

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, May 3, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**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 Brandon Cleveland**

**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...“Oh, To See The Dawn (The Power of the Cross)”

1. Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day;  
Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
nailed to a cross of wood.

### Refrain 1

This the pow’r of the cross:  
Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath;  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

2. Oh, to see the pain written on Your face,  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
Ev’ry bitter thought, ev’ry evil deed  
Crowning Your blood stained brow.
3. Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two, Dead are raised to life  
“Finished!” The victory cry.
4. Oh, to see my name written in the wounds,  
For through Your suffering I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, Life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love!

### Refrain 2

This the pow’r of the cross:  
Son of God slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost!  
We stand forgiven at the cross.

**The Invocation**

**The Choral Response.....“I Need Thee Every Hour”**

I need Thee every hour,  
Most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine  
Can peace afford.

**Refrain**

I need Thee, O I need Thee,  
Every hour I need Thee;  
O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to Thee!

**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

**Old Testament .....Sister Yolanda Carter**

**Psalm 31:1-5**

**31** In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me!  
**2** Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily!  
Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me!  
**3** For you are my rock and my fortress;  
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;  
**4** you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.  
**5** Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

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

**New Testament.....Sister Anne Michel**  
**Acts 7:55-60**

<sup>55</sup> But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. <sup>58</sup> Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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

**Gospel .....Dr. June Payne**  
**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**  
**John 14:1-14**

**14** "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the

Father. <sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

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

**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 (Contemporary).....Brother Shaun Barnes**

Minister: Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

**People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: Honor your father and your mother.

**People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not commit murder.

**People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not commit adultery.

**People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not steal.

**People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not be a false witness.

**People: Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.  
People: **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**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)  
.....**Brother Brandon Cleveland**

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

**Announcements, Acknowledgements and Visitors**  
.....**Brother Shaun Barnes**

**The Worship through Music.....The Saint John AME Church Mass Choir**

**The Message.....Pastor Sterling**

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

**The Communion Hymn.....“There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood”**

**Communion Elevation.....“Ore Ofe Jesu”**  
*by Godwin Sadoh*

**The Solicitation**

**The General Confession**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Your divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake; forgive us all that is past and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**The First Collect**

**The Second Collect**

**The Prayer of Adoration**

**The Prayer of Humiliation**

**The Prayer of Consecration**

**The Elements**

**The Prayer**

**Postlude.....“March Magifique”**  
*by Mark Williams*

**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..... Pastor Sterling**