

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

DECEMBER 17, 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

† ADVENT PROCLAMATION Richard Damberg

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord,
“when I will make a new covenant with my people.”
**That great promise is happening again
this Advent season.**

We prepare for it with the same care that we anticipate
the birth of a child,
for like life, it keeps coming and never ends.

**We are the people who know the end
of the story as well as the beginning.**

We know, in faith, that our hope will be fulfilled;
that peace will reign.

that sorrow will become joy;
**and that our love will be met with God’s love.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

† HYMN of PRAISE UMH 229
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE John Barrow & Paige Eubanks-Barrow

We have witnessed this Advent season three candles being lit:
Hope, Peace, and Joy.
Today, we will include the lighting of the candle of Love.
We celebrate God’s ever-present, unconditional love for us.

(lighting of all four Advent Candles)

As we open our hearts to God’s love, may our lives be signs
of God’s extravagant love for the world.

**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 Barbara Benton

Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.

*Ushers will pass out folders during the Children’s Moment.
Please register your attendance. If you have any joys or concerns
please fill out a prayer card found in the left pocket of the folder
and place it in the offering plate.*

ANTHEM Chancel Choir
Look Toward Christmas

† SCRIPTURE Richard Damberg
Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they
lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.
¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose
her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord
appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be
afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from
the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill
what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name
him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord
commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital
relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION *Based on Psalm 19:14*
**May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in thy sight, thou who are my strength and my
redeemer. Amen.**

SERMON Pastor Lane
Welcome Inn Change

OUR LOVING RESPONSE

† HYMN of FAITH UMH 230
O Little Town of Bethlehem

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE Pastor Julia

THE LORD’S PRAYER UMH 89

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY UMH 94

† 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.**

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 202
People, Look East

† BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

† POSTLUDE
*The flowers in the sanctuary are in celebration of the wedding of
Madeline Blackwood and Alex Beem.
The poinsettias in the sanctuary are from members and friends of St. John’s.
In lieu of altar flowers a donation has been made by Troy and Sarah Prevot
in honor of their 33rd anniversary.*

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.

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

The Christmas season is, in most cases, a time of joy, excitement, and happiness. But it can be a difficult time for some, especially those struggling with sorrow and grief. St. John's is once again holding *The Longest Night Service* **Thursday December 21** at 6 p.m. This service is a time to acknowledge our grief and remind ourselves of the hope we have in Christ. Everyone is invited to this beautiful, intimate, and healing service.

YOUTH ACTIVITY - HOLIDAY LIGHTS

St. John's Youth, if you want to see the Holiday Lights at the Baton Rouge General on Bluebonnet meet at the church at 5:45 p.m. on **Thursday, December 21**; we will be leaving at exactly 6 p.m. There is live music, hot chocolate, dancing trees, and **3 tons of SNOW!!!** This is a family event, so if parents and siblings would like to come, all are welcome. We expect to be back at the church around 8 p.m. If your family is planning to attend the Longest Night Service, feel free to join us after the worship service is over.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

We hope you will worship with us both Sunday morning for our combined worship service, as well as in the evening on Christmas Eve.

10 a.m. A festive worship experience that will feature voices of prophets and Old Testament stories to prepare our hearts for the gift of Christmas. We will not have Sunday School or coffee time. A nursery will be available at the 10 a.m. service only.

4 p.m. A family worship service with traditional Christmas scripture readings by children & youth, carols, Holy Communion, concluding with candlelight.

7 p.m. A traditional worship service including the Chancel Choir, carols, Holy Communion and concludes by candlelight. If you ordered a poinsettia you may take them home after the 7 p.m. candlelight service.

OFFICE AND PANTRY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Please make note of holiday closures for the church office and The Shepherd's Market. The church office will close Thursday, December 21 at 4 p.m. and 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 beginning Friday, December 22 and will reopen on Thursday, January 4 at 8 a.m.

ANGEL TREE THANK YOU

Thank you to all of St. John's "angels" who helped with the Angel Tree this year. You purchased and wrapped gifts for 40+ children. Thanks to those who called the caregivers and organized the gifts for delivery. A special thank you to all who delivered gifts on a cold Saturday morning. Everyone doing their part allowed us to bring Christmas blessings to the children on our tree.

END OF YEAR DONATIONS

This is a reminder, for income tax purposes, that all donations to St. John's for 2017 must be postmarked by December 31. If you have any questions about your giving, please call the office

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, December 17

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
10:00 a.m. Puppet Show for Children, *FLC-C*
4:30 p.m. Youth Christmas Caroling

Monday, December 18

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 19

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
5:30 p.m. Cancer Survivors, *Choir Room*

Wednesday, December 20

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 21

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
2:00 p.m. Holy Folders, *Library*
6:00 p.m. The Longest Night Service, *Sanctuary*
6:00 p.m. Youth: Holiday Lights
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, December 22

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

Saturday, December 23

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

Sunday, December 24

10:00 a.m. One Worship Service, no Sunday School
4:00 p.m. Family-oriented Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Zach and Christine Isenhower, Richard and Marilyn Damberg*
Hosts: *Richard and Marilyn Damberg*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
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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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@stjohnsbr



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



11 a.m. Worship Service

DECEMBER 17, 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.