

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, September 13, 2026

Theme: R.I.S.E. (Realize Impactful Spiritual Elevation)

Theme Scripture: Philippians 3:12—14

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.....Sis. Valencia King

Leader: From Philadelphia to Johannesburg, from Kingston to Nairobi, the sons and daughters of Allen have gathered in the house of the Lord.

People: **One RAYAC. One Church. One God who is calling us higher**

Leader: The apostle Paul told the truth about himself: "Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me."

People: **We are not finished yet. We rise to REALIZE all that God has put in us.**

Leader: And what we do here is not for us alone. Somebody's neighborhood, somebody's classroom, somebody's city is waiting on us to rise.

People: **We rise to be IMPACTFUL wherever God has planted us.**

Leader: Hear him again: "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead."

People: **We rise in SPIRITUAL strength. What is behind us will not hold us.**

Leader: "I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

People: **We rise in ELEVATION, for the call of God is a heavenly call.**

Leader: They pulled Richard Allen from his knees, and God stood him on his feet. A church was born because he would not stay down.

People: **We are the heirs of that rising, and we press on still.**

Leader: So come, young adults of the church. Come, everybody. This is the day that the Lord has made!

All: **We will rejoice and be glad in it. We press. We reach. We RISE. Amen!**

The Hymn of Praise.....“How Great Is Our God”

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty
Let all the Earth rejoice
All the Earth rejoice
He wraps himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
Trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end
The Godhead Three in One
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God

Name above all names
Worthy of our praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

The Invocation.....Sis. Brittany Ford

The Choral Response.....“No Weapon”

No weapon
Formed against me
Shall prosper, it won't work

The Scripture Lesson(s)

Old TestamentSis. Ziah Gaylor
Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

"This is the Word of the Lord."

New Testament.....Sis. Katricia Cleveland
Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gospel.....Bro. Kweston Hill
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)
Matthew 18:15-20

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

"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

Installation of Local RAYAC Officers.....Pastor Sterling

Valencia King, RAYAC Advisor:

Pastor, I present these persons who have been selected to serve as officers of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council of Saint John AME Church.

Brittany Ford, President

Nicholas Young, Vice President

Ziah Gaylor, Secretary

Megan Spears, Treasurer

Kionna Hooks, Parliamentarian

Scriptures

Pastor Sterling:

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

—1 Timothy 4:12, ESV

“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

—Romans 12:6–8, ESV

Charge

Pastor Sterling:

You have been called to provide Christian leadership among the young adults of this congregation. Seek God’s guidance through prayer and Scripture. Lead with integrity, humility, and love. Work together in Christian unity, encourage the gifts of others, and remain faithful to the mission of this congregation and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Commitment of the Officers

Pastor Sterling:

Will you faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of your office and use your gifts to strengthen the ministry of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council?

Officers:

We will, the Lord being our helper.

Pastor Sterling:

Will you support one another, serve with humility, and seek to honor Christ through your leadership?

Officers:

We will, by the grace of God.

Congregational Commitment

Pastor Sterling:

Will this congregation pray for, encourage, and support these officers as they serve?

Congregation:

We will, with God's help.

Declaration of Installation

Pastor Sterling:

Having been selected to serve and having accepted these responsibilities before God and this congregation, I now declare you duly installed as officers of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council of Saint John AME Church.

Serve faithfully in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Pastor Sterling:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, consecrate these officers for the work entrusted to them. Give them wisdom, humility, unity, and courage. May their leadership strengthen our young adults, build up this congregation, and extend the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed. Keep them faithful in service and joyful in hope.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Pastor Sterling:

Members of Saint John AME Church, I present your newly installed RAYAC officers.

Congregation:

Thanks be to God!

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

