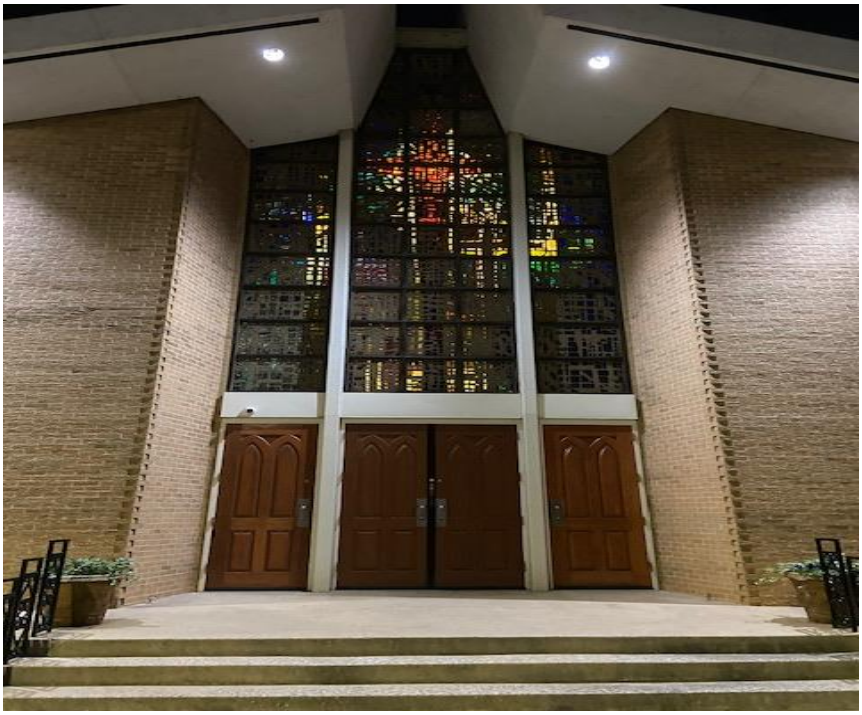
God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter,
Humankind Our Family

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 8, 2026

Twenty-Fourth 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……"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

The Choral Response……"No Weapon"

The Scripture Lesson(s)

Old Testament ……Bro. Brandon Cleveland
Psalm 78:1-7

78 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
3 things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.
4 We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.
5 He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,
6 that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,
7 so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

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

New Testament……Bro. Marcus Reynolds

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Gospel……Sis. Yolonda Carter

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)

Matthew 25:1-13

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps
and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were
wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but
the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed,
they all became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is
the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those virgins rose and
trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your
oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there
will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for
yourselves.’ 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and
those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door
was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open
to us.’ 12 But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 Watch
therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

"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

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