

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

## December 30, 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.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

† CALL TO WORSHIP *Andrew Blackwood*

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 UMH 220, vs. 1 & 2

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*

CAROL REFLECTION

† SONG OF RESPONSE UMH 220, vs. 3 & 4

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King.”**

**The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world hath suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not the love song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing!**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

† PSALTER UMH 815

*Psalm 96*

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.*

ANTHEM Chancel Choir

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

† SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:25-35

*Simeon's Song*

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous  
and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy  
Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that  
he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the  
Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the  
child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon  
took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is  
destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign  
that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be  
revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Pastor Deirdré*

“Song of Blessing”

## WE RESPOND with THANKSGIVING

† HYMN of FAITH UMH 228

*He Is Born*

A TIME of PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

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 UMH 707

*Hymn of Promise*

† 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.*

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

### 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: *Bill and Jane Metcalf, Fred and Kathleen Adams*

### CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Lane Cotton Winn**  
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**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



**December 30, 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.*