

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

DECEMBER 9, 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.

THE ADVENT of WORSHIP

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

† SONG of PRAISE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light UMH 206, vs. 1

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.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Betty Schroeder

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.

† SONG of PRAISE

Star-Child FWS 2095, vs. 1 & 5

Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!
Hope for peace Child God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *Susan Johnston, Johnny McWilliams, Amy Fine*
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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

† SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-55

Betty Schroeder

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

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

Christmas Eve Offering

OFFERING OUR TITHES & GIFTS to GOD

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

† 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

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 our Savior,

you fill the hungry with good things and send the
self-satisfied away empty.

In this eucharist you have filled us with the word
and the bread of life of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Make us hunger now for his coming in the hearts
and the homes of all.

Fill us with his spirit of service and heart of peace,
that through us, he may become near to people.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. 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

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

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*
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*

FLOWERS on the ALTAR

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.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: *Donnie and Susan Lambert, Darren and Chris Stubbs*
Host: *Kathy King*

CHURCH STAFF

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facebook.com/stjohnsbr

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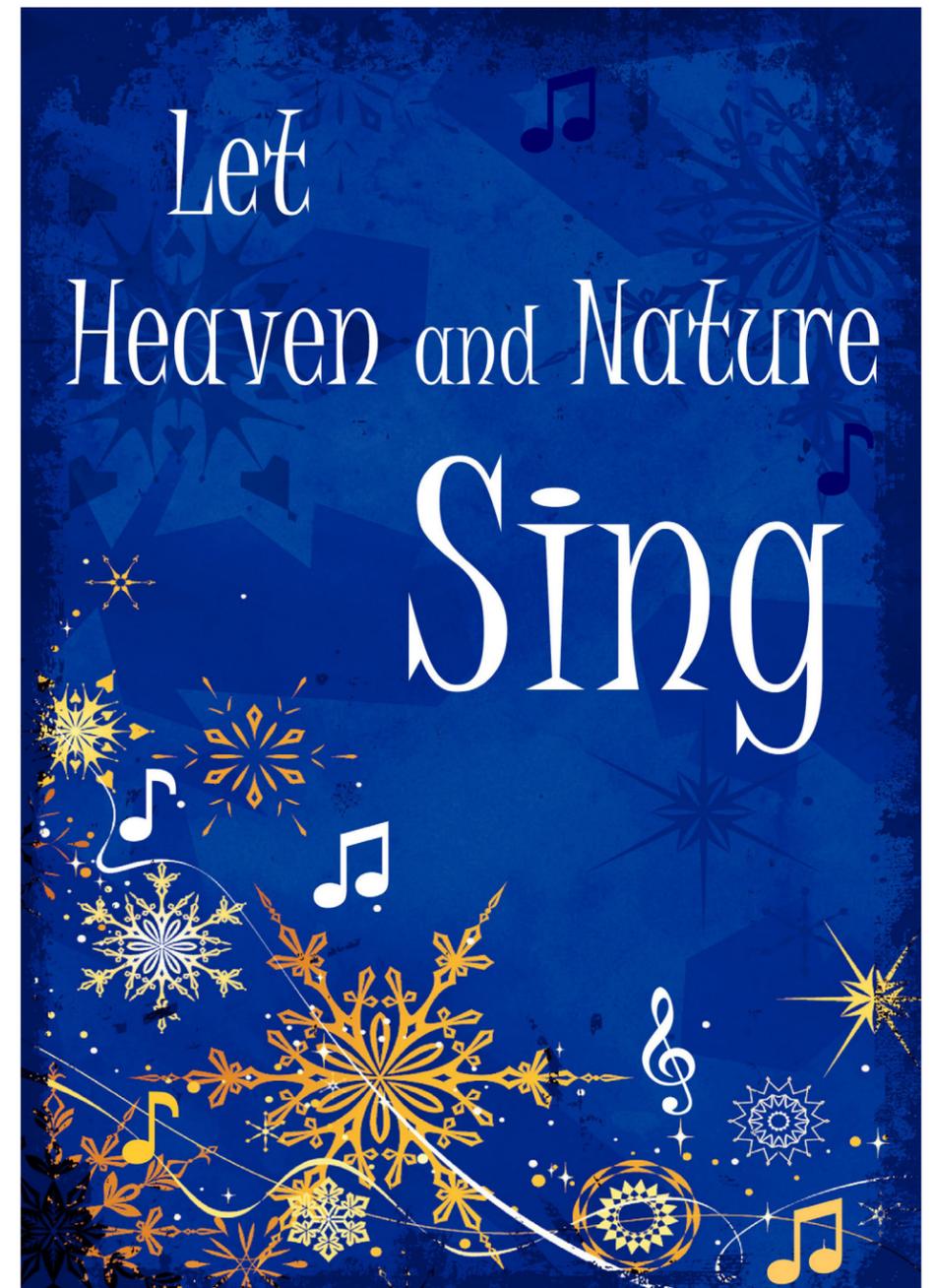
Give online: <http://bit.ly/sjumcgive>



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



December 9, 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.