

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

## February 17, 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

*Trust and Obey*

Alleluia Ringers

✠ PRAYER of INVOCATION

*Zach Isenhower*

**God of new life and new possibility,  
we seek to be agents of change and hope in our world.  
In the midst of anxiety, suffering and despair,  
it is so easy to become hopeless.  
Yet we worship you, a God of never-ending hope.  
As we worship together, open us to be people  
who are ready and eager to engage  
with your world. Amen.**

✠ HYMN of PRAISE

*God Is Here*

UMH 660

✠ AFFIRMING *our* FAITH

*The World Methodist Social Affirmation*

UMH 886

**We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people;  
and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us,  
who died and rose again;  
and in the Holy Spirit,  
present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.**

*MEN:* We believe; God, help our unbelief.

**We rejoice in every sign of God's kingdom:  
in the upholding of human dignity and community;  
in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation;  
In each act of self-giving on behalf of others;  
in the abundance of God's gifts  
entrusted to us that all may have enough;  
in all responsible use of the earth's resources.**

*WOMEN:* Glory be to God on high; And on earth, peace.

We confess our sin, individual and collective,  
by silence or action:

**through the violation of human dignity  
based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith;  
through the exploitation of people  
because of greed and indifference;  
through the misuse of power in personal,  
communal, national, and international life;  
through the search for security  
by those military and economic forces  
that threaten human existence;  
through the abuse of technology  
which endangers the earth and all life upon it.**

*MEN:* Lord, have mercy;

*WOMEN:* Christ, have mercy;

*ALL:* Lord, have mercy.

We commit ourselves individually and as a community  
to the way of Christ:

**to take up the cross;  
to seek abundant life for all humanity;  
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;  
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love,  
praying that God's kingdom may come  
on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

✠ GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

UMH 70

## LISTENING *to* GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*Pastor Deirdré*

*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

*Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho*

Alleluia Ringers

✠ SCRIPTURE

*Luke 6:17-26*

*Zach Isenhower and  
Latrice Mallard*

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

“Don't Lose Hope”

*Pastor Lane*

## RESPONDING *to* GOD'S MERCY

✠ HYMN of FAITH

UMH 549, vs. 1, 2, 5, & 6

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

*Pastor Deirdré*

Gracious and Faithful God,

As we bring our prayers before you, may hope be renewed  
in our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We begin this morning by offering our gratitude for the many  
blessings of our lives. We are surrounded by family, friends,  
colleagues, and this faith community, and we do not take those  
blessings of presence for granted. We are grateful for food on our  
tables and in refrigerators, for our homes and apartments, and  
for the ability to move about freely as we need to. We are grateful

for the freedom to attend school, to be gainfully employed, and  
to pursue our hopes and dreams as you lead us. We recognize  
that if our only prayer today were thank you, in many ways, that  
would be enough.

In particular this morning, we lift up these joys and prayers of  
thanksgiving...

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

Even as we have much to celebrate, we recognize that there are  
those whose lives touch this community who stand in some need  
today. For those who are sick or hospitalized, we ask for your  
presence and healing. For those facing medical procedures, we  
ask that you grant wisdom to doctors and nurses as they do their  
jobs. For those carrying particular concerns in their hearts, we  
ask that you would draw close and be a source of comfort  
to each of them.

In particular this morning, we lift up these concerns aloud...

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray this morning for those striving to bring hope to dark  
and difficult places. We recognize that even as we sit together in  
relative comfort, there are many facing the challenges of mental  
illness, the illness of addiction, incarceration, estrangement,  
racism, poverty and injustice. We thank you for the fortitude  
and strength of those who stand up under these hardships each  
and every day. And in each place that people face hardship, we  
thank you for those who standing alongside, offering the gifts of  
presence, solidarity, and their own resources.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We bring all these joys and concerns before you because we  
recognize your deep care for us. In a spirit of abiding peace, we  
pray together as Jesus taught us...Our Father..

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

OFFERING OUR TITHES *and* GIFTS *to* GOD

*Alleluiah Ringers with  
Penny Kemler on flute*

*Shaker Tune*

✠ 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.**

## 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

*Pass It On*

UMH 572

✠ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

## 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. Next Sunday's scripture is Luke 6:27-38.

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. The book is available from Amazon and other booksellers.

### 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" of stock for \$10. Today and on **February 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! We appreciate your support of the youth ministry at St. John's.

### GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMUNION & PRAYER VIGIL

You are invited to a Pre-conference Communion Prayer Vigil **Friday, February 22** at 6 p.m. here at St. John's. We will gather in prayer for the special session of the General Conference, all of the delegates, for the unity of the church, and that we seek to fulfill the mission Christ has given to us. The sanctuary will be open each evening of the conference from 6 - 7 p.m. for those who want to pray.

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

On **Ash Wednesday, March 6** there will be worship opportunities both morning and evening which include imposition of ashes and holy communion. We will begin at 7 a.m. with a short worship service followed by Drive-thru Ashes in our driveway until 9 a.m. At 6 p.m. we will have a traditional Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary. We hope you and your family will be able to take part in one or more services marking the beginning of the Lenten season.

### LENTEN RETREAT

Enter the season of Lent with St. John's at our March 8-9 on-campus Lenten Retreat: "Listening in Stillness, Serving in Joy," facilitated by Rev. Dr. William Thiele, founding director of the School for Contemplative Living. See insert in today's bulletin for information and registration.

### MISSION TO ST. MARK'S, NEW ORLEANS

St. John's annual three-day mission to St. Marks UMC in New Orleans will be **April 5-7**. The team will do repair and remodeling work at the North Rampart Community Center Friday and Saturday. On Sunday the team will prepare and serve a meal for homeless persons as well as participate in St. Mark's Sunday morning worship. The mission fee of \$135 per person includes your lodging and meals and helps defray the costs of preparing the Sunday meal and materials for the construction projects. Registration forms are available in the narthex, church office, or from Rev. Larry Norman, 225.933.1881.

### DAYS FOR GIRLS

The UMW is announcing a series of spring work days for Days for Girls. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 16, 23, and 30** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Family Life Center. Remember you do not need to know how to sew in order to participate in this very worthwhile ministry.

## HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

### Sunday, February 17

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 18

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, Library  
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 19

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC  
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, FLC  
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 20

10:00 a.m. Spanish Refresher Class, 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 21

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC  
5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting, Parlor  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, FLC  
7:15 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, Library

### Friday, February 22

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 23

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

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: Rhonda Tucker, Guy Johnson, Harriet Walters, Deidra Matthews

### CHURCH STAFF

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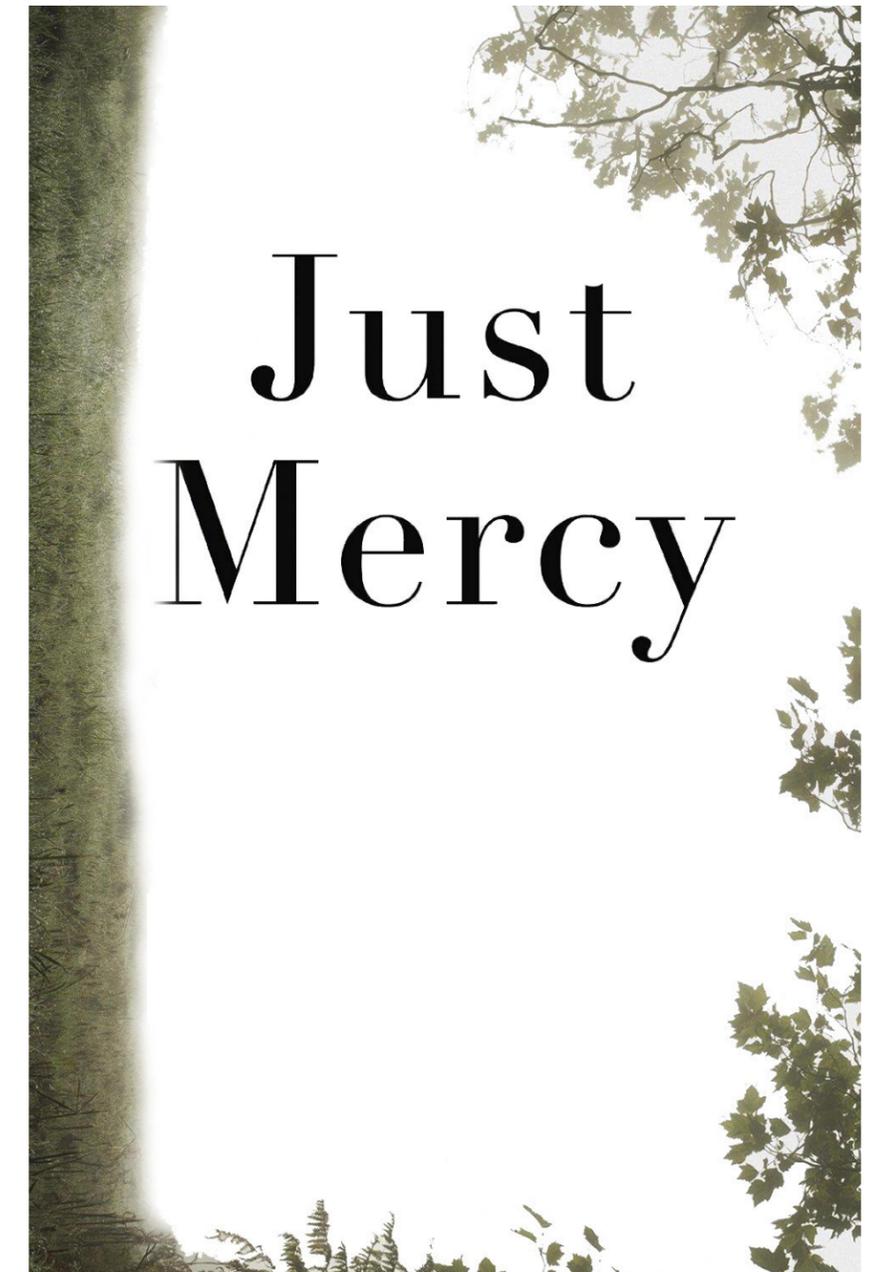
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**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



# Just Mercy

February 17, 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.*