

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

December 9, 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

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

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

UMH 198

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Ray Halliburton, Molly Means, Connie Upton

*Today we light the candle of peace, as we seek God's peace
in the world, and relight the candle of hope.*

CANDLE RESPONSE SONG

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

UMH 216, vs. 1 & 2

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!

**Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah' twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Barbara Benton

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.*

ANTHEM

Special Music

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

✠ SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town
in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the
child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy
Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among
women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this
happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as
soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb
leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be
a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary's Song

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Song of the Silence Breakers"

Pastor Lane

WE RESPOND with THANKSGIVING

HYMN of FAITH

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH 204

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

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Pastor Deirdré

Lord, we wait with eager expectation for the coming of Your kingdom
when the humble will be exalted and the hungry fed.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we prepare for Your advent with searching minds and repentant
hearts, trusting in Your healing spirit and redemptive love.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we watch with those who wait and weep,
longing to see the rule of justice and the reign of peace.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we seek You among the despised and rejected,
knowing that there we will find Your light shining in the dark.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we proclaim sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed,
trusting in Your tender mercy and passion for justice.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we work with others to proclaim Your truth,
challenging the mighty and raising the meek.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done.

Lord, we wrestle with our hopes and our fears,
our struggles and our joys laboring with creation
to come to new birth.

**Your kingdom come, Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,**

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those**

who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

Christmas Eve Offering

OFFERING OUR TITHES & GIFTS to GOD

✠ 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.**

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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

UMH 203

✠ BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

*The flowers on the altar are dedicated to "our St. John's Family with all of our love"
from the Prevots: Troy, Sarah, Mary Hannah, and Emily.*

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.

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**.

MARY MARTHA UMW

The Mary Martha Circle will hold their Christmas meeting at the home of Harriet Walters, 11802 Towering Oaks Dr. on **Tuesday, December 11** at 7 p.m. All women of the church are welcome. Hope to see you there! PLEASE NOTE: Harriet lives on a dead end street, park in cul de sac or in driveway.

GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY

If you generously provided freezer space for Duane's Bread, please return it to the FLC beginning Thursday, December 13. All bread should be returned by Friday, December 14. Set up for the Turkey Giveaway will be **Friday, December 14** at 3 p.m. in the FLC. On Saturday, December 15 volunteers should arrive by 7 a.m. to be prepared for the drive through giveaway that will begin at 8:30 a.m.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Thank you for your support for the California Pizza Kitchen fundraiser in November. We had so much fun and raised \$369 that we are going to do it again, this time at Sammy's. On **Monday, December 17** from 5 p.m. to close at the Highland Road location only, our youth will receive a percentage from all sales designated by the customer to be for St. John's Youth. All proceeds from fundraisers will be used for our youth to attend Love Well-Youth 2019 in Kansas City, MO, July 10 - 14.

UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS

TODAY, UMW Bake Sale, during coffee time.

TODAY, Pastors' Open House, 2 - 4 p.m. Visit 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.

Sunday, December 16, Christmas Cantata - 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Friday, December 21, Longest Night Service - 6 p.m.

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.

UPCOMING STUDY - THE WESLEY CHALLENGE

On **Tuesday, January 8**, we will begin a 4-week study that will run parallel to our new sermon series. The Wesley Challenge is built around the 21 questions that John Wesley encouraged the first Methodists to ask one another. Through the sermon series, beginning January 6, and the study we will explore how we can develop the spiritual habits, practices and actions that can lead to a thriving Christian life.

SAVE THE DATE - 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 the church office if you are willing to act as a host home. More information will be published in church communications in the near future.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, December 9

8:00 a.m. Praise Team, *Sanctuary*
8:30 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*
9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, *FLC*
9:30 a.m. UMW Bake Sale, *FLC*
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
11:00 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*
2:00 p.m. **PASTORS' OPEN HOUSES**
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, December 10

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*
4:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, December 11

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, *FLC*
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, *Pastor's Office*
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*

Wednesday, December 12

10:00 a.m. Spanish Language Refresher, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, *Choir Room*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*

Thursday, December 13

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 14

OFFICE CLOSED
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Set-up for Turkey Giveaway, *FLC*

Saturday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, *Essen Piccadilly*
7:00 a.m. Volunteers for Turkey Giveaway, *FLC*
8:30 a.m. Eighth Annual Great Turkey Giveaway, *FLC*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Richard and Marilyn Damberg, Penny Kemler, Will Halliburton*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Amy Fine
Director of Youth Ministries
amyfine@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Rev. Deirdre Halliburton
Associate Pastor
pastordeirdra@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

Carrie Poynt
Director of Music Ministries
carriepoynt@stjohnsbr.org

Terry Byars
Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

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

 Check in on Facebook:
facebook.com/stjohnsbr

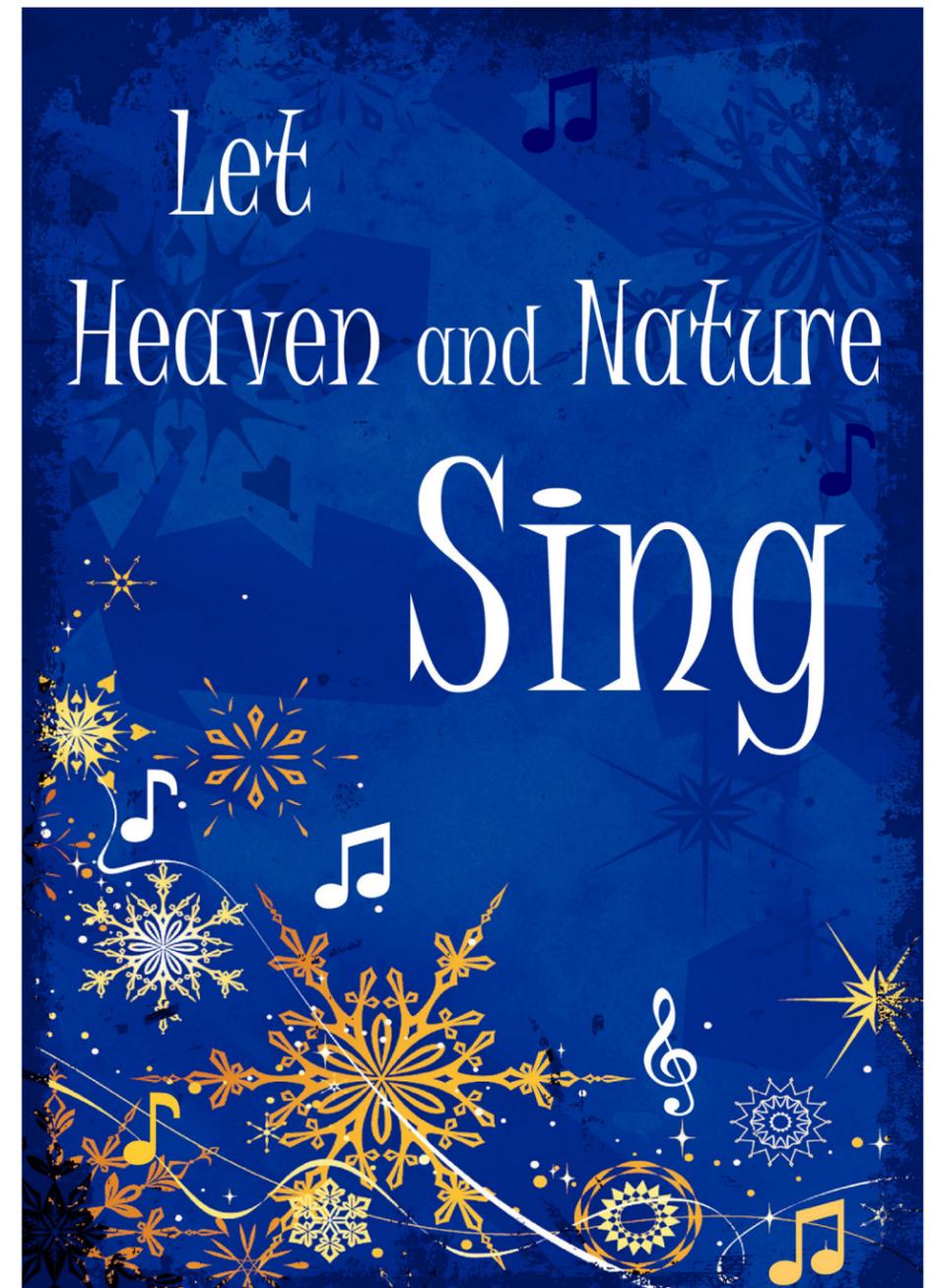
 Follow us on Twitter:
@stjohnsbr

Give online: <http://bit.ly/sjumcgive>



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



December 9, 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.