

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

## Saint John AME Church

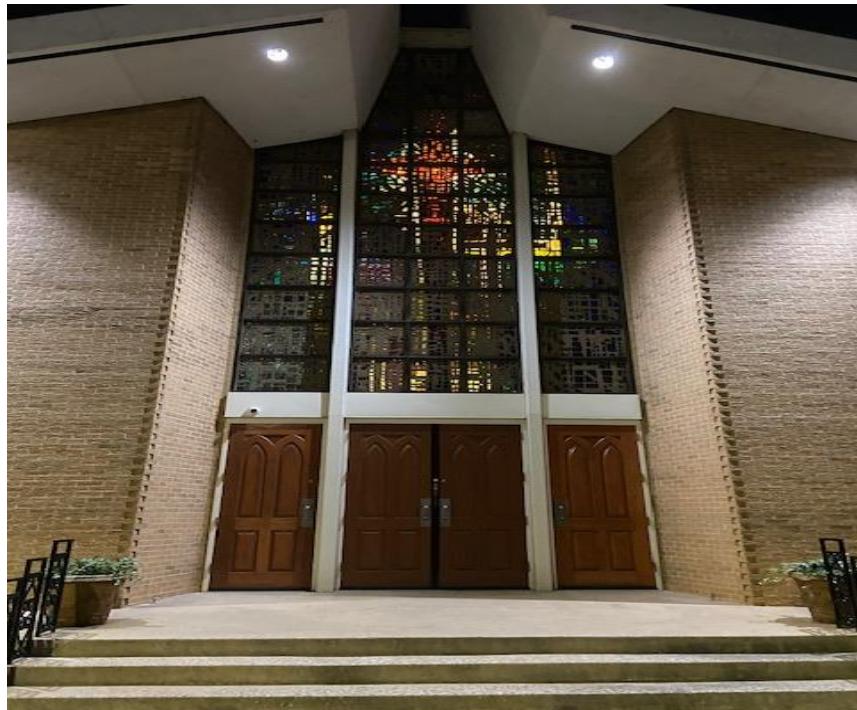
708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North

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.



**Sunday, January 18, 2026**

### Order of Worship

**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.....Pastor Sterling**

**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...."We Are Often Tossed and Driven (By and By)"**

We are often tossed and driven on the restless sea of time;  
Somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine;  
In that land of perfect day, when the mists are rolled away,  
We will understand it better by and by.

### **Refrain**

By and by, when the morning comes,  
When all the saints of God are gathered home,  
We'll tell the story how we've overcome,  
For we'll understand it better by and by.

We are often destitute of the things that life demands,  
Want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands;  
We are trusting in the Lord, and according to God's word,  
We will understand it better by and by.

Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand  
All the ways that God would lead us to that blessed promised land;  
But He guides us with His eye,  
And we'll follow till we die,  
For we'll understand it better by and by.

Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares,  
And our hearts are made to bleed for a thoughtless word or deed;  
And we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,  
But we'll understand it better by and by.

## **The Invocation**

**The Choral Response..... The Saint John AME Mass Choir**

## The Scripture Lesson (s)

Old Testament ..... Sister Jowanna Long  
**Isaiah 49:1-7**

49 Listen to me, O coastlands,  
and give attention, you peoples from afar.

The Lord called me from the womb,  
from the body of my mother he named my name.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my right is with the Lord,  
and my recompense with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says,  
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him;  
and that Israel might be gathered to him—  
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—

<sup>6</sup> he says:  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;  
I will make you as a light for the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,  
the servant of rulers:

"Kings shall see and arise;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

**"This is the Word of the Lord."**

**New Testament.....Sister Brittany Ford**  
**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**Gospel .....Sister Doris Hardy**  
**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**  
**John 1:29-42**

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Jesus turned and

saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). <sup>42</sup> He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

**"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, Acknowledgements and Visitors**

**The Worship through Music.....** **The Saint John AME Mass 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)**

### **Benediction**