

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

## Holy Communion



### Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Order of Worship

July 7, 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..... 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 Celebration..... "I Am on the Battlefield for My Lord"**

Refrain

*I am on the battlefield for my Lord,  
I am on the battlefield for my Lord;  
And I promised Him that I  
Would serve Him till I die,  
I'm on the battlefield for my Lord.*

I was alone and idle,  
I was a sinner, too;  
I heard a voice from heaven  
Say there is work to do.  
I took my Master's hand,  
And I joined the Christian band;  
I'm on the battlefield for my Lord.

I left my friends and kindred,  
Bound for the Promised Land,  
The grace of God upon me,  
The Bible in my hand.  
In distant lands I trod,  
Crying sinner come to God;

I'm on the battlefield for my Lord.

Now when I met my Savior,  
I met Him with a smile;  
He healed my wounded spirit,  
And owned me as His child.  
Around the throne of grace,  
He appoints my soul a place;  
I'm on the battlefield for my Lord.

**The Invocation ..... Bro. Freddie Robinson**

**The Choral Response....."Sweet Hour of Prayer"**

Sweet hour of prayer!  
Sweet hour of prayer!  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known;  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
My soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

**The Scripture Lesson**

**Old Testament..... Rev. Laurel J. Thornton**  
**Ezekiel 2:1-5**

And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you." <sup>2</sup> And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup> The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' <sup>5</sup> And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.

**New Testament..... Sister Pauline Ford**  
**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**Gospel..... Dr. Cheryl Cephus-Vickers**  
**Mark 6:1-6**

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup> And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? <sup>3</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." <sup>5</sup> And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup> And he marveled because of their unbelief.

**Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies..... Dr. Cheryl Cephus-Vickers**

*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 Decalogue (Contemporary) ..... Dr. Cheryl Cephus-Vickers**

**Minister:** Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** Honor your father and your mother.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** You shall not commit murder.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** You shall not commit adultery.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** You shall not steal.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** You shall not be a false witness.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.  
People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.

**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 Message..... Pastor Sterling**

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

**The Communion Hymn.....”Let Us Break Bread Together”**

Let us break bread together on our knees;  
Let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;  
Let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

**The Solicitation .....Pastor Sterling**

**The General Confession**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Your divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake; forgive us all that is past and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**The First Collect**

**The Second Collect**

**The Prayer of Adoration**

**The Prayer of Humiliation**

**The Prayer of Consecration**

**The Elements**

**The Prayer**

**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**