

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, March 29, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Lent

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 Montell Washington

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.....“Time Is Filled With Swift Transition (Hold To God’s Unchanging Hand)”

Time is filled with swift transition,
Naught of earth unmoved can stand,
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

Refrain

Hold to His hand, God’s unchanging hand;
Hold to His hand, God’s unchanging hand;
Build your hopes on things eternal;
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

Trust in Him who will not leave you,
Whatsoever years may bring;
If by earthly friends forsaken,
Still more closely to Him cling.

Covet not this world’s vain riches,
That so rapidly decay;
Seek to gain the heavenly treasures:
They will never pass away.

When your journey is completed,
If to God, you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in glory
Your enraptured soul will view.

The Invocation

The Choral Response.....Saint John AME Church Choir

The Scripture Lesson (s)

**Old TestamentBrother Soren Powell
Isaiah 50:4-9 (Easy-to-Read Version)**

⁴ The Lord GOD gave me the ability to teach, so now I teach these sad people. Every morning he wakes me and teaches me like a student. ⁵ The Lord GOD helps me learn, and I have not turned against him. I will not stop following him. ⁶ I will let those people beat me and pull the hair from my beard. I will not hide my face when they say bad things to me and spit at me. ⁷ The Lord GOD will help me, so the bad things they say will not hurt me. I will be strong. I know I will not be disappointed.

⁸ God is with me, and he is the one who shows that I am innocent. So no one can say I am guilty. If anyone wants to try to prove me wrong, they should come here, and we will have a trial. ⁹ But look, the Lord GOD helps me, so no one can prove me guilty. As for them, they will all be like worthless old clothes, eaten by moths.

"This is the Word of the Lord."

**New Testament.....Sister Mena Grace Wright
Philippians 2:5-11 (Easy-to-Read Version)**

⁵ In your life together, think the way Christ Jesus thought.

⁶ He was like God in every way,
but he did not think that his being equal with God was something to use for his own benefit.

⁷ Instead, he gave up everything, even his place with God.
He accepted the role of a servant, appearing in human form.
During his life as a man,

⁸ he humbled himself by being fully obedient to God,
even when that caused his death—death on a cross.

⁹ So God raised him up to the most important place
and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.

¹⁰ God did this so that every person will bow down to honor the name of Jesus.

Everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will bow.

¹¹ They will all confess, "Jesus Christ is Lord,"
and this will bring glory to God the Father.

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

GospelBrother Micah Eli Wright
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)
Matthew 21:1-11 (Easy-to-Read Version)

21 Jesus and his followers were coming closer to Jerusalem. But first they stopped at Bethphage at the hill called the Mount of Olives. From there Jesus sent two of his followers into town. ² He said to them, "Go to the town you can see there. When you enter it, you will find a donkey with her colt. Untie them both, and bring them to me. ³ If anyone asks you why you are taking the donkeys, tell them, "The Master needs them. He will send them back soon."

⁴ This showed the full meaning of what the prophet said:

⁵ "Tell the people of Zion,
 'Now your king is coming to you.
He is humble and riding on a donkey.
 He is riding on a young donkey, born from a work animal.'"

⁶ The followers went and did what Jesus told them to do. ⁷ They brought the mother donkey and the young donkey to him. They covered the donkeys with their coats, and Jesus sat on them. ⁸ On the way to Jerusalem, many people spread their coats on the road for Jesus. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ Some of the people were walking ahead of Jesus. Others were walking behind him. They all shouted,

 "Praise to the Son of David!
 'Welcome! God bless the one who comes in the name of the
Lord!
 Praise to God in heaven!"

¹⁰ Then Jesus went into Jerusalem. All the people in the city were confused. They asked, "Who is this man?"

¹¹ The crowds following Jesus answered, "This is Jesus. He is the prophet from the town of Nazareth in Galilee."

"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..... Saint John AME Church 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