

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, October 18, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

The Praise & Worship..... The 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....."I Once Was Lost in Sin
(Just A Little Talk with Jesus)"**

I once was lost in sin,
But Jesus took me in,
And then a little light from heaven filled my soul;
It bathed my heart in love,
And wrote my name above,
And just a little talk of Jesus made me whole.

Refrain
(Now let us)
Have a little talk with Jesus, (Let us)
Tell Him all about our trouble, (He will)
Hear our faintest cry,
(And He will)
Answer by and by,
(Now when you)
Feel a little prayer wheel turning, (and you)
Know a little fire is burning (you will)
Find a little talk with Jesus makes it right.

Sometimes my path seems drear,
Without a ray of cheer,
And then a cloud of doubt may hide the light of day;
The mists of sin may rise and hide the starry skies,
But just a little talk with Jesus clears the way.

I may have doubts and fears,
My eyes be filled with tears,
But Jesus is a friend who watches day and night;
I go to Him in prayer,
He knows my every care,
And just a little talk with Jesus, makes it right.

The Invocation.....Bro. Jeff Brooks

The Choral Response.....“He Is Lord”

He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord!

The Scripture Lesson(s)

Old Testament Sis. Larntenia Armstrong
Isaiah 40:28-31

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

30 Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

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

New Testament.....Sis. Dawn Thomas
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

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

Gospel Sis. Sandra Faye Spidell
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)
Matthew 11:25-29

²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the

Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

"This is the Word of the Lord."

Litany for Breast Cancer Awareness.....Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Outlaw

Leader: Gracious God, we come before you with hearts full of compassion and hope, lifting up those affected by breast cancer.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant those diagnosed with breast cancer strength and courage.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For families and friends who support their loved ones, give them patience and love.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For medical professionals and researchers, bless their hands and minds.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For those who have lost their battle, may they rest in your peace.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For survivors, may their stories inspire hope.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For communities that rally in support, strengthen their bonds.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all who live in fear and uncertainty, remind them of your constant presence.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us hold fast to the words of Isaiah 41:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

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 and Acknowledgements.....Sis. Brenda Wright

Introduction of the Speaker Minister Loretta Herring

Praise Dance.....Sis. Patricia Patton
“My Testimony” by Marvin Sapp

Survivor Testimony Message.....Sis. Sandra Calloway-Fields

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....Pastor Sterling

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