

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

## MARCH 25, 2018 at 8:30 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.

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## GATHERING

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

✝ SONGS of PRAISE

*Halle, Halle, Halleluja*

FWS 2026

**Halle, Halle, Halleluja! Halle, Halle, Halleluja!  
Halle, Halle, Halleluja! Halleluja! Halleluja!**  
(REPEAT)

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

UMH 278, vs. 1 & 3

**Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**“Hosanna in the highest!” that ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!**

✝ CALL to WORSHIP

Natalie Cooper

The parade today is just the beginning of our hope.

**We wave our branches and shout “Hosanna!”**

But there will come a time of silence and of mourning.

**Help us to be ready for that time, O Lord.**

Blessed is Jesus, who came into Jerusalem on that day.

**Blessed is Jesus who comes into our hearts always. Amen.**

✝ SONG of RESPONSE

*Just As I Am*

UMH 357, vs. 1

**Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

## LISTENING

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Heather Durham

*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

Natalie Cooper

*Mark 11:1-11*

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

“Love Leads the Way”

Pastor Lane

## RESPONDING

✝ HYMN of FAITH

UMH 170

*O How I Love Jesus*

✝ PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Julia

Jesus Christ invites to his table all who seek to walk with him in harmony with all people, whether in triumph, in humility, or the many ways our world creates to crucify. So that we may come to his table, let us confess how we have walked in ways that lead to decay, destruction, and death. We know how Jesus leads his followers, and where he leads. He leads crowds to marvel at your love,  
**while we lead crowds to marvel at our power.**

He proclaims good news to people who are sick, poor and outcast,  
**while we proclaim good news to people who are well,  
wealthy and well-connected.**

His way does not flinch in the face of violence that may destroy him,  
**while our way embraces violence to protect ourselves from  
destruction. We have gone astray. We seek your grace, to  
turn, cleanse, and forgive us our transgression. Set us again  
to be led by love that springs from your throne and makes  
all things new. Amen.**

*(a time for personal prayers of confession)*

✝ WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

Pastor Julia

It is the sure and certain will and delight of our God that the mind which was in Christ Jesus be also in us. In the name of Jesus, receive God’s forgiveness, cleansing and restoration.

**In the name of Jesus, may you receive God’s forgiveness,  
cleansing, and restoration. Hosanna in the highest! Amen.**

You are at peace with God in Jesus Christ. Share Christ’s peace now with one another, and the fruits of your loving labor with all the world.

✝ SHARING *the* LOVE *and* PEACE of CHRIST

OFFERING OUR TITHES *and* GIFTS to GOD

*Hosanna, Hosanna!*

✝ 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 Ghost. Amen.**

✝ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them in the Spirit’s love.**

Let us give thanks to our Triune God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and good at all times and in all places to give you thanks, Holy and Eternal One, full of compassion, and abounding in steadfast love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we have been given power to triumph over every evil, no longer living for ourselves, but for him who died for us, and rose again.

Therefore we exalt you and glorify you, joining our voices with the chorus of angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven who forever declare your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: Heaven and earth are full  
of your glory! All glory be to you, Most High! Blessed is the  
Lamb who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest!**

Almighty God, full of mercy, you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. By offering himself there, once for all, he broke the power of sin and death, and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Merciful are you for coming among us and for offering yourself to us in this holy meal to fill our hungry and erring souls, and follow where you lead, loving God and our neighbor fully as ourselves.

**And so we offer and present to you ourselves, our souls and  
bodies, in this holy and lively sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
remembering before you all you have done to save us in the  
way Jesus instructed his disciples:**

When, on the night that he was betrayed, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

**“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.”**

Then, after supper, he took the cup; gave thanks to you, and gave it to them, saying,

**“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the New  
Covenant poured out for you and for many; whenever you  
do this, do it in remembrance of me.”**

Hear us, most merciful God, and bless and sanctify with your Word and Holy Spirit your people gathered here and these gifts of bread and wine.

**Make us who receive them to be partakers in the divine  
nature. Empower us to walk in newness of life, that we may  
grow into Christ’s likeness, and forever dwell in him,  
and he in us.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, One God throughout all ages. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING *the* BREAD *and* CUP

♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.*

♦ *Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it; when you come up to the altar, let the server know you would like the gluten-free elements.*

PRAYER *after* RECEIVING

**Triune God, you have fed us with the body and blood of Christ,  
uniting us with you, and setting us on your way in peace. In the  
power of the Holy Spirit, send us forth to take up our cross and  
follow where Jesus leads. 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

UMH 261

*Lord of the Dance*

✝ BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

✝ POSTLUDE

*Don’t forget to take a yellow shopping bag and help support*

*The Shepherd’s Market by returning it next week on Grocery Bag Sunday.*

*Everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and 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.*

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy week worship services continue on March 29 with a Maundy Thursday service at 6 p.m. The service will include scripture readings, footwashing, Communion, and music by the Chancel Choir. On Good Friday, March 30 at 6 p.m. we will hold a "Service of Shadows" which will feature readings from the life of Jesus, leading to the crucifixion. On Easter Sunday, April 1, we will hold services at our regular times (8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.) celebrating the risen Lord.

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 2 and will reopen at 9 a.m. for regular hours on Tuesday, April 3. The Shepherd's Market will be closed Monday, April 2 and will be open for regular hours on Tuesday, April 3 at 8 a.m.

### MISSION HIGHLIGHT

St. John's United Methodist Women will begin featuring a Mission of the Month at coffee time in the FLC. Take a look at our mission board to learn more about the national and international missions UMW supports!

This month's mission is the North Rampart Community Center in New Orleans where we are sending a mission team from St. John's in April. There is still time to sign up to participate. For more information please email Rev. Larry Norman at lduckn@aol.com. This mission is open to all ages and abilities.

### EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Our church-wide/community-wide EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA will take place on **Saturday March 31** from 9 - 11 a.m. There will be a pancake breakfast, games, crafts, a puppet show, an Easter egg hunt, and maybe the Easter Bunny will join us! Bring your family and tell your neighbors! Come have a fun time with family and friends.

To make this an awesome event for the children, we need plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. There will be blue tubs in the narthex, the hallway of the Admin Building, and the FLC for the eggs and candy.

### COOKIES FOR KAIROS

Shay Chauvin will be participating in the next Kairos for women April 27-29. As with all Kairos weekends, home-baked cookies are very popular and Shay will need to bring 35 dozen! Cookies will be due back at church on **Sunday, April 15**. Please store/freeze your cookies at home until then as we do not have space here.

### MEALS FOR THE WESLEY AT LSU

Every Wednesday during the semester, just prior to weekly worship, a meal is provided to the students at the LSU Wesley. If you or a group or a Sunday School class would like to help by providing a meal for 30-40 students, go to TakeThemAMeal.com using the name Wesley Foundation and the password 2907.

### CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Participants in our youth confirmation class had an enjoyable and informative day Saturday, March 24 attending "Confirmation with the Bishop" at the Wesley Center in Woodworth. Both the youth and adult classes are taking an Easter break and will not meet on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. Classes will resume Sunday, April 8.

You are invited to write them a note of encouragement and put it in their mailboxes in the narthex. The youth love to check their mailboxes.

### SHOUT OUT FOR YELLOW PANTRY BAGS

Our supply of Yellow Shepherd's Market grocery bags has been greatly reduced. We are asking folks if they would look around their homes or their cars to see if they have any and please return them, with food, if possible! If not, you can bring them to church on Sunday, the office during the week, or the pantry Wednesday afternoon or Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

### UMW RUTH CIRCLE

The Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 3 at 9:30 in the parlor. Pat Cobb will present a program on the history of United Methodist Women. All women are invited to attend.

## HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

### Sunday, March 25

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*  
12:15 p.m. SPPRC Meeting, *Parlor*  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*  
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

### Monday, March 26

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, *Parlor*  
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*  
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

### Tuesday, March 27

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*  
9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Pastor's Office*  
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
4:45 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Library*  
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*

### Wednesday, March 28

5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*  
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*

### Thursday, March 29

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*  
6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship Service  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

### Friday, March 30

OFFICE CLOSED  
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*  
6:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service

### Saturday, March 31

9:00 a.m. Easter Eggstravaganza  
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

### ALTAR FLOWERS

*The flowers on the altar are given by Richard and Marilyn Damberg in honor of Pat Cobb on her birthday and for her flower ministry to St. John's.*

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Joyce Robinson, Randy Thayer, Susan Johnston, Barbara Benton  
Host: Sandra Kuykendall

### 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



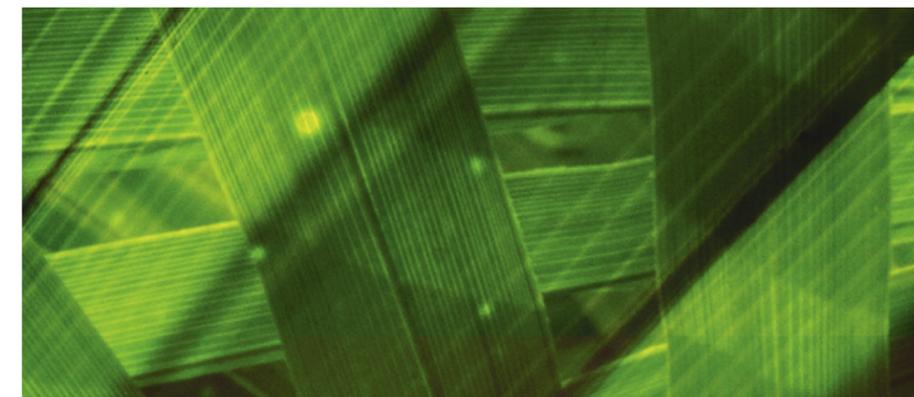
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# ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



# PALM

S U N D A Y

March 25, 2018

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.*