

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

## December 2, 2018 at 11 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.

## THE ADVENT OF WORSHIP

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP *Pat Cobb*

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.**

✠ HYMN of PRAISE *Blessed Be the God of Israel* UMH 209

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *Pastor Deirdré, Carrie Poynot  
Alejandra Breve, Caleb Doan*

*Today we light the candle of Hope,  
a light that burns brightly for all people.*

CANDLE RESPONSE SONG *Pastor Lane, Pastor Deirdré*  
*Do You Hear What I Hear?*

CHILDREN’S MOMENT *Pastor Deirdré*

*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.*

## WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

✠ SCRIPTURE Luke 1:8-20, 57-64 *Pat Cobb*  
*Zechariah’s Song*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Songs and Silence” *Pastor Lane*

## WE RESPOND with THANKSGIVING

✠ HYMN of FAITH UMH 211, vs. 1 & 4  
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

✠ CANTICLE of ZECARIAH UMH 208

OFFERING OUR TITHES & GIFTS to GOD *Chancel Choir*  
*An Advent Reflection*

✠ 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 host. Amen.**

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with us.

**We are not alone.**

Christ is present here.

**The Spirit moves within us.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**In memory and in hope.**

Blessings be to you, Creator God,  
who in the beginning brought light and life to the world  
and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

**Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages,  
your ancient promise still brings us hope.**

Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope  
and share your love.

But even when they have closed their ears to the song,  
you did not stop singing.

You sent prophets and messengers to your people,  
reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice  
that would surround the world.

**They came in the midst of our despair  
and filled us with hope.**

And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the  
promise in a new way.

**Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus.  
Promising her that in her son the world would be changed.**

And now as we prepare for that child to be born,  
we echo the ancient song:

**O come, O come Emmanuel.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

THE STORY REMEMBERED

Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the  
life that this baby will live.

**We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition  
to show all what the Banquet of Hope could be, as he ate  
openly with the despised and the outcast of his world.**

And we remember one special meal, a foretaste of the banquet that is  
to come, that he ate with his closest friends.

**Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story  
of liberation, he prepared them for liberation.**

And at the end of the meal he took bread, blessed and broke it,  
then passed it to them saying:

**Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the  
world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.**

After that he took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them saying:

**This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you  
drink it remember me, for I shall not eat or drink again until  
the time of the heavenly banquet.**

Remembering the birth of the child in the stable, we remember also  
his life, his death and his resurrection.

**We remember how he poured his love out to all he met.  
We look forward to his return and the coming reign of peace,  
love, and justice.**

THE SPIRIT TRANSFORMS

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE POURING & BREAKING & SERVING

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life.

The Cup we Share is the Cup of Promise.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

- ♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.*
- ♦ *Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it at the station on the right.*

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

**God of pregnant expectations, God of Christmas promise, God  
of child-like hope,**

**may the fellowship experienced around your table fill us  
with hope in a world of despair. Inspire us to join heaven  
and nature in singing songs of hope, as we wait for the day  
when the world will be changed. Let your light so shine  
through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel. 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 569, vs. 1 & 4  
*We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations*

*During the hymn, we invite you to bring forward The Shepherd’s Market grocery bags.*

✠ BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

*The flowers on the altar are given by Richard Damberg  
in honor of Marilyn for her birthday.*

## 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.*

### "LET HEAVEN & NATURE SING" SERIES

From the psalms that implored the earth to make a joyful noise to the very first Christmas where choirs of angels sang, music has told the story of God's glory, greatness, and unending love. Beginning today we will let familiar Christmas carols and songs from the Advent and Christmas narrative from Luke's gospel guide our Advent journey as we implore all creation to sing the glory of Christ's light, shining even in the midst of the darkness.

### LISTENING SESSION WITH BISHOP HARVEY

If you are interested in learning more about the report released by The Commission on The Way Forward and the plans that will be considered at the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference in St. Louis, you might be interested in attending the listening session with Bishop Harvey **this afternoon** from 2-4 p.m. at Broadmoor UMC, 10230 Mollylea Dr.

### STAFF APPRECIATION GIFT

An annual Christmas tradition at St. John's has always been saying thank you to our staff for all the work they do to make events and programs at St. John's possible. If you would like to participate in thanking them, please put "Staff Appreciation" in the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope, if cash. Donations may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. Deadline for staff appreciation gifts is **Monday, December 17**.

### HEAVENLY HASH

A lot of folks like breakfast at supper and we are hoping you do, too, as that's the menu for Heavenly Hash on **Wednesday, December 5** from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Join us for eggs, grits, sausage, biscuits, and if you want - pancakes! A love offering will be taken for the meal.

### PRIME TIMERS BREAKFAST

**Saturday, December 8** is the Prime Timers Dutch-treat breakfast at the Piccadilly on Essen Lane. We meet at 8:30 a.m. for a buffet breakfast or one from the grill. Join us for great conversation and good food.

### SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

The quarterly coffee for parents of our youth will be on **Thursday, December 6** in the FLC.

St. John's youth in grades 6 -12 are invited to the Christmas party **December 16** 4-6:30 p.m. at the Worthy's, 10407 Magnolia Lake Ave. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and wrap a tacky mug for a white elephant gift exchange. Come join in the fun to celebrate the season!

### UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS

**Sunday, December 9, UMW Bake Sale**, 9:30 - 9:45 a.m. Delicious cookies, baked by St. John's UMW, will be on sale during coffee time.

**Sunday, December 9, Pastors' Open House**, 2 - 4 p.m. Get into the holiday spirit with a visit to the homes of Pastor Lane (11924 N. Oak Hills Pkwy) and Pastor Deirdre (10367 Rustic Oak Dr.) for a time of festive fellowship. Both pastors live in the Oak Hills subdivision and hope you will stop by.

**Saturday, December 15, Eighth Great Turkey Giveaway**, We will be doing a drive-through giveaway and volunteers are needed as we bag, sort, and give away turkeys and the fixings for a Christmas dinner. Volunteers should be at church at 7 a.m.

**Sunday, December 16, Christmas Cantata I Hear the Prophet Callin'** - 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Our music ministries will offer beautiful songs and sounds of the season. You will not want to miss this beautiful performance and worship experience.

**Friday, December 21, Longest Night Service** - 6 p.m. The Christmas season can be a difficult time for some. This service is a time to acknowledge our grief and remind ourselves of the hope we have in Christ. Everyone is invited to this beautiful, intimate and healing service.

**Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** - 4 p.m. (family) and 7 p.m. (traditional). We hope you will join us for either of these beautiful services that will prepare your heart to welcome the Christ child.

## HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

### Sunday, December 2

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*  
2:00 p.m. Listening Session w/Bishop Harvey, *Broadmoor UMC*  
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*

### Monday, December 3

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, December 4

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*  
9:30 a.m. UMW Ruth Circle, *Parlor*  
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, *Pastor's Office*  
2:00 p.m. Reading Connection, *Library*  
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Parlor*  
6:00 p.m. Emmaus Board, *FLC-A*  
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*

### Wednesday, December 5

10:00 a.m. Spanish Language Refresher, *Library*  
3:30 p.m. VIPS Everybody Reads, *Library*  
5:30 p.m. Heavenly Hash, *FLC*  
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, *Choir Room*

### Thursday, December 6

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*  
6:00 p.m. Youth Parents Quarterly Coffee, *FLC*  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

### Friday, December 7

OFFICE CLOSED  
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*

### Saturday, December 8

8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, *Essen Piccadilly*  
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Fred and Kathleen Adams, Scott Durham, Liz McDonald*

Host: *Richard and Marilyn Damberg*

### CHURCH STAFF

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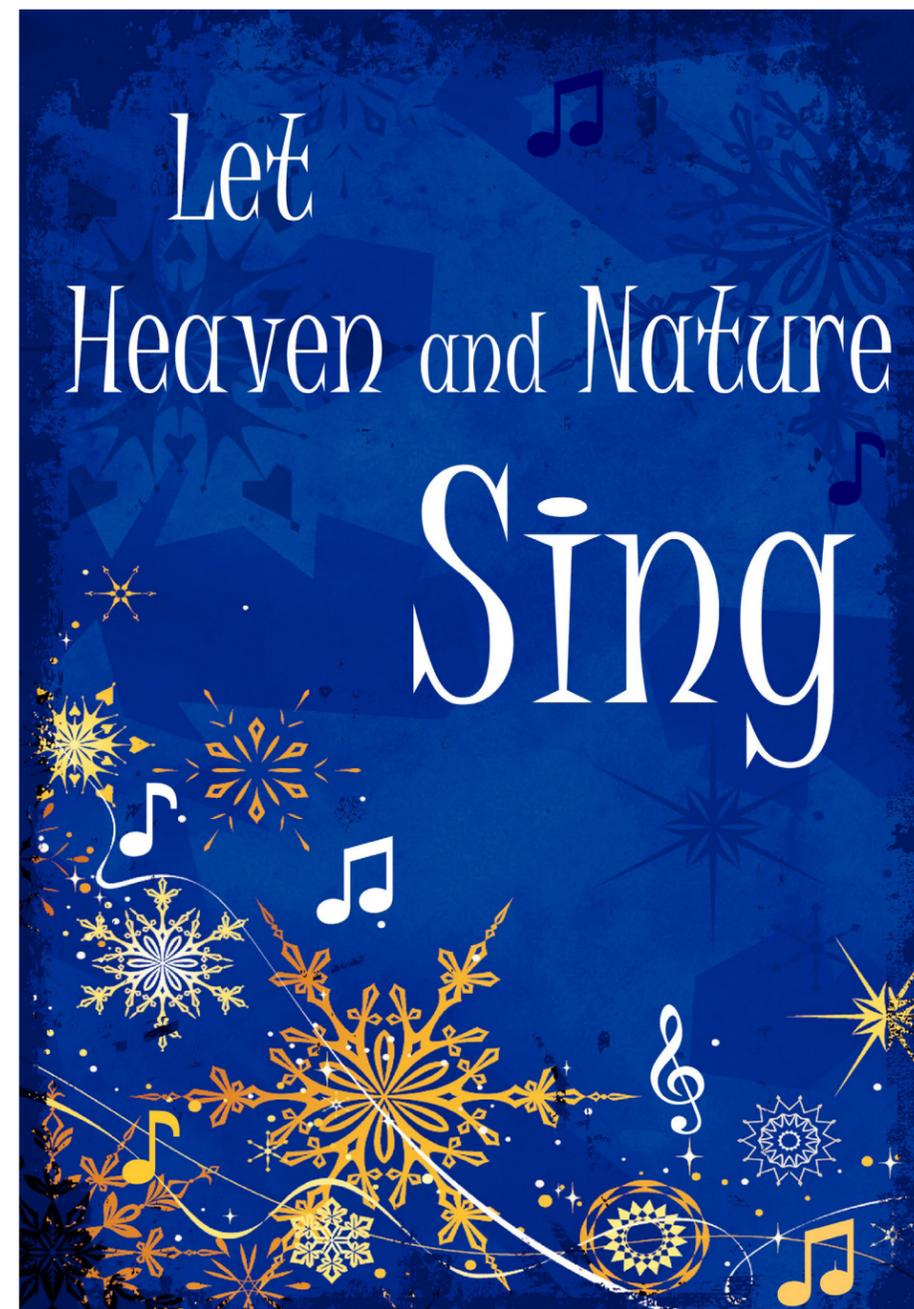
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**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



December 2, 2018  
11 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.*