

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

## November 25, 2018 at 8:30 & 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.

## GATHERING before GOD

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

✝ CALL TO WORSHIP

How can we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?  
**With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

**With garlands of wreaths of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

**By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God.**

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

✝ HYMN of PRAISE

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*UMH 89*

MORNING PRAYER

*Pastor Deirdré*

**God of manger and star, let us enter your story once again and find ourselves kneeling with the shepherds, singing with the angels and worshipping with the Magi. Touch our hearts with the wonder of birth, and the depths of your love. Speak to us in word and song and lift us to the realms of glory. Amen.**

## BLESSING of the PARAMENTS & BANNERS

SCRIPTURE & NARRATIVE

*8:30-Andrew Blackwood, Danielle Blackwood  
11:00-Bill Perry, Joyce Perry*

Isaiah 40:3-5

RESPONSE

Even as this rich cloth reminds us of earthly majesty and power, it points beyond to the perfect justice and power of Christ's majesty.

**We adorn our sanctuary with these paraments to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we ask God's blessing on them and on ourselves.**

HYMN

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*UMH 196*

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

## BLESSING of the ADVENT CANDLES & WREATH

SCRIPTURE & NARRATIVE

*8:30-Gray Sexton, Jim Roberts  
11:00-Heather Durham, Evie Durham*

Jeremiah 23:5-6

RESPONSE

Like the prophets of old, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and we look for the Light to shine again in the darkness.

**We place these lights in this holy space as a witness to the light of Christ present with the faithful in every time and every place, and we ask God's blessing upon them and on ourselves.**

HYMN

*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.**

## BLESSING of the EVERGREENS

SCRIPTURE & NARRATIVE

*8:30-Sandra Kuykendall, Elizabeth LeBlanc  
11:00-Zach Isenhower, Kristine Isenhower*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

RESPONSE

Because the needles of pine and fir appear not to die each season, the ancients saw them as signs of things that last forever.

**We hang these evergreens to signify the everlasting reign of Christ, and we ask God's blessing on them and on ourselves.**

CAROL

*The Holly and the Ivy*

**The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown  
Of all the trees that are in the wood the holly bears the crown.  
O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer  
The playing of the merry organ sweet singing of the choir.**

**The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Saviour  
O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer  
The playing of the merry organ sweet singing of the choir**

## BLESSING of the NATIVITY

SCRIPTURE & NARRATIVE

*8:30-Margaret Sprunger, Phil Sprunger  
11:00-Marilyn Damberg, Richard Damberg*

Luke 2:6-7

RESPONSE

May we remember the Messiah who came to live and dwell among us, a King not born in a palace but in a lowly stable.

**We place these figures in the nativity, recalling the wonderful mystery of the birth of our Savior, and we ask God's blessing on them and on ourselves.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Breath of Heaven*

*Carrie Poynot, Terry Byars*

OFFERING OUR TITHES & GIFTS to GOD

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

*Bryan Adams*

✝ 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!**

## BLESSING of the CHRISMON TREE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*Pastor Lane*

*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 & NARRATIVE

*8:30-Guy Johnson, Natalie Cooper  
11:00-Darlene Dickson, Pam Toney*

Micah 5:2 & Isaiah 60:13

RESPONSE

Here in this place, we prepare for the coming of the Lord, and here we rekindle our prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus," as we await his coming as the bright morning star.

**We hang these signs of Christ – lights, stars, and symbols of our King – to remind us his identity and his story, as we ask God's blessing on them and on ourselves.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Gesu Bambino*

*Ana de la Fuente*

SCRIPTURE & NARRATIVE

*8:30-Mike Allen, 11:00-Caress Threadgill  
John 1:1-5, 14*

## DEPARTING to SERVE

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

*Marching to Zion*

*UMH 733*

✝ BENEDICTION

Go forth from this place an awakened people, aware of the world's darkness, yet reaching for the light.

**We see God at work in our world,  
and that makes all the difference.**

Go forth from this place an expectant people, conscious of judgment in our midst, yet welcoming God's new order and justice.

**We welcome God's new day,  
believing that Christ will set us free.**

Go forth from this place a serving people, sensing anew the pain so many bear, yet confident God will bring healing, even through you.

**We open ourselves as channels of God's grace, for we have heard good news and we have been empowered to share it.**

May the God of peace be with us all, this season and forever.  
**Amen and Amen.**

✝ POSTLUDE

## 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.*

### UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS

Sunday, November 25 Advent Fest - 4 - 6 p.m., FLC  
Sunday, December 2 "Let Heaven and Nature Sing" Sermon series begins  
Sunday, December 9 UMW Bake Sale, 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
Pastors' Open House, 2 - 4 p.m.  
Saturday, December 15 Eighth Great Turkey Giveaway, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Sunday, December 16 Christmas Cantata - 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Youth Christmas Party, 4 - 6:30 p.m.  
Friday, December 21 Longest Night Service - 6 p.m.  
Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve Services - 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### ADVENT FEST

**This afternoon**, from 4 - 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center, please join us for this beloved St. John's tradition as we celebrate with food, fellowship, and music. Come in your Christmas pajamas or your ugly Christmas sweater. Bring 2-3 dozen cookies for a cookie swap, and stay for music and crafts. Everyone is invited.

### NEW SERMON SERIES - LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

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 **Sunday, December 2**, we will let familiar Christmas carols 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.

### RUTH CIRCLE UMW MEETING

The Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, December 4** at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Pat Lively will present a Christmas program and Christmas Carols will be sung. Members are being asked to bring socks for the homeless or bring a monetary donation for the purchase of socks.

### HEAVENLY HASH

Heavenly Hash will be held **Wednesday, December 5** from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. We hope you can join us for an upside down meal - breakfast for supper! The menu includes eggs, sausage, grits, biscuits and for those who think breakfast is not complete without pancakes, we will have pancakes! We hope to see you there!

### PASTORS OPEN HOUSE

"O Come, All Ye Faithful," to the homes of Pastor Lane (11924 N. Oak Hills Pkwy) and Pastor Deirdre (10367 Rustic Oak Dr.) for a time of festive fellowship on **Sunday, December 9** from 2 - 4 p.m. This parade of homes is a great way to get into the holiday spirit. Both pastors live in the Oak Hills subdivision and hope you will stop by.

### EIGHTH GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY

Our drive-through giveaway will be this year on **Saturday, December 15**. All hands 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.

### LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

In the busyness of the holiday rush, we often miss the quiet messages of hope. On **Friday, December 21**, at 6 p.m., we will offer space to tend both our joys and griefs and to center our hearts on the peace we find in Christ.

### UMW SOCK PROJECT

St. John's UMW will be collecting adult socks to be brought to the homeless in Baton Rouge. There will be a blue tub in the hallway of the Admin Building to collect the socks. There is a need for both men's and women's socks (you may also donate clean used socks in zip lock bags).

### INVITATION FOR HOSTS

Our welcoming ministry has a specific need for more Worship Hosts. Hosts greet everyone at worship and acknowledge first-time guests by giving them a welcome bag. After worship, hosts send a thank you note to the guest. Please contact Kathy King (brckingio@gmail.com or 281-0314.) if you can host during either service once every month or two.

## HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

### Sunday, November 25

8:00 a.m. Praise Team, Sanctuary  
8:30 a.m. Hanging of the Greens, Sanctuary  
9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC  
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide  
11:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens, Sanctuary  
4:00 p.m. **ADVENT FEST, FLC**

### Monday, November 26

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, November 27

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, November 28

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

### Thursday, November 29

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC  
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library  
6:00 p.m. **Church Council, Library**  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

### Friday, November 30

OFFICE CLOSED

### Saturday, December 1

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

### FLOWERS on the ALTAR

*The flowers on the altar are given by Vanessa Ayres in loving memory of Bob and thanksgiving for the love and support of my church family.*

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:30 Ushers: Jim and Theresa Sandifer, Aileen Pine, Dawn Staves  
11:00 Ushers: Rhonda Tucker, Harriet Walters, Fran Anderson, Carrie de la Fuente  
8:30 Host: Chris Stubbs, 11:00 Host: Barbara Lively

*Thank you to all who helped with the Hanging of the Greens today.*

### 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  
pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org

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

**Carrie Poynot**  
Director of Music Ministries  
carriestephens@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

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

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



**Hanging**  
of the  
**Greens**



**November 25, 2018**

*8:30 a.m. & 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.*