

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

Mission

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



Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

The Praise & Worship.....Music Ministry

The Doxology

AMEC Hymn No. 647 [Tune: Old 100]

*Praise God, from whom all blessings 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 Eron Collins

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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.**

Leader: 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....."There Is A Name I Love To Hear
(O How I Love Jesus)"**

There is a name I love to hear;
I love to sing it it's worth;
It sounds like music in my ear
The sweetest name on earth.

Refrain

O how I love Jesus!
O how I love Jesus!
O how I love Jesus!
Because He first loved me.

It tells me of a Savior's love,
Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood
The sinners perfect plea.

Jesus! The name I love so well,
The name I love to hear;
No saints on earth it's
worth can tell
No heart conceive how dear.

The Invocation.....Sister Brooklyn Ford

The Choral Response.....The Children and Youth Choir

HOPE: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

By: Reverend Dr. Adunnola Waterman

Led by: Sisters Megan Spears and Reagan Sims

LEADER: The Advent season is a time of preparation, reflection, expectation, and waiting. The Sunday of Hope reminds us that we wait in hope for the Lord. Our hope is in the grace Jesus Christ brings us. "May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you." [Psalm 33:22]

RESPONSE: Lord, you are the hope of the world; our hope is in you.

LEADER: Hope sustains us in a world filled with disappointments and despair. To you, O Lord, we lift up our soul. In you, we put our hope; do not let us be put to shame. Hope of the world, show us the way of love, justice, and reconciliation.

RESPONSE: Lord, you are the Hope of the world; our hope is in you.

LEADER: Lord, as we prepare for your unexpected return, may our lives overflow with hope in you as we walk in our waiting. May we walk in your light, for you are the light of the world. Live in us and enable us to live in the way that inspires others to walk with you.

Light one purple candle.

ALL: We light a candle of hope today, praying that you fill our hearts with your light. We pray that the presence of the Holy Spirit will transform us so that both our worship and our time of preparation will please you in all things, both now and always, Amen.

The Scripture Lesson (s)

Old TestamentBrother Charleston Collins

"This is the Word of the Lord."

New Testament.....Sister Savannah Collins

"The Word of God for the people of God."

GospelSister Selah Carter
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)

"May the Lord bless the hearers and doers of His Word."

The Preface to the Decalogue

AMEC 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 Decalogue (Summary)

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, 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.....The Children and Youth Choir

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

Doxology (Contemporary)