

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016
11 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

INTROIT *He Is Born* Alleluia Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP Kelly Holland

Our salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;

The night is far gone, the day is near.

Our Savior, Emmanuel, means God-with-us. Take heart, family of faith, the Lord is with us.

Come Lord, our God-With-Us, be present in our lives and lead us to worship you in spirit and in truth.

OPENING HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* UMH 234, vs. 1-3

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,

lo, he shuns not the Virgin’s womb;

Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

O come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation;

O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

O come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Fred and Kathleen Adams

We have come to the middle point of our Advent season. Our time of watchful waiting will soon be fulfilled. The Holy Child will be born in Bethlehem, heralded by angels and worshiped by shepherds.

As we await his coming we look forward to learning the Good News he brings, Good News which begins with a Promise, comforts us with his Peace, and leads us into the Presence of God.

In our Advent Wreath we relight the candles of Promise and Peace and add to the circle of light the glow of the candle of Presence.

Lord, we keep careful watch for your coming. Bring us your Good News and draw us into your holy Presence.

SONG OF RESPONSE *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

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

PRAYER Kelly Holland

Gracious God, we praise you for your desire to enter into our lives - our sorrows and joys, our fractures and our healing. Be ever present to us, as we seek again to follow your holy way of love and peace. Inspire us to turn back to you, our merciful Savior, that we might trust your nearness and serve your kingdom in our community. For the glory of your name, Emmanuel, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

THE WORD

GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Natalie Cooper

ANTHEM *Angel Tidings* Alleluia Ringers

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 7:10-17, Matthew 1:18-25* Deirdre Halliburton

SERMON *All We Could Do* Pastor Jay

HYMN: *He Came Down* UMH 2085, vs. 1-3

He came down that we may have love;

He came down that we may have love;

He came down that we may have love;

Hallelujah for evermore.

He came down that we may have peace;

He came down that we may have peace;

He came down that we may have peace;

Hallelujah for evermore.

He came down that we may have joy;

He came down that we may have joy;

He came down that we may have joy;

Hallelujah for evermore.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY UMH 95

SENT FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *Blessed Be the God of Israel* UMH 209

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,

who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.

The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;

God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;

a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.

Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,

the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise, the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner’s eyes, to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace; O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

BLESSING

SENDING FORTH Deirdre Halliburton

POSTLUDE

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE ...
given by Pat Cobb in memory of her husband, Earl.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers Danielle and Brian Blackwood, Madeline Blackwood, Andrew Blackwood

Host(s) Kathleen Adams

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 4

10:00 a.m. Pastor’s Class

5:00 p.m. Youth, 207 Admin Building

5:00 p.m. Children’s Choir, FLC

6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, FLC

Monday, December 5

9:00 a.m. Ladies’ Covenant Group, Parlor

3:00 p.m. Men’s Covenant Group, Library

3:30 p.m. The Shepherd’s Market, FLC

5:00 p.m. Ladies’ Covenant Group, Parlor

Tuesday, December 6

8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, FLC

8:30 a.m. The Shepherd’s Market, FLC

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor

11:00 a.m. Ruth Circle UMW, Koonce Residence

Wednesday, December 7

4:00 p.m. Ladies’ Covenant Group, Parlor

5:45 p.m. Praise Team, Choir Room

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room

6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, FLC

7:17 p.m. 717 Group, George’s Southside

Thursday, December 8

6:15 a.m. Men’s Prayer Group, Parlor

8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library

8:30 a.m. The Shepherd’s Market, FLC

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

Friday, December 9

OFFICE CLOSED

8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC

Saturday, December 10

8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, Essen Piccadilly

12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C

**ADVENT FESTIVAL FAMILY LIFE CENTER
TODAY AT 3 P.M.!!**

It’s once again time for our annual Advent Festival. Come and enjoy the season with an afternoon of music, drama, merriment, and fellowship. After the program everyone is invited to a cookie reception where there will be lots of homemade cookies and lemonade.

If you would like to make cookies for the reception, please bring them to the kitchen Sunday morning (marked “Advent Festival”) or just prior to the event.

PRAYER REQUEST FORM

Date _____

Joy Concern

Please share with the prayer team
 Please share with Pastors only
 I desire a call
 I desire a visit

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

You may also email a prayer request to: prayers@stjohnsbr.org

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Philippians 4:6

WELCOME

If you would like someone to follow up with you please fill out the information below and place in the offering plate.

- I am just visiting today.
- I am new to the area and am looking for a church home.
- I would like more information about the United Methodist Church and St. John's.
- I am interested in Baptism or Confirmation.
- I am interested in Children's Ministries.
- I am interested in Youth Ministries.
- I am interested in College/ Young Adult Ministries.
- I would like to receive email communications about church life.
- I would like a call from a pastor.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Children (Names & Ages): _____

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

THE MARY MARTHA CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, December 13** at 7 p.m. at the home of Joyce Perry (404 Kenilworth Parkway) for their annual Christmas party. Please bring a snack to share.

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: It's time for our sixth annual Great Turkey Giveaway **Saturday, December 17, 9 - 11 a.m.** We will need plenty of volunteers as we will be set up in a drive through pattern in the side parking lot bringing the turkeys and groceries to the cars instead of folks standing in line to come into the gym. Because of this, in addition to all of the food duty volunteers and the check-in volunteers, we will need volunteers to direct traffic into and out of the parking lot. If you can help, please be at the back of the FLC parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

OPENING DOORS

Did you know Opening Doors has a website? Check us out at openingdoorsbr.org to see the many wonderful things undertaken by this non-profit organization. Go to the photos tab and see our members shopping for the Holiday Superstore which benefits the children of Charlie Thomas Head Start Center in the Gardere area.

T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE SOON

There's still time to order St. John's t-shirts. There will be two styles: long sleeved (adult sizes only) in Navy blue and short sleeved in Iris blue. The long-sleeved t-shirt will be pre-order only and will be \$25 each. Deadline to order long-sleeved t-shirts is Monday, December 19. The short sleeved t-shirt will be ordered in bulk and cost \$10. Upon receipt of the order, they will be sold on a first-come, first served basis.

UPPER ROOM

The Upper Room Daily Devotional for January-February 2017 is now available in the Family Life Center and in the hallway of the Admin Building. A donation of \$1 per copy is appreciated.

THANKS TO ST. JOHN'S YOUTH

I want to thank you for coming to Our House of Respite to sing Christmas carols today. You touched the hearts of all the residents and their loved ones. People who have difficulty completing a sentence were singing along beautifully. I know my husband, Larry, and Peggy Harrison and her family appreciated being included in your caroling stops. . . Just seeing so many vibrant young faces, their parents, and leaders showing their talents was such a blessing. Harriet Walters

CONCERN

John Matherne, son of Vera Matherne, passed away on Sunday, December 4. Vera, a founding member of St. John's, is doing fine and making friends in her new home. If you would like to send Vera a card, her address is Spring Arbor, #304, 935 Capitol Landing Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185.

SERMON NOTES

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Jay Hogewood
Senior Pastor
225-772-3550
pastorjay@stjohnsbr.org

Lorri McGuire
Director of Ministries for
Children and Youth
lorrymcguire@stjohnsbr.org

Carrie Stephens
Director of Communications
and Music Ministries
carriestephens@stjohnsbr.org

Terry Byars
Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Brenda Green
Business & Facility Administrator
brendagreen@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Alex Martin
Youth Intern
alexmartin@stjohnsbr.org



Remember to pray for **The Walk**.
"...for we walk by faith, not by sight."
- 2 Corinthians 5:7
[#sjthewalk | www.stjohnsbr.org/the-walk](https://www.stjohnsbr.org/the-walk)



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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



Awaiting - acrylic on panel by Billie Bourgeois

**What Is the Good News?
God's Presence**

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2016**

11 a.m. Worship Service

Mission Statement

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.