus is the answer  
For the world today.  
Above Him there’s no other,  
Jesus is the way.

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For the world today.  
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**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

**Gospel ..... Sister London Davis**

*(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)*

**Matthew 19:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, <sup>14</sup> but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” <sup>15</sup> And he laid his hands on them and went away.

**Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies ..... Sister London Davis**

*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 ..... Sister London Davis**

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 ..... Sister London Davis**

*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.*

**Special Solo..... Sister Michaiah Wesley**

**Ministry of Stewardship** (Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent) .....**Sister Christine Dillard**  
*All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.*

**The Pastor’s Words and Greetings to Visitors** .....**Pastor Sterling**

**Moments of Reflection** .....**Sister Evelyn Beasley**

**Ministry of Dance** .....**Angels of Jeremiah**

**Introduction of the Speaker**.....**Sister Nieshel Fall**  
*St. Paul AME Church, Smithfield*

**The Worship through Music**.....**Youth Music Ministry**

**The Speaker**..... **Sister Rosemary Range**  
*St. Paul AME Church, Smithfield*

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship** .....**Rev. Laurel Thornton**

**The Apostles’ Creed** .....**Rev. Laurel Thornton**

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**

**Spirit of the Living God**

Spirit of the living God,  
Fall fresh on me,  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall fresh on me.

**Missionary Benedction** .....**”In the Name of the Triune God”**

In the name of the Triune God,  
May the spirit of Christian missions enter every heart.  
May the spirit of Christian missions enter every heart.  
This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**BLESSING OF THE FOOD**