

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

## Saint John AME Church

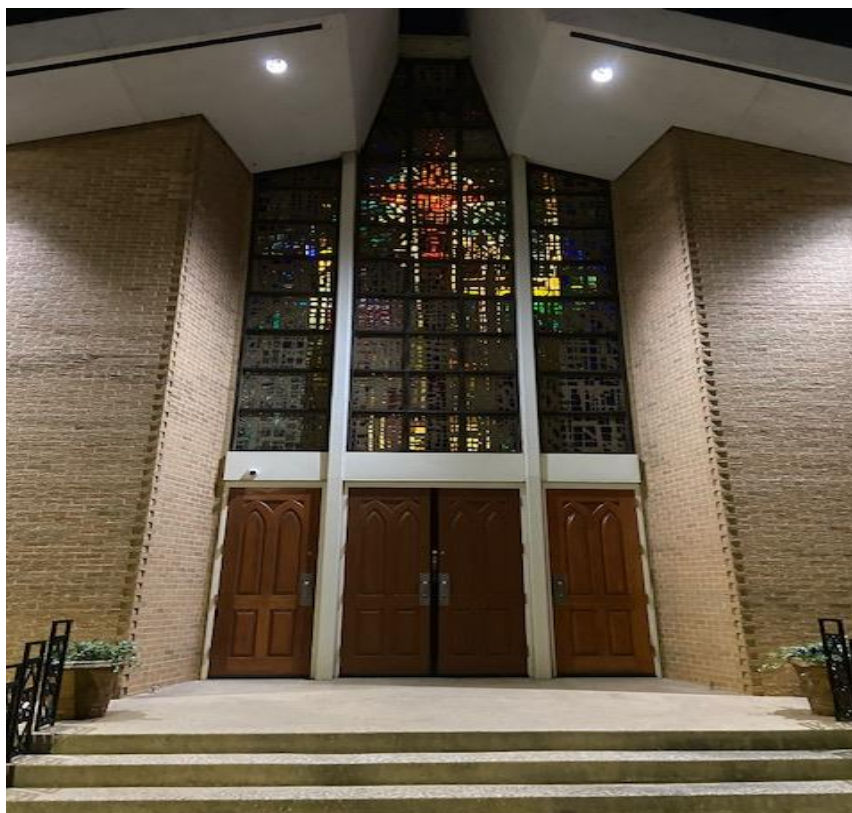
708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

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

### Mission

Saint John's mission is to "love God and love others" by ministering to the social, spiritual, and physical development of all people.



### Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 8, 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 Praise..... "How to Reach the Masses"**

How to reach the masses, men of every birth,  
For an answer, Jesus gave the key:  
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me."

Refrain  
Lift Him up, lift Him up,  
Still He speaks from eternity:  
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, I'll draw all men unto Me."

Oh the world is hungry for the Living Bread,  
Lift the Savior up for them to see;  
Trust Him, and do not doubt the words that He said, "I'll draw all men unto Me."

Don't exalt the preacher, don't exalt the pew,  
Preach the Gospel, simple, full and free;  
Prove Him and you will find that promise is true, "I'll draw all men unto Me."

Lift Him up by living as a Christian ought,  
Let the world in you the Savior see;  
Then men will gladly follow Him who once taught,  
"I'll draw all men unto Me."

**The Invocation ..... Brother Brandon Cleveland**

**The Choral Response....."He is Lord"**

He is Lord, He is Lord,  
He is risen from the dead  
And He is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

**The Prayer of Confession**

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

**Old Testament ..... Sister Gwen Huggins**

**Isaiah 35:4-7a**

Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

**New Testament..... Brother Brian Ransom**

**James 2:1-10**

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. <sup>2</sup>For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? <sup>8</sup>If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it

**Gospel ..... Brother Jeff Brooks**

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

**Mark 7:31-37**

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

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

*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**

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.*

**Ministry of Stewardship** (Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent)

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

**Announcements and Acknowledgements ..... Pastor Sterling**

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

**The Message..... 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**

**Benediction**