

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015
8:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

INTROIT *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

CALL TO WORSHIP

You know what time it is.

How it is now the moment for us to wake from sleep.

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

The night is far gone, the day is near.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness

And put on the armor of light.

SONG OF PRAISE *Where the Spirit of the Lord Is* FWS 2119

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace;

where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love.

There is comfort in life’s darkest hour; there is light and life,

there is help and power in the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE *He Came Down* FWS 2085

(Leader: Why did he come?)

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.

(Leader: Why did he come?)

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Bobbi Marino

Chip, Michelle, and Chase Marino

Each Sunday during this season of waiting, we have lighted a new

candle in our Advent Wreath. The first was the candle of HOPE.

Next we lighted the candle of PREPARATION. Third came the

candle of JOY. Today all the candles will be lighted. The fourth

candle is the candle of LOVE.

**With hearts filled with love, led by the light of the star,
we walk on toward Bethlehem.**

SONG OF RESPONSE *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

PRAYER

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.

THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Modern Affirmation

UMH 885

GLORIA PATRI

UMH 70

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Lorri McGuire

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-45

Mari Walker

SERMON

*The Best Gift Before
Christmas: Blessedness*

Pastor Jay

HYMN

Bless His Holy Name

FWS 2015

PRAYER, CONFESSION, AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(silent confession)

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

Hear the gospel: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t die but will have eternal life. God didn’t send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

Angels Over Bethlehem

DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

THE TABLE

CALL TO THE TABLE

Let us stand well. Let us stand in awe. Let us be attentive, that we may

offer this holy offering in peace.

Mercy and peace, our sacrifice of praise.

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE III

UMH 15

COMMUNION RESPONSES

FWS 2257 b, c, d

THE LORD’S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Jesus, once and for all you poured out your life for us. Again and again we thank you and receive your body and blood. Send us out to pour ourselves out with such joyous abandon that your love is always known, the Spirit’s power always felt and the Almighty’s will to save never in doubt. Amen.

SENT FORTH IN GOD’S NAME

HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

BLESSING

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Shout to the Lord

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers

Carol Gordon, Barbara Benton, Randy Thayer, Joyce Robinson

Host(s)

Theresa Sandifer

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

TODAY, Sunday, December 20

3:00 p.m.

Youth and Children Caroling

Monday, December 21

9:00 a.m.

Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor

3:00 p.m.

Men’s Covenant Group, Library

Wednesday, December 23

8:00 a.m.

Holy Folders

Thursday, December 24

OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON

4:00 p.m.

Family Worship

7:00 p.m.

Traditional Worship

11:00 p.m.

Contemplative Worship

Friday, December 25

OFFICE CLOSED - MERRY CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 26

12 noon

AA Meeting, Gym-C

WORSHIP SERVICE DECEMBER 27

On **Sunday, December 27**, we will have only one worship service at 10:30 a.m.; there will be no coffee time and no Sunday school on that day.

2016 FLOWER CHART

The Flower Chart for 2016 is now up on the bulletin board in the hallway of the Administration Building. Flowers on the altar each Sunday are a wonderful way to remember or honor a special person or persons and/or occasion AND add beauty to our Sanctuary. Now is the time to sign up -- there are many openings; for example, January is wide open! You will be contacted the week prior to the date you select. If you have any questions, contact Lynn in the church office.

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 plate. If you chose to make your gift in the form of a check, please mark the memo line “Staff Christmas Appreciation.” Deadline is today.

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): _____

RUTH CIRCLE UMW

The Ruth Circle UMW will meet **Tuesday, January 5** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. The 2016 pledge program and a program about hymns will be presented. All women are invited to attend.

FINANCIAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

On **Sunday January 17**, at 12:15 p.m., join us for "I Was Broke But Now I'm Not." Joseph Sangl of INJOY will lead us through budgeting, debt elimination, and the power of compound interest. Participants will receive practical information on giving, saving, getting out of debt, budgeting, retirement, and basic investing. A light lunch and child care will be provided. RSVP by **Tuesday, January 12** in an email to thewalk@stjohnsbr.org or phone 766-4594. THE SEMINAR IS FREE BUT YOU WILL NEED A RESERVATION IN ORDER TO ATTEND. For more information visit the website iwasbrokenowimnot.com.

THANKS, ST. JOHN'S

From Beth Forester: Thanks to all of the congregation for your generous participation in the Angel Tree Project this year. We served sixty children by purchasing gifts, wrapping gifts, blessing the children and their families, and delivering the gifts while sharing the Word. This year we had the largest number of church members involved. Thank you for being so generous with your time and finances. You certainly helped bring a smile to a child this Christmas.

From Boy Scout Troop 505: Special thanks to St. John's United Methodist Church and all of it's parishioners who so generously purchased our Gumbo dinners and were the primary reason why we were so successful. Special mention should be given to Mrs. Brenda Green who has acted as our liaison with the church on this and many other events. Thanks, Brenda.

From Rev. Cathy Carlson daughter of May Fox (former member of St. John's): Before my mother's death, she asked me to write to each church that nurtured her in the faith and thank them. Thank you for providing a place where she could grow in faith and contribute to the healing of the world. You blessed her -- and our family, too, is grateful to you.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line screening will be held at St. John's on **Monday, January 11** in the Administration Building. Ultrasounds for stroke, peripheral arterial disease, abdominal aortic aneurysm and osteoporosis as well as an EKG for atrial fibrillation are offered for only \$149 (\$139 without the osteoporosis test). Pre-registration is required. To register for your appointment and to receive a special \$10 discount, call 1-888-653-6450 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

Life Line Community Healthcare will also offer the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit. For eligible Medicare beneficiaries with traditional Part B, there is no cost/no co-pay. This is not a physical, but a personal wellness consultation performed by a certified Nurse Practitioner designed to help you and your doctor keep you healthy, safe and independent for a long time. This wellness consultation is an entitlement! Medicare is billed for this visit. Pre-registration is required; call 1-866-579-5069.

SERMON NOTES

CHURCH STAFF

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

The Rev. Sarah Shoup
Associate Pastor for Discipleship
deaconsarah@stjohnsbr.org

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

Rebecca Bellelo
Interim Music Director
rebeccabellelo@stjohnsbr.org


Brenda Green
Business & Facility Administrator
brendagreen@stjohnsbr.org


Terry Byars
Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Carrie Stephens
Communion Service Worship Leader
carriestephens@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

St. John's United Methodist Church
9375 Highland Road | Baton Rouge, LA 70810
www.stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



8:30 Worship Service
December 20, 2015
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.