

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016  
11 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

**Proclaim the good news of God: the time is fulfilled. God’s kingdom has come near.**

Repent, and believe the good news of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

HYMN *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed* UMH 203

Hail to the Lord’s Anointed, great David’s greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before  
him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Troy and Sarah Prevot  
Mary Hannah Prevot, Emily Prevot

Today a new year in the life of the Church begins. We are entering the season of Advent, the season of watchful waiting. Soon the child will be born who will change the world forever. We are called to be wakeful and ready to respond as we await the coming of the Good News he brings.

What is this Good News? It begins as a promise, God’s enduring promise of comfort for all creation. As the prophet Isaiah wrote, “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins.”

This morning we think of these words as we light the first candle in our Advent wreath, the candle of Promise.

**Lord, we wait for your coming, eager for your Good News and the Promise it brings.**

SONG OF RESPONSE *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

**PRAYER**

**Merciful God, you sent your prophets to preach repentance and the promise of salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings, and urge us to turn from our sins. Inspire us to receive the promise of your mercy - the promise that you sent your son, Jesus, into the world not to condemn us but to save us. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

**THE WORD**

GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

CHILDREN’S MOMENT Lorri McGuire

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:1-8, Matthew 24:29-35 Guy Johnson

SERMON *Waiting for Advent?* Rev. Larry Norman  
*You May Have Missed It*

HYMN *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* UMH 196  
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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER UMH 895

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY UMH 95

**SENT FORTH IN GOD’S NAME**

HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH 206, vs. 1 & 3  
I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

BLESSING

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE ...**

given by Harriet Walters to the Glory of God, with thanksgiving.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

<b>Ushers</b>	Zack and Kristine Isenhower, Bill and Jane Metcalf
<b>Host(s)</b>	Misty Shaw

**HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, November 27**

3:00 p.m. LCIW Christmas Project, FLC  
5:00 p.m. Youth, 207 Admin Building  
6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, FLC

**Monday, November 28**

9:00 a.m. Ladies’ Covenant Group, Parlor  
3:00 p.m. Men’s Covenant Group, Library  
3:30 p.m. The Shepherd’s Market, FLC  
5:00 p.m. Ladies’ Covenant Group, Parlor

**Tuesday, November 29**

8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, FLC  
8:30 a.m. The Shepherd’s Market, FLC  
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Parlor

**Wednesday, November 30**

4:00 p.m. Ladies’ Covenant Group, Parlor  
6:00 p.m. Men’s Group, George’s Southside  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Choir Room  
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, FLC  
7:17 p.m. 717 Group, George’s Southside

**Thursday, December 1**

6:15 a.m. Men’s Prayer Group, Parlor  
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library  
8:30 a.m. The Shepherd’s Market, FLC

**Friday, December 2**

OFFICE CLOSED

**Saturday, December 3**

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

**A SERVICE OF LIGHT  
(AMID A TIME OF SHADOWS)**

On **Thursday, December 1** at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center, St. John’s will be holding A Service of Light.

Many of us recognize that Christmas can be a bittersweet time of the year. The constant sentiments we hear about getting together with family reminds many of us of loss - loved ones or relationships - or perhaps what we never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation: all these can make us feel very much alone in the midst of the festive season. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. We need to know God’s presence during this season.

This service offers us a time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. If you feel drawn to this service, we hope you will join us on December 1.

**PRAYER REQUEST FORM**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Joy  Concern

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Please share with the prayer team  
 Please share with Pastors only  
 I desire a call  
 I desire a visit

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also email a prayer request to: [prayers@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:prayers@stjohnsbr.org)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Philippians 4:6



## WELCOME

If you would like someone to follow up with you please fill out the information below and place in the offering plate.

- I am just visiting today.
- I am new to the area and am looking for a church home.
- I would like more information about the United Methodist Church and St. John's.
- I am interested in Baptism or Confirmation.
- I am interested in Children's Ministries.
- I am interested in Youth Ministries.
- I am interested in College/ Young Adult Ministries.
- I would like to receive email communications about church life.
- I would like a call from a pastor.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Children (Names & Ages): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR **YELLOW BAG** FOR THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET!

Needed items for Grocery Bag Sunday, December 4, are pasta, condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo), sugar, juice, and laundry detergent or dish soap.

### TODAY - CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Join us at 5 p.m. in the Family Life Center as we continue our Children's Choir rehearsal. We will learn several Christmas songs which we will sing at the Advent Festival Sunday, December 11 at 3 p.m. Rehearsals will be every Sunday evening from 5-5:45 in the Family Life Center and are open to grades K-5.

### TODAY - THE CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree will be up during coffee time. By selecting an angel or two from the tree you will bring joy to children of incarcerated parents/step-parents by purchasing gifts in the inmate's name. Gifts need to be returned, wrapped, by Sunday, December 4. We also need volunteers to help deliver the gifts. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help deliver, contact Beth Forester at 405-9324.

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, December 6** at 11 a.m. for their annual Christmas party. The party will be held at the home of Judy Koonce, 6990 S. Fieldgate Court. Everyone is to bring a side dish or a dessert. A love offering will be collected for a charity.

The Mary Martha Circle will meet **Tuesday, December 13** at 7 p.m. in the parlor for their annual Christmas party. Please bring a snack to share. All women are invited to attend.

### PLACE YOUR T-SHIRT ORDER

It's time to order St. John's t-shirts. There will be two styles: long sleeved and short sleeved. The long-sleeved t-shirt will be pre-order only. The short sleeved t-shirt will be ordered in bulk and sold on a first-come, first served basis. Use the order form to place your order.

### ADVENT FESTIVAL IN FAMILY LIFE CENTER SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 3 P.M.

It's once again time for our annual Advent Festival. Come and enjoy the season with an afternoon of music, drama, merriment, and fellowship. After the program everyone is invited to a cookie reception where there will be lots of homemade cookies.

**If you would like to make cookies for the reception, please bring them to the kitchen Sunday morning (marked "Advent Festival") or just prior to the event.**

## SERMON NOTES

### CHURCH STAFF

**The Rev. Dr. Jay Hogewood**  
Senior Pastor  
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www.stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

#### Mission Statement

*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.*



Remember to pray for **The Walk**.  
"...for we walk by faith, not by sight."  
- 2 Corinthians 5:7  
#sjthewalk | www.stjohnsbr.org/the-walk



Check in on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnsbr](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbr)

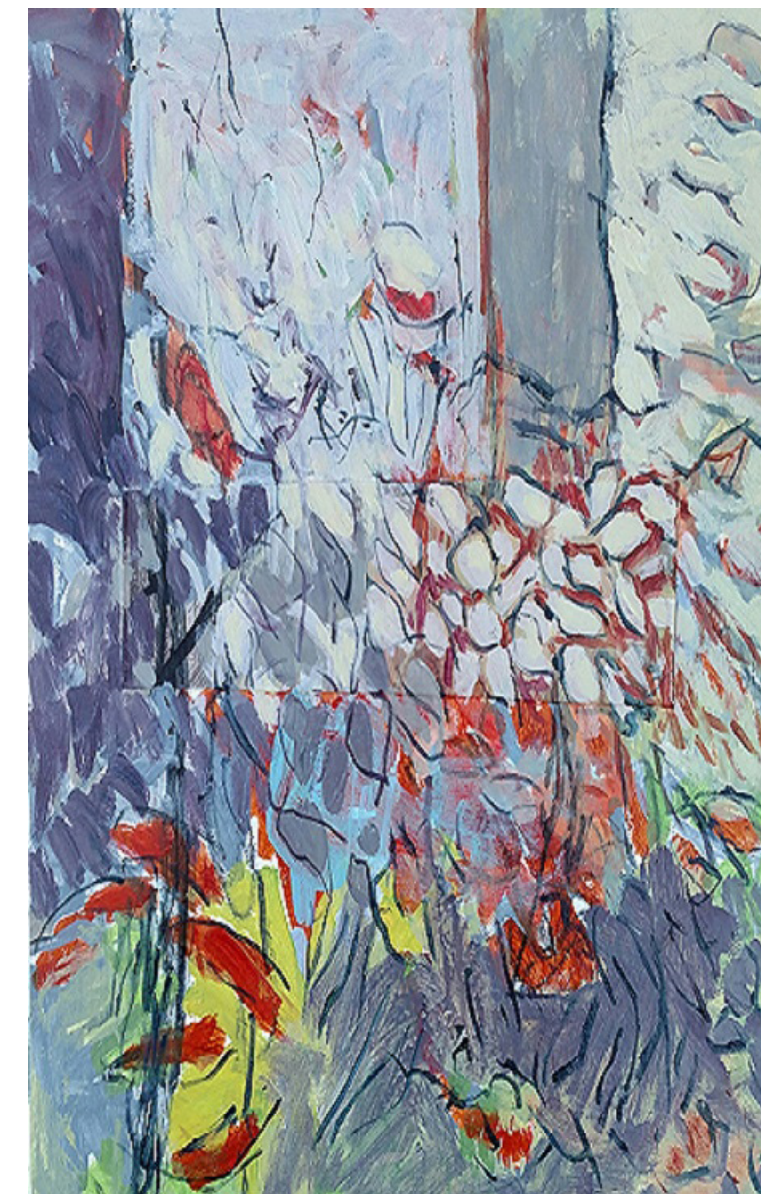


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**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



*Awaiting* - acrylic on panel by Billie Bourgeois

**What Is the Good News?  
God's Promise**

**First Sunday of Advent  
November 27, 2016**

**11 a.m. Worship Service**