

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2016
8:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

INTROIT Praise Team Orchestra

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.

SONGS OF PRAISE

In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful FWS 2195

In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,

lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

I Will Enter His Gates FWS 2270

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart,

I will enter his courts with praise.

I will say, “This is the day that the Lord has made.”

I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.

He has made me glad, he has made me glad.

I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.

He has made me glad, he has made me glad.

I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Jim & Theresa Sandifer

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 Mari Walker

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

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.

PRAYER, CONFESSION, PARDON

Almighty and merciful God, we acknowledge what you already know – we have sinned and fallen short of your glory. We confess that we have allowed the shadow of hate to cloud our souls. We confess our words have been hurtful to our sisters and brothers. We admit we have failed to live up to your expectations – to be compassionate as you are compassionate. Forgive us our sins, and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us. And by the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts that we might repent of our pride and greed; help us to turn back to you. Lead us into new life through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(silent confession)

Hear the good news: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God’s promise endures forever. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

THE PEACE

OFFERTORY *Instrumental Medley*

DOXOLOGY UMH 94

THE TABLE

CALL TO THE TABLE

Let us stand well. Let us stand in awe. Let us be attentive, that we may offer this holy offering in peace.

Mercy and peace, our sacrifice of praise.

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE III UMH 15

COMMUNION RESPONSES FWS 2257

THE LORD’S PRAYER UMH 895

*GIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Jesus, once and for all you poured out your life for us. Again and again we thank you and receive your body and blood. Send us out to pour ourselves out with such joyous abandon that your love is always known, the Spirit’s power always felt and the Almighty’s will to save never in doubt. Amen.

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 Trees of the Field*

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

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE ...
given by Harriet Walters to the Glory of God, with thanksgiving.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers Donnie and Susan Lambert, Darren and Chris Stubbs

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

PRAYER REQUEST FORM

Date _____

Joy Concern

- 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

“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: _____

Minor 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.

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.

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
225-772-3550
pastorjay@stjohnsbr.org

Lorri McGuire
Director of Ministries for
Children and Youth
lorrimcguire@stjohnsbr.org

Carrie Stephens
Director of Communications
and Music Ministries
carriestephens@stjohnsbr.org

Terry Byars
Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Brenda Green
Business & Facility Administrator
brendagreen@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Alex Martin
Youth Intern
alexmartin@stjohnsbr.org

St. John's United Methodist Church
9375 Highland Road | Baton Rouge, LA 70810
Office hours: M-Th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; closed Friday
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



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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



Awaiting by Billie Bourgeois

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

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

8:30 a.m. Worship Service