

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

DECEMBER 3, 2017 at 11 A.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.

THE ADVENT OF WORSHIP

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT Alleluia Ringers

Advent Carol

✠ ADVENT PRAYER Zach Isenhower

Almighty God,
You inspired Mary, mother of your Son, to visit Elizabeth
and assist her in her need.
Keep us open to the working of your Holy Spirit.
And with Elizabeth, may we bless your
mysterious work in the world.
Help us give praise for your grace and mercy.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

✠ HYMN of PRAISE UMH 213

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE Ben & Julian Hartman

Today we light the candle of Hope and one more.
This is the candle of Peace.

It reminds us of God's peace in the busyness of our lives.

(Lighting of the first and second Advent Candles)

Let us be mindful of God's loving peace, which says,
"all are welcome."

May Emmanuel find welcome in our hearts,
take flesh in our lives, and be for all peoples
the welcome advent of redemption and grace.

RESPONSE to the LIGHT UMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

WELCOME IN THE GOOD NEWS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Deirdré Halliburton

Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.

Ushers will pass out folders during the Children's Moment. Please register your attendance.

✠ SCRIPTURE Zach Isenhower

Luke 1:39-56

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God

SERMON Pastor Lane

Welcome Inn Blessings

OUR PEACEFUL RESPONSE

✠ HYMN of FAITH UMH 699, vs 1-3

Come, Let Us Sweetly Join

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION

Merciful God,
always with us...always coming:
We confess that we do not know how
to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles.
We have not welcomed in the promise
of your kingdom.
We get distracted by all the busyness
of this season.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors.
Forgive us, we pray.
Grant us the patient faith and wisdom of Mary,
the joyful welcome of Elizabeth,
and courage and resolve of Joseph,
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem,
and find the good news of a child born for us.
Now, in the quiet of our hearts,
we ask you to make us ready to welcome
your Light into our lives.

(A time for silent prayer and confession)

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON *based on Jeremiah 33:14-16*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up from David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called:
"The Lord Is Our Righteousness."

Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce
this season, is our righteousness.
In Christ, we are made right with God.
In Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

✠ SHARING the LOVE and PEACE of CHRIST

OFFERTORY Alleluia Ringers

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

✠ 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

Welcome! This table is for all,
brothers and sisters, neighbors and newcomers,
from near and far, we gather at God's welcome.

This table is for all, but it is not our table.
It's God's table. So come, and take your place
at the table of grace.

You are welcome. You are invited. You are called.

Let us share this holy meal together,
where all are welcomed in.

✠ 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.

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

Singing together:

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

Singing together:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

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

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

Singing together:

Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

GIVING the BREAD and CUP

- ♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.*
- ♦ *Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction." When broken bread is placed in your hand you may dip it lightly into the cup and thereby receive both elements at the same time.*
- ♦ *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

Thank you, God, for meeting us in this holy mystery,
where you have welcomed us in and filled us with your grace.
Send us by your Spirit to be faithful signs of your steadfast love,
filled with the hope that comes from this blessed season,
as we prepare to "welcome inn," your Son, the Light
of the World. Amen.

DEPARTING IN SERVICE & LOVE

INVITATION to CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

We joyfully welcome all those whose wish to become members of St. John's and invite you to come forward during the singing of the closing hymn.

✠ HYMN of DISCIPLESHIP UMH 232

When Christmas Morn Is Dawning

During the hymn, we invite you to bring forward The Shepherd's Market grocery bags.

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar are given by Marilyn and Richard Damberg in honor of Marilyn's birthday and the birthday of their grandson, Quenton.

Welcome to St. John's!

Welcome to worship! We are glad you've joined us and hope you feel at home here. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship. However, if you or your child would prefer, nursery care is available in the Administration Building next door; an usher can escort you. Children's bulletins and sermon sacks are available from an usher.

Restrooms are in the Narthex.

Thank you for being here.

"WELCOME INN" WORSHIP SERIES

This Advent we look to the faith and wisdom of Mary, the joyful hospitality of Elizabeth, and the courage and resolve of Joseph as we prepare ourselves to "welcome inn" the greatest gift of all time, our Savior, Jesus Christ. With our Lessons and Carols service next Sunday, the sermon series will resume with Joseph's Advent stories from Matthew 1:18-25 on December 17.

ADVENT FEST - THIS AFTERNOON

Everyone is invited to our Advent Fest that is sure to be fun for all ages **THIS AFTERNOON** from 4-6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We will sing Christmas carols, including some shared by our handbells. There will be a Christmas Cookie Swap, so bring 3 dozen of your homemade Christmas Cookies. Come dressed for the season, and we will vote on the ugliest Christmas Sweater and the Cutest Christmas PJs! There will be a time to share in Holiday Prayers and take photos with Santa, too.

UMW RUTH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The UMW Ruth Circle will hold a Christmas gathering on **Tuesday, December 5** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. A devotional will be presented and a love offering for The Shepherd's Market will be collected. All women are invited to attend.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Next Sunday, we will celebrate the Advent season with our annual Lessons & Carols. Our music ministries, along with guest musicians, will offer beautiful songs and meaningful scripture at both worship services. You won't want to miss it.

UMW BAKE SALE

Next Sunday, the UMW will host a bake sale to help fund their mission projects. Come pick up a sweet treat in the FLC during coffee time at 9:30 a.m.

FALL BLOOD DRIVE

Our semi-annual blood drive will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the back parking lot. Those who are eligible donors, please eat a healthy breakfast and stop by the blood mobile next Sunday.

ADVENT OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE

Pastor Lane, Ben, and Julian have invited all of us to an Advent open house at the parsonage (11924 N. Oak Hills Pkwy.) on **Sunday, December 10**. It will be held from 2-4 p.m. and will be a wonderful opportunity for us to drop in for a short visit and wish them a Merry Christmas.

PRIME TIMERS BREAKFAST

Join the Prime Timers for a Dutch-treat breakfast before you hit the malls for Christmas shopping! We will be at the Piccadilly on Essen at 8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, December 9**. You will need energy for all the shopping and this is just the place.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON

Once again our sanctuary will be graced with the beauty of poinsettias during the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you have someone you would like to honor or remember, fill out the enclosed form and put it in the offering plate.

STAFF APPRECIATION

An annual tradition at St John's during the Christmas season has always been saying thank you to our Staff for the work they do to make many of the events and programs at St John's possible. If you would like to participate in thanking our Staff with a donation, you can place your gift, in an envelope, in the offering on Sunday or drop it off at the church office by December 17. If you chose to make your gift in the form of a check, please mark the memo line "Staff Appreciation."

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 3

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
4:00 p.m. Advent Festival, FLC

Monday, December 4

9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
10:00 a.m. Let's Geaux Play, *Toddler Nursery*
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies, *Parlor*
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
9:30 a.m. Ruth Circle UMW, *Parlor*
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Pastor's Office*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
5:30 p.m. Cancer Survivors Support Group, *Choir Room*
6:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, *Library*

Wednesday, December 6

10:00 a.m. Spanish Class, *Library*
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*

Thursday, December 7

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*
6:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting, *Library*
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, December 8

OFFICE CLOSED
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, *FLC*
9:00 a.m. Arts & Crafts, *FLC-A*

Saturday, December 9

8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, *Essen Piccadilly*
9:30 a.m. Choir & Alleluia Ringers Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Fran Anderson, Tommie Reinhardt, Kelly and Mary Martha Allen*

CHURCH STAFF

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Remember to pray for **The Walk**.
"...for we walk by faith, not by sight." - 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NRSV)
#sjthewalk



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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



11 a.m. Worship Service

DECEMBER 3, 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.