

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, June 7, 2026**

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**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....."Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee.  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;  
God in three persons, Blessed Trinity!

**The Invocation**

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

**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

**Old Testament .....Sister Evelyn Beasley  
Genesis 12:1-9**

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. <sup>9</sup> And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

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

**New Testament.....Dr. Patricia A. Outlaw**

**Romans 4:13-25**

<sup>13</sup> For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup> That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup> But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

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

**Gospel .....Dr. Joel Bjornstad**

**(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)**

**Matthew 9:18-26**

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” <sup>19</sup> And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup> And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, <sup>21</sup> for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. <sup>23</sup> And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd

making a commotion,<sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.<sup>25</sup> But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.<sup>26</sup> And the report of this went through all that district.

**"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)**

**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)

*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 Church Mass Choir**

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

**The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

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

**Communion Elevation.....“As the Deer“**  
*(arr. Anna Laura Page)*

**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**.....**“African Marche”**  
*by: Godwin Sadoh*

**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**