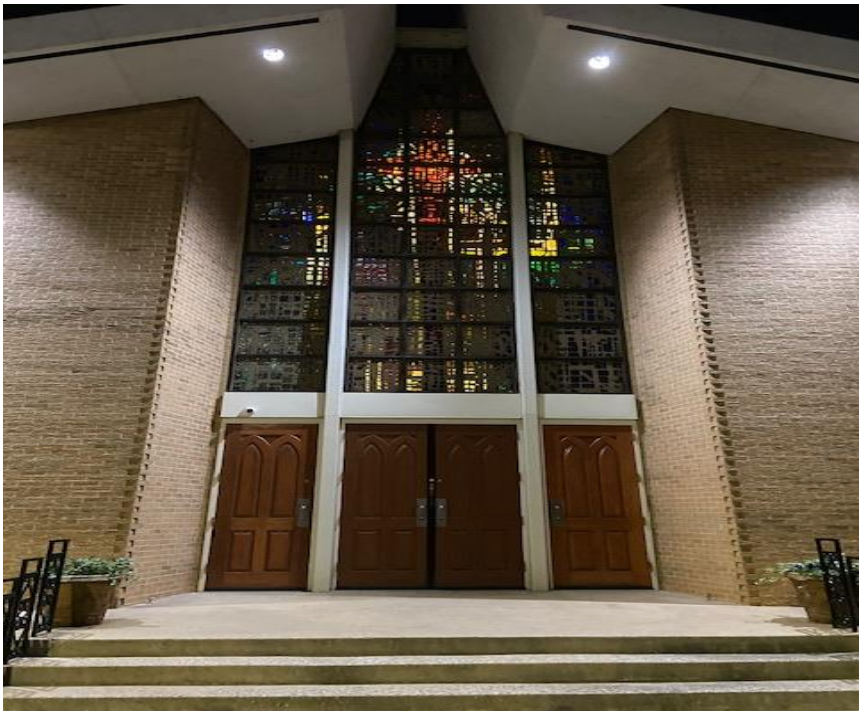
God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter,
Humankind Our Family

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 15, 2026

Twenty-Fifth 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……"O How I Love Jesus"

There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]

It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below. [Refrain]

The Invocation

The Choral Response……The Saint John AME Choir

The Scripture Lesson(s)

Old Testament ……Sis. Megan Spears
Psalm 123

123 To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
2 Behold, as the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maidservant
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
till he has mercy upon us.
3 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
4 Our soul has had more than enough
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.
"May the Lord bless the hearers and doers of His Word."

New Testament……,……Bro. Sam McKisssick

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to
have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the
day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying,
“There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them
as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But
you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.
5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night
or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep
awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get
drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober,
having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of
salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation
through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are
awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another
and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

Gospel……Sis. Terry Beasley

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)

Matthew 25:14-30

14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and
entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two,
to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who
had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made
five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents
more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground
and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those
servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received
the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you
delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ 21 His
master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been
faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your
master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying,
‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’
23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been

faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [24] He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' [26] But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29] For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30] And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

"This is the Word of the Lord."

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

The Worship through Music..... The Saint John AME 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