

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

Saint John AME Church

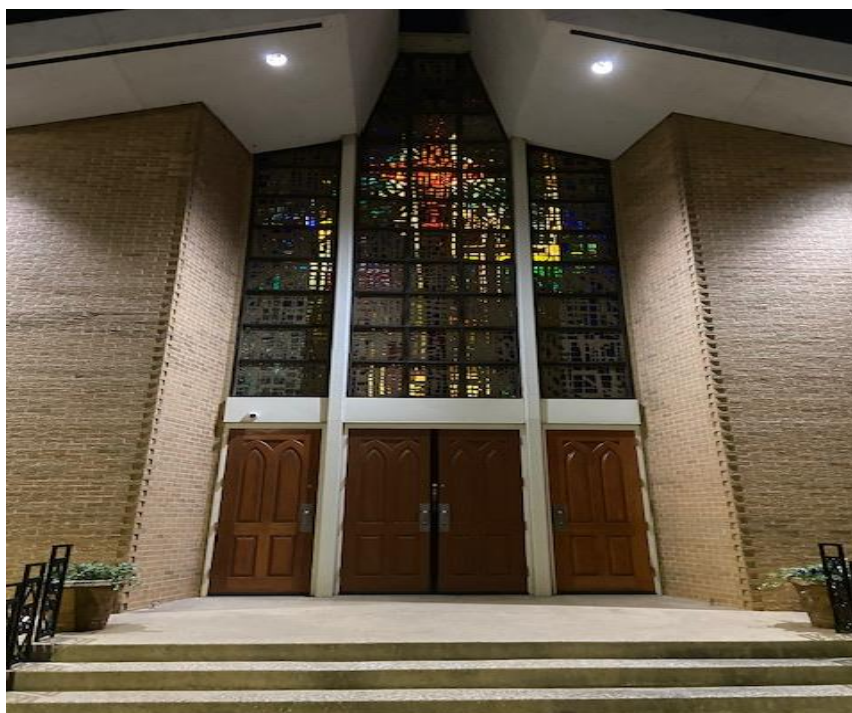
708 15th Street North

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, August 30, 2026

Fourteenth 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....."Lift Him Up (How To Reach The Masses)"

How to reach the masses,
men of every birth
For an answer Jesus gave the key;
"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth,
I'll draw all men unto Me."

Refrain

Lift Him up, lift Him up,
Still He speaks from eternity;
“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, I’ll draw all men unto Me.”

Oh! the world is hungry,
for the Living Bread,
Lift the Savior up for them to see.
Trust Him and do not doubt the words that He said,
“I’ll draw all men unto Me.”

Don’t exalt the preacher,
don’t exalt the pew.
Preach the gospel, simple, full and free.
Prove Him and you will find that promise is true
“I’ll draw all men unto me.”

Lift Him up by living
as a Christian ought.
Let the world in you the Savior see.
Then men will gladly follow Him who once taught,
“I’ll draw all men all men unto me.”

The Invocation.....Brother Micah Eli Wright

The Choral Response.....“Lord Prepare Me”

Lord prepare, me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true .

And with thanksgiving,
I’ll be a living, sanctuary for You.

The Scripture Lesson(s) – Easy-to-Read Version

Old TestamentBrother Soren Powell

Psalms 105:1-6

- 105 Give thanks to the Lord and call out to him!
Tell the nations what he has done!
- ² Sing to him; sing praises to him.
Tell about the amazing things he has done.
- ³ Be proud of his holy name.
You followers of the Lord, be happy!
- ⁴ Depend on the Lord for strength.
Always go to him for help.
- ⁵ Remember the amazing things he has done.
Remember his miracles and his fair decisions.
- ⁶ You belong to the family of his servant Abraham.
You are descendants of Jacob, the people God chose.

"This is the Word of the Lord."

New Testament.....Sister Brooklyn Ford

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Your love must be real. Hate what is evil. Do only what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other in a way that makes you feel close like brothers and sisters. And give each other more honor than you give yourself. ¹¹ As you serve the Lord, work hard and don't be lazy. Be excited about serving him! ¹² Be happy because of the hope you have. Be patient when you have troubles. Pray all the time. ¹³ Share with God's people who need help. Look for people who need help and welcome them into your homes.

¹⁴ Wish only good for those who treat you badly. Ask God to bless them, not curse them. ¹⁵ When others are happy, you should be happy with them. And when others are sad, you should be sad too. ¹⁶ Live together in peace with each other. Don't be proud, but be willing to be friends with people who are not important to others. Don't think of yourself as smarter than everyone else.

¹⁷ If someone does you wrong, don't try to pay them back by hurting them. Try to do what everyone thinks is right. ¹⁸ Do the best you can to live in peace

with everyone. ¹⁹ My friends, don't try to punish anyone who does wrong to you. Wait for God to punish them with his anger. In the Scriptures the Lord says,

"I am the one who punishes;
I will pay people back."

²⁰ But you should do this:

"If you have enemies who are hungry,
give them something to eat.

If you have enemies who are thirsty,
give them something to drink.

In doing this you will make them feel ashamed."

²¹ Don't let evil defeat you, but defeat evil by doing good.

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

Gospel Sister Dahlia Durant
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)
Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time Jesus began telling his followers that he must go to Jerusalem. He explained that the older Jewish leaders, the leading priests, and the teachers of the law would make him suffer many things. And he told his followers that he must be killed. Then, on the third day, he would be raised from death.

²² Peter took Jesus away from the other followers to talk to him alone. He began to criticize him. He said, "God save you from those sufferings, Lord! That will never happen to you!"

²³ Then Jesus said to Peter, "Get away from me, Satan! You are not helping me! You don't care about the same things God does. You care only about things that people think are important."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his followers, "If any of you want to be my follower, you must stop thinking about yourself and what you want. You must be willing to carry the cross that is given to you for following me. ²⁵ Any of you who try to save the life you have will lose it. But you who give up your life for me will find true life. ²⁶ It is worth nothing for you to have the whole world if you yourself are lost. You could never pay enough to buy back your life. ²⁷ The Son of Man will come again with his Father's glory and with his angels. And he will reward everyone for what they have done. ²⁸ Believe me when I say that

there are some people standing here who will see the Son of Man coming with his kingdom before they die.”

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

The Preface to the Decalogue Bro. Brandon Cleveland

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

Announcements & Acknowledgement of Visitors..... Bro. Brandon Cleveland

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..... Pastor Sterling