

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

February 3, 2019 at 11 A.M.

Welcome to All

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

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

GATHERING In GOD'S NAME

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✠ CALL to WORSHIP *Barbara Benton*

Creator God,
who speaks to us the words of hope...
we gather to hear your voice.

Incarnate Jesus,
who showed to us the way of hope...
we gather to celebrate your story.

Quickening Spirit,
who nurtures in us the life of hope...
we gather to know your presence.

Trinity of hope,
meet with us here through word and song,
bread and juice...
and draw us deeper into your eternal gift of life.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

✠ HYMN of PRAISE *Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here* UMH 647

LISTENING to GOD'S WORD

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.

✠ GOSPEL *Luke 4:14-30*

The Word of the Lord.
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 Deirdre*

RESPONDING to GOD'S MERCY

✠ HYMN of FAITH *Here I Am, Lord* UMH 593, vs. 1 & 3

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION

Though our intentions are honorable,
we recognize we have all fallen short of the high calling to
live out Christlike love and acceptance and to go to those
who most need our presence and love.
We come now in sincerity and honesty
to confess our shortcomings before God and before one
another.
Forgive us we pray.

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

Hear the Good News!

This is God's table, on which are set tokens of love and hope,
and to which we are all called.

We come, whether our faith is strong or weak, whether we are
fearless or full of anxiety, whether our hope shines brightly
or is dimmed.

Come, for all are welcome at the feast of love.

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

✠ SHARING the LOVE and PEACE of CHRIST

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD *Chancel Choir*
I'd Rather Have Jesus

✠ DOXOLOGY *UMH 95*
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy host. Amen.

✠ INVITATION to the LORD'S TABLE

Once, in another time and place,
Jesus sat at a table with friends, offering them both comfort and
challenge though his presence with them.

Today, in this time and place,
we too gather around a table wanting to be close to God.
Through this shared meal, may we know the comfort, the
challenge, and the joy of God's company. Draw us closer to
you in this eternal mystery of Holy communion.

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *UMH 15*

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 give thanks and remembers God's gift of salvation.

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 he 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, we do in this place what Jesus did in a small room with friends.
Gracious God, pour out your holy spirit on us and on these gifts of bread
and juice, that the story of hope may continue in us and through us. May
this meal be for us a renewal of our call to bring new life to others.

Generous God, whose story and song are now and always the
hope of the world, we praise you for the stories of creation and
incarnation, redemption and reconcillation -- your unending
words of love. We rejoice in your song of yearning and calling,
waiting and welcoming -- your eternal music of hope.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *UMH 895*

SHARING 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 at the station on the right.*
- ♦ *You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

O God,
all people are your beloved children, across races,
nationalities, religion, gender, political affiliation, age and
all of the ways we are different from one another.
You have created each of us uniquely,
have called us to share in your story of hope and to live in
community with all those in need of grace.
We offer ourselves to go and work towards fulfilling the
mission of a Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
We offer ourselves to be a people willing to love all, as we have
been loved by you.
Breathe your life through ours that your story may continue in
us and through us, until the world is remade. Amen.

DEPARTING to SERVE

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 *Go Forth for God* UMH 670, 1, 2, & 4

*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 Maxine and Buddy Gossom
in memory of their daughter, Beth.*

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.

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

Thank you for being here.

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY - "JUST MERCY"

How are we called to be channels of God's mercy in an all-too-often-unjust world? "Just Mercy," our February sermon series, will engage us in conversations that spark redemption. We will come face to face with some of the most pressing challenges of the day, learn to tell the truth about our fears and shortcomings, and respond in meaningful ways together. This 4-part series is anchored in scripture from the Revised Common Lectionary.

All are invited to read Bryan Stevenson's compelling book of stories, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. Our series is loosely based on principles from the book. Stevenson is a man of deep faith and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, out of Montgomery, AL. He works for the exoneration of wrongly convicted persons of color, minor children who have been sentenced as adults, and others who have been mistreated by the criminal justice system. The book is available from Amazon.

FAST TRACK BIBLE STUDY

Spring 2019 Fast Track Bible Study begins on **Tuesday, February 5** at 6 p.m. in the library. Participants should obtain their study books from the church office prior to the first meeting in order to prepare and be ready to discuss Lesson One.

HYMN FEST & STATE OF THE CHURCH POTLUCK

On **Sunday, February 10** from 4 - 6 p.m. we will be having a **Hymn Fest** and **State of the Church Potluck**. We will begin in the Sanctuary with the Chancel Choir, Alleluia Ringers, and Praise Team providing special music, as well as accompanying the congregation in singing some of their favorite hymns. A love offering will be taken in support of the our church's music ministries (Write "Music" on the memo of your check, please). Please fill out the form in the bulletin to submit your favorite hymns -- those with the most votes will be sung.

A potluck will follow in the FLC with a State of the Church address by our church leadership. Bring a favorite dish to share with everyone; you may bring it to the FLC prior to the Hymn Fest if you desire.

YOUTH - SHARE SALE FUNDRAISER

St. John's UMY is having a fundraiser for their summer trip to Kansas City, YOUTH 2019! During our Stock Share Sale, we will invite church members, family, and friends to purchase "shares" for \$10. On **February 10, 17, and 24** we will be selling shares in the narthex before and after both worship services and in the FLC during Coffee Time. Please consider purchasing multiple stock shares. Investors will be celebrated with stock certificates and a Shareholder's Thank You dinner!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PROVIDE YOUTH SUPPERS

St. John's Youth Group is thankful for the adults who provide supper on Sunday night. We are in need of additional volunteers to help in this ministry; you do not have to have a youth in the group in order to participate. You will be assigned a partner or you can ask someone to be your partner. If you are interested or for more information, please contact Amy Fine at 225-766-4594 or amyfine@stjohnsbr.org.

CALL FOR KEYS

If you were issued a key to one of our church buildings, please come by the office to update your Key Agreement form. (Office hours are Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.) For the security of St. John's, please help us be aware of who has our keys and turn yours in if you no longer need it.

PRIME TIMERS BREAKFAST

Join Prime Timers at the Piccadilly on Essen for a Dutch-treat breakfast buffet on **Saturday, February 9** at 8:30 a.m. Hope to see you there.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, February 3

8:00 a.m. Praise Team, Sanctuary
8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, FLC
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary

Monday, February 4

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, Parlor
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Parlor
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
4:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, February 5

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, FLC
9:30 a.m. UMW Ruth Circle, Parlor
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Pastor's Office
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Library
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, Parlor
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, Library

Wednesday, February 6

10:00 a.m. Spanish Refresher, Library
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, FLC-A
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, Sanctuary

Thursday, February 7

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

Friday, February 8

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Parlor
8:30 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, FLC
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library

Saturday, February 9

8:30 a.m. Prime Timers, Essen Lane Piccadilly
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: Jane Rassi, Frances Anderson, Deidra Matthews, Nico de la Fuente

CHURCH STAFF

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 Check in on Facebook:
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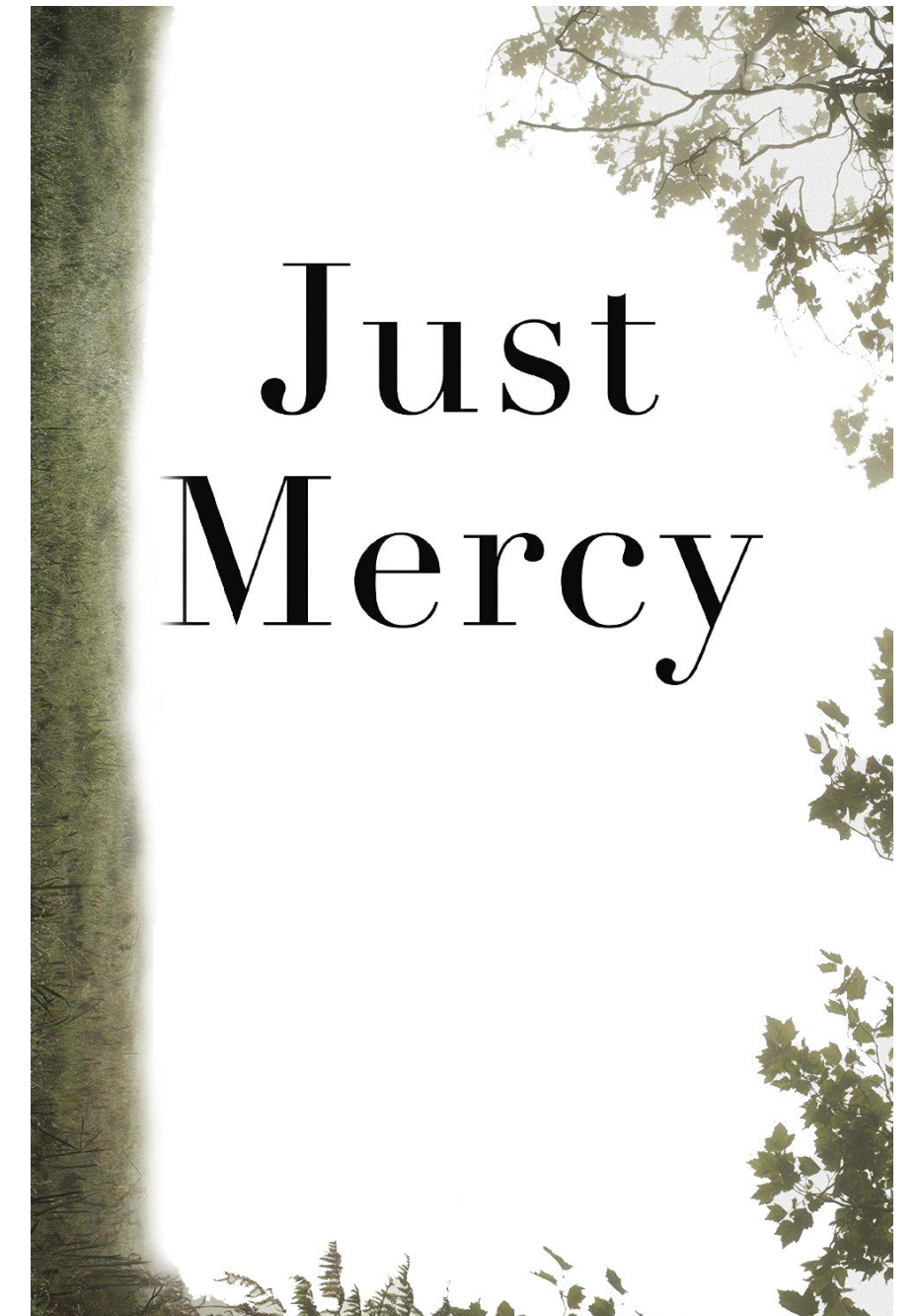
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



February 3, 2019

11 a.m. Worship Service

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.