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, November 1, 2026

Twenty-Third 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 ……Sis. Juanita Paige

Psalm 34:1-10

34 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
5 Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.
6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.
7 The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!
9 Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no lack!
10 The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

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

New Testament……Bro. Othello Butler

Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number,
from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before
the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches
in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our
God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 And all the angels were
standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living
creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
12 saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in
white robes, and from where have they come?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you
know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great
tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood
of the Lamb.

15 “Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;

the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

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

Gospel ……Sis. Gwen Hardnett

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)

Matthew 5:1-12

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down,
his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons[a] of God.
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

"This is the Word of the Lord."

AMEC Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies…Bro. Brandon Cleveland

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. Brandon Cleveland**

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……" Thou Shalt Bring Them In"
G.F. Händel

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……"Iba Re Jesu"
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