

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

NOVEMBER 26, 2017 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.

THE ADVENT OF WORSHIP

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

† SONGS of PRAISE

He Came Down

FWS 2085

**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.**

**He came down that we may have peace; ...
He came down that we may have joy; ...**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH 192

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE

Scott, Erin, and Kaylee Mullen

Today we light the first candle.
We call this the candle of Hope,
to remind us of God's light in the darkness.

(Lighting of the first Advent Candle)

Now we open the door to God's light
and await the coming of the Christ child.
**May Emmanuel find welcome in our hearts,
take flesh in our lives, and be for all peoples
the welcome advent of redemption and grace.**

RESPONSE to the LIGHT

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH 204

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.**

WELCOME IN THE GOOD NEWS

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Lane

Parents may accompany their children to the altar if desired.

Ushers will pass out folders during the Children's Moment. Please register your attendance.

† SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-38

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Welcome Inn Surprise

Deirdré Halliburton

OUR HOPE-FILLED RESPONSE

† HYMN of FAITH

Christ Is the World's Light

UMH 188

† PRAYER of CONFESSION

**Merciful God,
always with us...always coming:
We confess that we do not know how to prepare
for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles.
We have not welcomed in the promise of your kingdom.
We get distracted by all the busyness of this season.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors.
Forgive us, we pray.
Grant us the patient faith and wisdom of Mary.
In the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make
us ready to welcome your Light into our lives.**

(A time for silent prayers and confession.)

† WORDS of ASSURANCE *and* PARDON

based on Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up from David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called:

“The Lord Is Our Righteousness.”

**Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce
this season, is our righteousness.**

In Christ, we are made right with God.

In Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

† SHARING the LOVE *and* PEACE of CHRIST

OFFERTORY

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

† 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

† CALL to the TABLE

Welcome! This table is for all,
brothers and sisters, neighbors and newcomers,
from near and far, we gather at God's welcome.

This table is for all, but it is not our table.
It's God's table. So come, and take your place
at the table of grace.

You are welcome. You are invited. You are called.

**Let us share this holy meal together,
where all are welcomed in.**

† THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

And so, with your people on earth and
all the company of heaven we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:

Singing together:

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

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

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Singing together:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Singing together:

**Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

GIVING 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; when you come up to the altar, let the server know you would like the gluten-free elements.*
- *You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

PRAYER *after* RECEIVING

**Thank you, God, for meeting us in this holy mystery,
where you have welcomed us in and filled us with your grace.
Send us by your Spirit to be faithful signs of your steadfast love,
filled with the hope that comes from this blessed season,
as we prepare to "welcome inn," your Son, the Light
of the World. Amen.**

DEPARTING IN SERVICE & LOVE

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 206, Vs 1 & 3

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

† BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

† POSTLUDE

All are invited to stay for refreshments in the Family Life Center.

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.

Restrooms are in the Narthex.

Thank you for being here.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL - "WELCOME INN"

The Advent Devotional is now available! Our theme, "Welcome Inn," focuses on preparing to welcome the Christ child yet again and remembering Christmas traditions with the theme of "welcome." We invite you to join us on this journey through Advent. We will have a limited number of hard copies available after worship today. We are asking a love offering donation to cover the cost of printing. If you would like to receive a daily email of the devotionals you may sign up at www.stjohnsbr.org/advent-2017/sign-up. They will also be posted on Facebook each day or you can download a copy of the devotionals at the above mentioned link.

YELLOW BAG SUNDAY

Don't forget to pick up a yellow Shepherd's Market grocery bag on your way out of worship. Please bring your bag back next Sunday filled with items such as breakfast foods, soups, canned fruit, canned and dry beans, side dishes, and household products. This is a time of year when we have a greater number of folks needing help with food for the holidays so everything you bring for the pantry is in demand.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS SEASON

Once again our sanctuary will be graced with the beauty of poinsettias during the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you have someone you would like to honor or remember, fill out the enclosed form and put it in the offering plate.

ADVENT FEST

Everyone is invited to our Advent Fest that is sure to be fun for all ages next **Sunday, December 3** from 4-6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We will sing Christmas carols, including some shared by our handbells. There will be a Christmas Cookie Swap, so bring 3 dozen of your homemade Christmas Cookies. Come dressed for the season, and we will vote on the ugliest Christmas Sweater and the Cutest Christmas PJs! There will be a time to share in Holiday Prayers and take photos with Santa.

SINGING, BAKING, AND THE GIFT OF LIFE

The morning of **Sunday, December 10** will be filled with opportunities for members of St. John's to enjoy and, also, help others. In the morning, at both worship services, our wonderful music department will present **Lessons and Carols**, something we look forward to every year. At coffee time the **UMW will hold a sale of home baked goodies** to help fund their mission projects - bring your Christmas gift list. And, our semi-annual **blood drive** will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the large parking lot - donate if you can; this is truly the gift of life.

APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT (ASP) YOUTH MISSION

Do you know a teenager in grades 9 - 12 who might be interested in a mission trip that might change their lives? ASP provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation — bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families making them warmer, safer, and drier. Last year ASP volunteers provided repairs for 493 families and constructed 26 new homes. Every group of St. John's Youth who have gone on an ASP Mission trip has come home truly amazed at what they saw, what they learned, and what they did to make a difference. Contact Phil LeBlanc at pleblanc@eatel.net if you have any questions.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 26

YELLOW BAG SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
5:00 p.m. Youth, *FLC*
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, November 27

9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
10:00 a.m. Let's Geaux Play, *Toddler Nursery*
12:00 p.m. Gulf South Quilt Guild, *FLC-A*
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies, *Parlor*
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, November 28

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, *Pastor's Office*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
5:30 p.m. Cancer Survivors, *Choir Room*
6:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, *Library*

Wednesday, November 29

10:00 a.m. Self-taught Spanish Class, *Library*
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, *Choir Room*

Thursday, November 30

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

Friday, December 1

OFFICE CLOSED
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
9:00 a.m. Arts & Crafts, *FLC-A*

Saturday, December 2

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *David and Tina Henson, Guy Johnson, Harriet Walters*
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)
www.sjthewalk



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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



8:30 a.m. Worship Service
NOVEMBER 26, 2017

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.