

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

DECEMBER 30, 2018 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.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

† SONG of PRAISE

Angels From the Realms of Glory

UMH 220, vs. 1 & 2

† CALL to WORSHIP

Listen—all creation rejoices, can you hear it?

There is so much noise and chatter, are you sure there is music?

Listen—the wilderness and desert are breaking out in song, can you hear it?

It's been so long since we've heard a melody of praise.

Listen—the crocus blooms with joyful singing, the very mountains join in the refrain. Can you hear it?

We join our voices in hope, worshipping our God who brings forth a new song in the world.

Let us open our hearts with love as we pray together:

Life-giving God, we are a blessed people.

In this moment of worship we pray that you might bless us anew.

Give us ears to hear the melodies of praise that fill the world around us. And as we hear the songs, teach us to sing your praise, to dance with abandon, to rejoice in the wonders of your grace.

Forgive us when we have passed by signs of your mercy. We confess that too often we have not been open to the rhythms of life you offer to us.

From this moment forward, open our eyes to the places where joy is springing up from parched ground.

Lead us by your Spirit in the pathways of your overflowing peace, hope and love. Amen.

CAROL REFLECTION

† SONG of RESPONSE

Angels From the Realms of Glory

UMH 220, vs. 3 & 4

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

† PSALTER

Psalm 96

UMH 815

SUNG RESPONSE

The Lord comes, the Lord comes, and all creation sings for joy.

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless God's name;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

Declare the Lord's glory among the nations,
The Lord's marvelous works among all the peoples!
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols; but the Lord made the heavens.

Honor and majesty are before the Lord
in whose sanctuary are strength and beauty.

SUNG RESPONSE

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name! Bring an offering,
and come into the courts of the Lord!

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
Tremble before the Lord, all the earth!

SUNG RESPONSE

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"

The Lord has established the world, it shall never be moved.

The Lord will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth. The Lord will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

† GLORIA PATRI

UMH 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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 2:25-35
"Song of Simeon"

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Song of Blessing" *Pastor Deirdre*

WE RESPOND with THANKSGIVING

† HYMN of FAITH

UMH 228

He Is Born

OFFERING OUR TITHES & GIFTS to GOD

† DOXOLOGY

UMH 94

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!

† 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:

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.

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:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)

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

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING the BREAD & 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 OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this healing gift; and we pray that through it, you graciously strengthen us in faith toward you and in love toward one another; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

† BLESSING & 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.

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

The flowers on the altar are given by Lynn Cooper in loving memory of her husband, Paul, today - his birthday.

UMH 251

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.

THANK YOU, ST. JOHN'S

The Christmas Eve offering was given to **Families in Transition (FIT)**, a new initiative of Opening Doors. FIT's mission is to provide broad support for a family having challenges while transitioning from a difficult situation until they get to a point where they can support themselves.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1, 2019, reopening on Wednesday, January 2 at 9 a.m. NOTE: beginning in January the church office will be open on Fridays from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Shepherd's Market is closed for the holidays. It will reopen on Monday, January 7 at 3 p.m.

St. John's Youth will not meet Sunday, December 30. Regular Youth fellowship will resume Sunday, January 6 at 4 p.m.

The Chancel Choir will not practice on Wednesday, January 2. Choir practice will resume Wednesday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m.

All covenant and prayer groups that meet on Mondays and Tuesdays will not meet during the holiday closures and will resume on Monday, January 7 and Tuesday, January 8 at their regular times.

END OF YEAR DONATIONS

Please remember, if you are planning to make a donation to St. Johns' or any of our missions in 2018, in order for it to be claimed on your 2018 tax return, it must be postmarked or brought to the office by December 31.

CENTENARY CHOIR CONCERT - JANUARY 26

Mark your calendar! The Centenary Choir will be performing at St. John's on Saturday, January 26 at 7 p.m. We will be needing folks to host the students in their home for that Saturday night after the concert. Phone (766-4594) or email (office@stjohnsbr.org) the church office if you are willing to act as a host home.

THE WESLEY CHALLENGE - SERIES AND STUDY

Make your New Years Resolution to develop a more authentic faith and join us for The Wesley Challenge built around 21 questions that John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, encouraged the first Methodists to ask one another. Through this sermon series and the Tuesday night study, at 6:30 p.m., we will explore how we can develop the spiritual habits, practices and actions that can lead to a thriving Christian life. For additional information, to reserve a book, and to register for the class, please use the forms found in the Narthex or call the office, 225-766-4594.

FAST TRACK BIBLE STUDY

Spring 2019 Fast Track Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. If you want to know more about the Bible, want to study in a relaxed, small group atmosphere, want to study with others on their journey through the Bible join us for this 12-week study of Luke and Acts. Look for a registration form in your Sunday bulletin next week.

2019 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2019 is now up on the bulletin board in the hallway of the Admin/Education Building. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one, flowers on the altar to glorify God is a beautiful way to do so. For your convenience, Heroman's on Staring has a key to the sanctuary and will deliver to the church on Saturday afternoon.

RUTH CIRCLE

The first meeting of the Ruth Circle for 2019 will be held on Tuesday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Liz McDonald will present the program, "The Sisterhood of Human Flourishing." All women are invited to attend.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, December 30

- 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*
- 7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, December 31

- OFFICE CLOSED
- THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

- HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- OFFICE CLOSED,
- THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

Wednesday, January 2

- 10:00 a.m. Spanish Class, *Library*
- 10:00 a.m. UMW Executive Committee, *Parlor*

Thursday, January 3

- THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED
- 8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*

Friday, January 4

- OFFICE OPEN 9 A.M. - NOON

Saturday, January 5

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Carol Gordon, Sandra Kuykendall, Mike and Sally Allen

CHURCH STAFF

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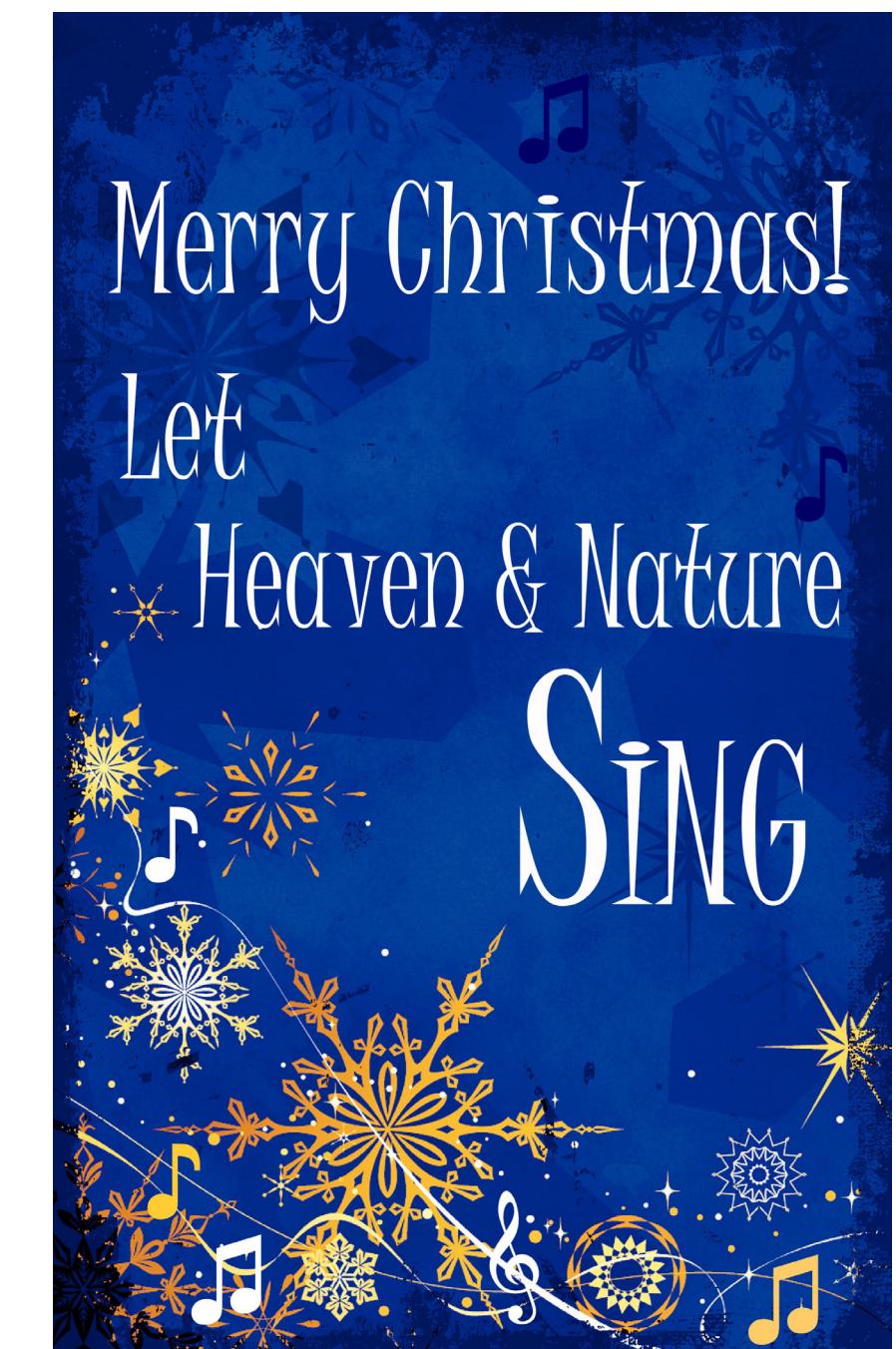
Bill Putzig
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ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



December 30, 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.

St. John's United Methodist Church
230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810
www.stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

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