

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

## Saint John AME Church

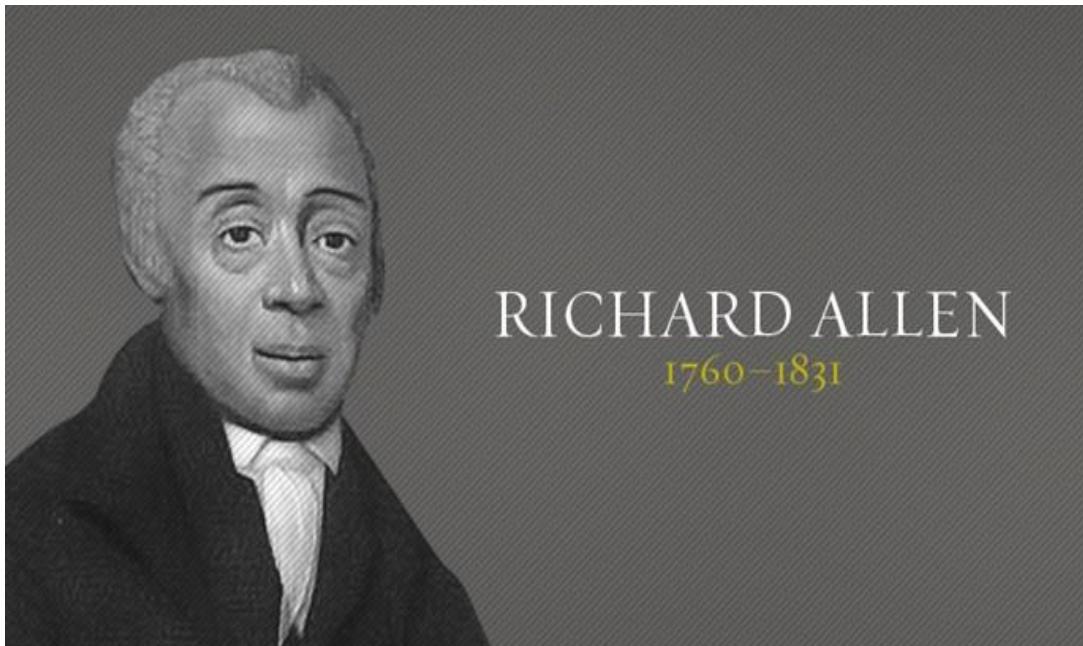
708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North

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, February 8, 2026**

### Founder's Day

**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.....“I Once Was Lost In Sin  
(Have A Little Talk With Jesus)”**

I once was lost and sin,  
But Jesus took me in,  
And then a little light from heaven filled my soul;  
It bathed my heart in love, and wrote my name above,  
And just a little talk with Jesus, made me whole.

### Refrain

(Now let us)

Have a little talk with Jesus, (let us)  
Tell him all about our troubles (He will)  
Hear our faintest cry, (and He will)  
Answer by and by; (Now when you)  
Feel a little prayer wheel turning, (And you)  
Know a little fire is burning (You will)  
Find a little talk with Jesus makes it right.

Sometimes my path seems drear, without a ray of cheer,  
And then a cloud of doubt may hide the light of day;  
The mists of sin may rise and hide the starry skies,  
But just a little talk with Jesus clears the way.

I may have doubts and fears, my eyes be filled with tears,  
But Jesus is a friend who watches day and night;  
I go to him in prayer, He knows my every care,  
And just a little talk with Jesus makes it right.

### The Invocation

**The Choral Response.....The Young Adult Choir**

### A Founder's Day Litany *by Bishop John H. Adams*

**Leader:** It is with grateful hearts that we give thanks to God for the gifts of empowerment, liberation, and community in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** **The Lord's name be praised, hallelujah.**

**Leader:** For the apostles, martyrs, and heroes of the faith.

**People:** **The Lord's name be praised, hallelujah.**

**Leader:** For the ecumenical Christian community to which all Christians belong, sharing common origin and destiny despite our diversity in worship, polity, and theology.

**People:** **The Lord's name be praised, hallelujah.**

**Leader:** For the new insights and fresh fervor brought by the reformers and prophets in our history.

**People:** **The Lord's name be praised, hallelujah.**

**Leader:** For the African Methodist Episcopal Church and its unique place and special contribution to the church and community.

**People:** **The Lord's name be praised, hallelujah.**

**Leader:** For the experience of two centuries of liberation struggles and reconciliation gifts, and for the prospect and promise of a third century.

**People:** **The Lord's name be praised, hallelujah.**

**Leader:** For the unique prophet, apostle of freedom, and model of ebony excellence, whose blessed name is Richard Allen.

**People:** **The Lord's name be praised, hallelujah.**

**Leader:** For the beloved of our history and their special emphases: Daniel Payne, Paul Quinn, Henry McNeil Turner, John R. Hawkins, Lucy Hughes, and all the bishops and leaders of our church.

**People:** **The Lord's name be praised, hallelujah.**

## The Scripture Lesson (s)

**Old Testament .....****Sister Terry Beasley**  
**Psalm 112:1-10**

### **112 Praise the LORD!**

Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,  
who greatly delights in his commandments!

**2** His offspring will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

**3** Wealth and riches are in his house,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

**4** Light dawns in the darkness for the upright;  
he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

**5** It is well with the man who deals generously and lends;  
who conducts his affairs with justice.

**6** For the righteous will never be moved;  
he will be remembered forever.

**7** He is not afraid of bad news;  
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.

**8** His heart is steady; he will not be afraid,  
until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.

**9** He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever;  
his horn is exalted in honor.

**10** The wicked man sees it and is angry;  
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;  
the desire of the wicked will perish!

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

**New Testament.....Dr. June Payne**  
**1 Corinthians 2:1-4**

**2** And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. **2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **3** And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, **4** and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

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

**Gospel .....****Brother Brandon Cleveland**  
**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**  
**Matthew 5:13-20**

**13** "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

**14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**17** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. **19** Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**"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

**Black History Month Presentation: "Over 160 Years Free".....**  
Theatre Production Ministry

**The Worship through Music.....The Young Adult 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**