

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

DECEMBER 24, 2017 at 7 P.M.

Welcome to All

All are invited to to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

✠ Please stand as you are able. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

GATHERING WITH GOD

PROCESSION of LIGHT	
CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION	Pastors
✠ CAROL of FAITH	UMH 234, vs. 1-4
	<i>O, Come All Ye Faithful</i>
WORDS of GRACE and GREETING	Pastor Lane
OPENING PRAYER	Pastor Julia

Christ Child,
we join the angels, shepherds, and holy family
in welcoming you into the world this day.
May we continue to embody the gifts of
Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love throughout our lives,
as we share you, the Living Christ, with others.
Amen.

CELEBRATING THE GOOD NEWS

SPECIAL MUSIC	Molly Means
	<i>O Holy Night</i>
SCRIPTURE	Sarah Prevot
	<i>Luke 2:1-7</i>
CAROL	UMH 250, vs. 1 & 2
	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i> Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed; Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall. With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
SCRIPTURE	Mike Allen
	<i>Luke 2:8-14</i>
CAROL	UMH 217, vs. 1
	<i>Away in a Manger</i> Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
SCRIPTURE	Deirdré Halliburton
	<i>Luke 2:15-18</i>
CAROL	UMH 238, vs. 1 & 4
	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo! See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

ANTHEM *A Midnight Clear in Bethlehem* Chancel Choir

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION Pastor Lane

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠ CAROL *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* UMH 229

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION Pastor Julia
As Christ welcomes us around his table of grace, let us prepare for this gift by making our confessions to God.

Wondrous God,
We confess that often we find darkness
more comfortable than light.
We confess that we find your good news frightening
and unsettling, especially when we consider
its demands, as well as its promises.
We have a lot to learn about how you want us
to live and who you call us to be.
Teach us to focus on you.
Inspire us to serve you faithfully.
Be born again into our world;
be born again into our hearts and lives.
Hear now our silent and personal confessions
as we prepare ourselves for your nativity.

(A time for silent prayers and confession.)

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON
The true light that enlightens all has come into the world.
That light shines in the darkness, and the darkness
has never been able to put it out.
This is the good news:
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God in the highest and for all on earth: Peace!
Amen.

✠ SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST
OFFERING our TITHES and GIFTS to GOD Carrie Stephens
All is Well

✠ DOXOLOGY UMH 94
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.

✠ CALL to the TABLE UMH 246, vs. 1, 2, 4
Joy to the World

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks and remembers God's acts of salvation and concludes:

And so, with your people on earth and
all the company of heaven we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation is seated and the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

GIVING the BREAD and CUP

We will sing the following together during Communion:

O Little Town of Bethlehem UMH 230, vs. 1 & 2
The First Noel UMH 245, vs. 1 & 2
What Child Is This UMH 219, vs. 1 & 2
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear UMH 218, vs. 1

- All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.
- Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it; when you come up to the altar, let the server know you would like the gluten-free elements.
- You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.

PRAYER after RECEIVING

We thank you for this mystery that is Christmas.
We are filled with joy, for we have heard the good news.
We are filled with love, for we have tasted
the signs of God's grace.

We are filled with hope, for the angels still sing,
and there is a Light for us to follow.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who brings peace
to our souls. Amen.

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

✠ CANDLELIGHTING

As the candlelight is passed from person to person, please tip unlit candles only.

Silent Night
Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, the Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ POSTLUDE

Thank you for worshiping with us. Merry Christmas!
A list of poinsettia dedications can be found in the narathex.
If you dedicated a poinsettia you may take it home after tonight's service.

Welcome to St. John's

We are delighted you have chosen to join us during this most blessed season to celebrate the Light of Christ that has come into the world. The St. John's family welcomes all to this sacred night of worship.

We especially want our guests to know how special it is to have you here.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship. Should you desire it, Children's bulletins and "sermon sacks" are available from an usher.

Our ushers are happy to assist you in any way. Restrooms are located in the Narthex.

We hope you will return to experience how God might change your life through St. John's. May the Good News of Christ's birth bring joy to your heart.

Thank you for being here.

Ways to Worship and Connect with the St. John's family

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship with Holy Communion & music by our Praise Team.

Both services include a Children's Moment and a nursery is available all morning.

Adults

Sundays:

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Mondays:

Lectionary Ladies, 3:00 p.m.
Men's Covenant Group, 3:00 p.m.
AA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays:

Cancer Support Group, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Heavenly Hash Dinner,
resumes in January

Thursdays:

Holy Folders,
Bulletin folding, 8:30 a.m.

Fridays:

Men's Prayer Group, 6:30 a.m.
Arts & Crafts Group, 9:00 a.m.

Saturdays:

AA meeting, 12:00 p.m.

Monthly

Good Grief Support Group
Second Monday of the Month, 11:00 a.m.
Prime Timers Breakfast
Second Saturday of the month,
Essen Lane Piccadilly, 8:30 a.m.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Ruth Circle
First Tuesday of the month, 9:30 a.m.
Mary Martha Circle
Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship with music led by our Chancel Choir

Children and Youth

Sunday School

Ages 3 to 12th Grades
Sundays, 9:45 a.m.

Let's Geaux Play

Preschool Play Group
Mondays, 10 a.m.

Youth Group

Sundays, 5-7p.m.

Shepherd's Market

Mondays, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.,

with Worship in the Market at 8:15 a.m.

Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Shepherd's Market is a client-choice food pantry serving the hungry and needy in our South Baton Rouge neighborhood.

Music

Chancel Choir

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Alleluia Ringers

Sundays, 7:00 p.m.

Alpha Bells (Beginners)

Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Praise Team & Early Bird Choir

Sundays, 7:45 a.m.

Announcements & Growth Opportunities

OFFICE AND PANTRY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Please make note of holiday closures for the church office and The Shepherd's Market. The church office will remain closed through Christmas week. We will reopen with regular office hours (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) on Tuesday, January 2. The Shepherd's Market will be closed Christmas week and will reopen on Thursday, January 4 at 8 a.m.

END OF YEAR DONATIONS

Please note that all contributions for 2017 must be postmarked by **December 31** or received in the office by that date. If you have any questions about your giving, please email office@stjohnsbr.org or call the office (766-4594).

NEW TESTAMENT FAST TRACK BIBLE STUDY

On **Tuesday, January 23**, we will begin the 12-week New Testament Fast Track Bible Study. If you are interested in participating in this new version of the Disciple Bible Study series, please fill out a registration form and return it with your payment to the church office. Registration forms can be found in the narthex and in the Admin Building. Cost of the student book is \$20. (If you pay by check, please put Bible Study in the memo line.)

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Mark your calendars for **Friday, February 9**, and **Saturday, February 10**. Daphne Grady will lead an 8-hour training session (over the 2 days) to teach participants how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Cost of the class is \$30. For more information contact Daphne at 266-7266 or dgaygrady@aol.com.

2018 FLOWER CHART

The 2018 Flower Chart is now up on the bulletin board in the Admin Building. If you have someone or an occasion to remember, flowers on the altar are a beautiful way to do that. Sign up now to be able to choose that special date.

THANK YOU FROM ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Many thanks for showing your appreciation for the work we do by your contributing to the Staff Appreciation love offering. We all care deeply for our church and you, and hope what we do will continue to be a blessing to all.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: *Jim and Theresa Sandifer, Sandra Kuykendall, Joyce Robinson*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Lead Pastor
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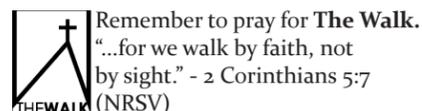
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St. John's United Methodist Church

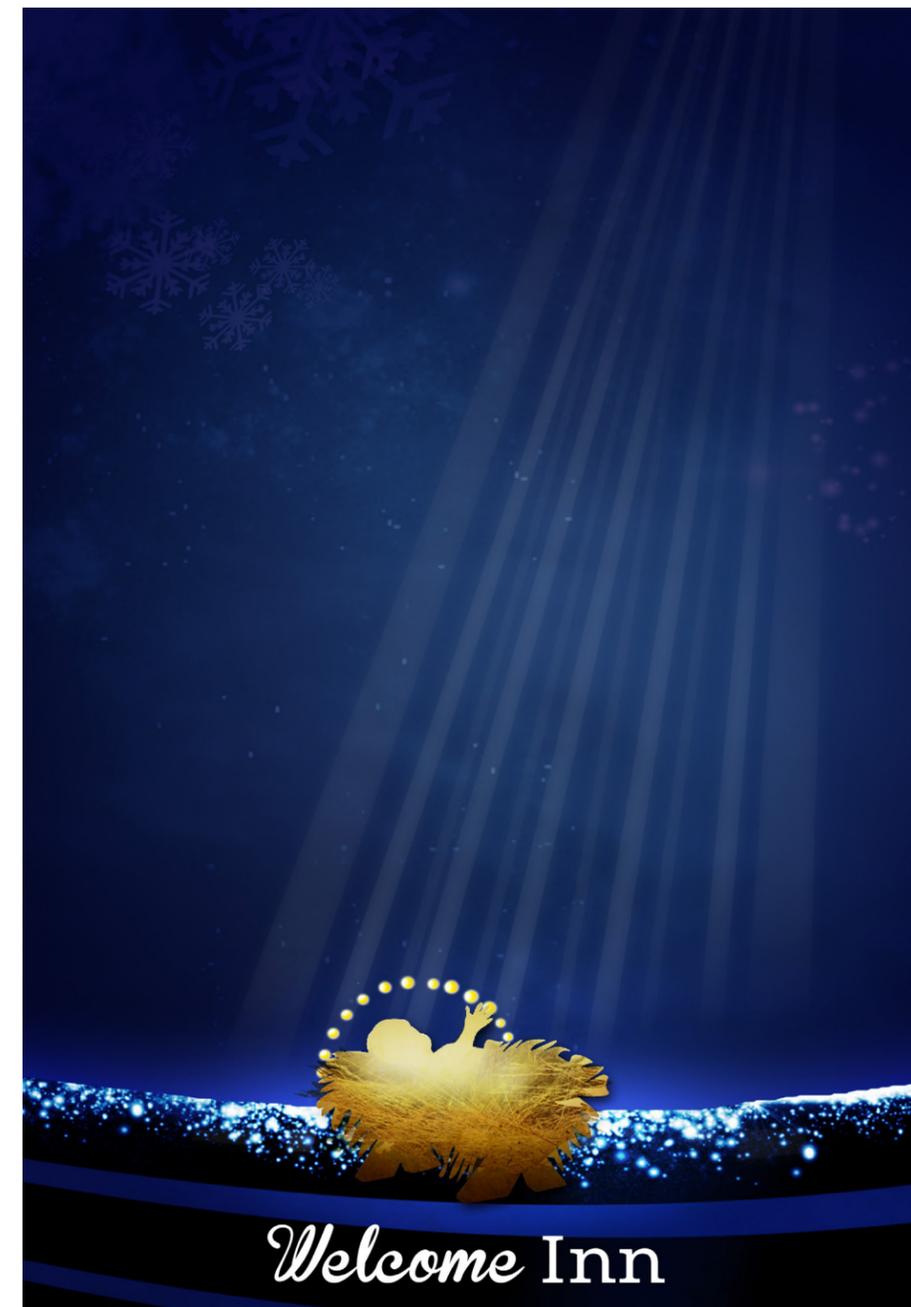
230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810
www.stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



Welcome Inn

7 p.m. Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 24, 2017

We are a Christian community called to share our gifts through worship, witness and service so that others will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.