

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 6, 2026

Fifteenth 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....."We Are Often Tossed and Driven
(We'll Understand It Better By and By)"**

We are often tossed and driven
On the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine,
In that land of perfect day,
When the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain

By and by, when the morning comes
All the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell the story how we've overcome,
For we'll understand it better by & by.

We are often destitute of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills, and barren lands,
We are trusting in the Lord, and according to His word,
We will understand it better by and by.

Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand,
All the ways that God would lead us to that blessed Promised Land,
But He guides us with His eye and we'll follow till we die,
For we'll understand it better by and by.

Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed for a thoughtless word or deed,
And we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by & by.

The Invocation

**The Choral Response.....“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
(There's Something About That Name)**

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
There's something about that name.
Master, Savior, Jesus,
Like the fragrance after the rain.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
Let all heaven and earth proclaim,
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away,
But there's something about that name.

The Scripture Lesson (s)

Old TestamentSis. Evelyn Beasley

Psalm 149

149 Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the godly!

² Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

³ Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

⁴ For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with salvation.

⁵ Let the godly exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their beds.

⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their throats

and two-edged swords in their hands,

⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations

and punishments on the peoples,

⁸ to bind their kings with chains

and their nobles with fetters of iron,

⁹ to execute on them the judgment written!

This is honor for all his godly ones.

Praise the LORD!

"This is the Word of the Lord."

New Testament.....Rev. Xavier Beasley

Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For 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." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides 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. ¹² The 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. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But 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."

GospelSis. Shirley Bailey

(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."

AMEC Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the SkiesBro. Shaun Barnes

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)**Bro. Shaun Barnes**

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

Announcements, Acknowledgements and Visitors.....**Bro. Brandon Cleveland**

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.....“Jesus, Keep me Near the Cross”
(arr. Robert Powell)

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.....“Verso in E Minor”
by: Domenico Zipoli

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