

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

## FEBRUARY 17, 2019 at 8:30 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

† SONG of PRAISE

*Honor and Praise*

FWS 2018, vs. 1

**Righteous and holy in all of your ways;  
we come before you with honor and praise.  
Here to adore you for all of our days,  
we come before you with honor and praise.  
Lord of the heavens, how faithful you are.  
Shine down upon us, O bright Morning Star.  
Righteous and holy in all of your ways;  
we come before you with honor and praise.**

*Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart*

FWS 2036

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong";  
let the poor say, "I am rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us."  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong";  
let the poor say, "I am rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us."  
Give thanks!**

† OPENING PRAYER

**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.**

† SONG of RESPONSE

*Jesus, Name Above All Names*

FWS 2071

**Jesus, name above all names,  
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us  
blessed Redeemer, living Word.**

## 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.*

† SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:17-26

*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

*Blest Are They*

FWS 2155, vs. 1, 3, 5

† PRAYER of CONFESSION

*Pastor Deirdré*

**Holy God,  
We confess that we often fail to see what you are doing  
in the world.  
We give in to despair and hopelessness, instead of trusting  
that you are working through the hopeful actions we see.  
We give in to the idea that there is nothing that we can do,  
instead of partnering with others to impact the world.  
We ask your forgiveness.  
Show us the many places where hope abides in our  
communities and in our world.  
Guide us to be peace makers and change makers, justice  
seekers and bearers of hope, in Jesus' name.**

*(Time for silent prayer and confession.)*

† WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

Hear the good news that forgiveness and renewed hope are found in Christ. Even Jesus grew weary and found himself angry at the unjust behavior of others. Deeply rooted in faith, he found the strength and courage to go on, and we are offered that same strength and courage.

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

*Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho*

Alleluia Ringers

† DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God,  
all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

UMH 94

† 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.**

It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give praise and honor to our All-loving God, who breathes life into the universe and into each of us. So we celebrate, joining our voices with all the company of Creation, who forever sing their unending hymn to proclaim the glory of God's name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)  
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The congregation is seated and the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

PRAYER of CONSECRATION

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  
carnation, redemption and reconciliation - your unending  
words of love. We rejoice in your song of yearning and calling,  
waiting and welcoming - your eternal music of hope.**

**Amen. Amen. Amen.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING *the* LORD'S SUPPER

- ♦ *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.*
- ♦ *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, thank you for embracing us around your table  
and sending your Holy Spirit to be with us.  
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 Ye, Go Ye*

FWS 2239

† BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

† POSTLUDE

*After the service, all are invited to the Family Life Center for refreshments.*

## 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: *Jim and Theresa Sandifer, Aileen Pine, Dawn Staves*

### CHURCH STAFF

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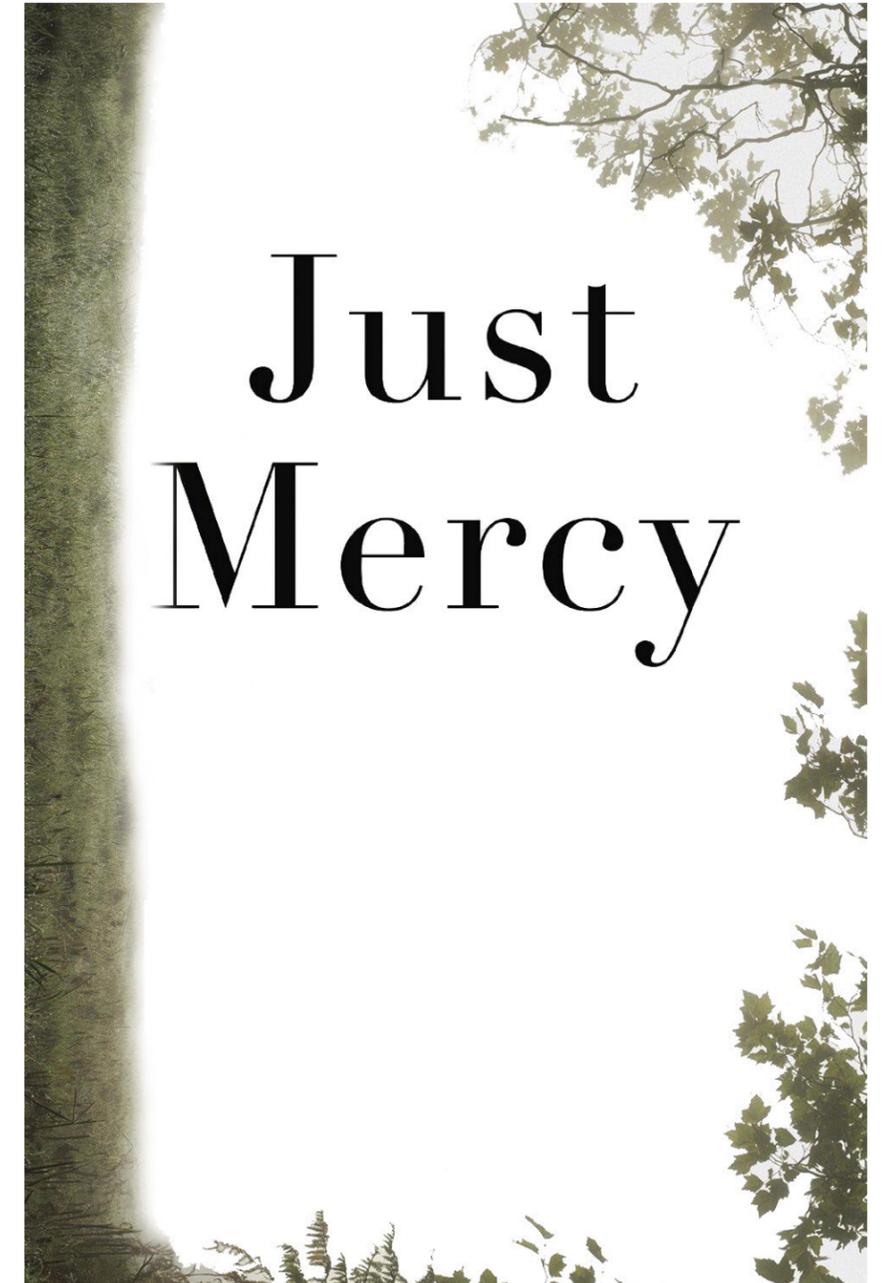
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**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



# Just Mercy

February 17, 2019

8:30 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.*