

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

MARCH 24, 2019 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.

CENTERING Before GOD

BELL TOLL

The tolling of the bell invites you into a time of centering and stillness.

PRELUDE

Terry Byars

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

Jesus Is All the World to Me

UMH 469

**Jesus is all the world to me, my life, my joy, my all;
he is my strength from day to day, without him I would fall.
When I am sad, to him I go, no other one can cheer me so;
when I am sad, he makes me glad, he's my friend.**

**Jesus is all the world to me, my friend in trials sore;
I go to him for blessings, and he gives them o'er and o'er.
He sends the sunshine and the rain, he sends the harvest's golden grain;
sunshine and rain, harvest of grain, he's my friend.**

**Jesus is all the world to me, and true to him I'll be;
O how could I this friend deny, when he's so true to me?
Following him I know I'm right, he watches o'er me day and night;
following him by day and night, he's my friend.**

**Jesus is all the world to me, I want no better friend;
I trust him now, I'll trust him when life's fleeting days shall end.
Beautiful life with such a friend, beautiful life that has no end;
eternal life, eternal joy, he's my friend.**

Give Thanks

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong";
let the poor say, "I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us."**

FWS 2036

(REPEAT)

Give thanks!

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

*Pat Lively
UMW Treasurer*

Be still!

We come to quiet ourselves in this haven of holiness.

Be still and know . . .

we come to discern the Word which can set us free.

Be still and know that God is . . .

our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Strength.

In this time of worship, let us still our minds and remember this divine promise:

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

(from Ecclesiastes 3:1)

✠ SONG of RESPONSE

Through It All

UMH 507

**Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God;
through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon God's word.**

ENGAGING GOD'S WORD

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.

✠ SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:38-42

Pastor Deirdre

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Based on Psalm 19:14

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, thou who are my strength and my redeemer. Amen.

SERMON

"Dismissing Distractions"

Pastor Deirdre

RESPONDING to GOD'S GRACE

✠ HYMN of FAITH

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

FWS 2146

✠ PRAYER of CONFESSION

**Lord of hosts,
quiet our anxious thoughts and help us to
be still before you.**

**We confess that the distractions and busyness of our lives
make it difficult to listen deeply to your voice.**

**Worn out and irritated by the work we think we must do,
we miss opportunities to be guided by your presence.**

**Forgive us, O God, for focusing on the wrong things.
Show us how to do what is right.**

**Transform our priorities so that we make space in our lives
to be quiet and listen to you.**

**Sit us down at Jesus' feet, so we may learn the balanced life
you intend for us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(A time for silent prayers and confession.)

✠ WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

Inspired by Psalm 15

The Psalmist declares that those who speak the truth from their heart will abide in God's sanctuary.

God hears the difficult truths we have named aloud and in the silence of our hearts.

Now let the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness flow through you. May the abundance of God's mercy and grace set you free to serve God with love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

Keep on the Sunny Side

✠ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

UMH 95

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*During Lent, our communion responses will be from
The United Methodist Hymnal, page 19-20, Musical Setting B.*

UMH 18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SUNG RESPONSE:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven & earth are full of your glory.

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord,
God of power and might,**

Heaven & earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. **Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna **Hosanna**
in the highest. **in the highest.**

The congregation is seated and the institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; **Christ has died;**

Christ is risen; **Christ is risen;**

Christ will come again. **Christ will come again.**

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen. Amen. **Amen. Amen.**

Amen. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING the LORD'S SUPPER

- ♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.*
- ♦ *Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction." When broken bread is placed in your hand you may dip it lightly into the juice.*
- ♦ *Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it at the station on the right.*
- ♦ *You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

Let us thank God, whom we worship here in the beauty of holiness.

For this place where we may be still and know that you are God,

We thank you, Lord.

For your presence in both the busyness of life and still places of life,

We thank you, Lord.

For refreshing us day by day with the bread of life and

the cup of salvation,

We thank you, Lord.

For inviting us to dismiss the distractions of life and sit still with you,

We thank you, Lord.

For calling us to follow you into the world, to feed your people

and grow into the likeness of Christ,

We thank you, Lord. Amen.

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

Standing on the Promises

UMH 374

✠ BLESSING and 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.

LENT WORSHIP SERIES - "BE STILL"

Lent, the 40-day season before Easter, is about taking time to "Be Still," to pray, read the Bible, think, reflect, listen, and to be given hope and power to move in the direction that God intends. Life is full of distractions and busyness. But Jesus says to stop and listen; kneel at the feet of your Savior, and you will find rest and renewal for your soul. Scripture for next week is Mark 4:35-41

NEW FAMILY MINISTRY STARTS TODAY

Join us as we discuss family devotions at our first **Faith, Family & Formation** gathering **TODAY** at 3 p.m. We will talk about real ways to stay connected to God and each other as family. Pastor Deirdre will facilitate our discussion, while the children are doing spring-themed crafts. This a time of spiritual growth for all ages and generations.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

The final work day in this series of Days for Girls is **Saturday, March 30** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Family Life Center. Remember you do not need to know how to sew in order to participate in this very worthwhile ministry. For more information about this international organization go to www.daysforgirls.org.

MISSION TO ST. MARK'S, NEW ORLEANS

St. John's annual mission to St. Marks UMC in New Orleans will be **April 5-7**. There is still time for you to sign up. The mission fee of \$135 per person includes your lodging and meals and helps defray the costs of preparing the Sunday meal and materials for the construction projects plus an afternoon at the New Orleans Cooking School. Registration forms are in the narthex, church office, and the FLC.

ORIGAMI EASTER PROJECT

Would you be willing to help with an at-home origami project for Easter? Instructions and materials will be provided. You do not need to know how to do origami to take part. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Pastor Lane at pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org or 766-4594.

CHURCHWIDE SPRING WORK DAY

The Board of Trustees (the team responsible for the church property) is inviting our church family to participate in a Spring Work Day on **Saturday, March 30** from 8 - 11 a.m. We will be sprucing up inside and outside and putting a shine on the campus facilities getting it all ready for visitors and for Easter!

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Our Easter Eggstravaganza will be **Saturday, April 13**, 9 - 11 a.m. Bring your family, tell your neighbors! There will be fun for all ages - not only an Easter egg hunt, but games, crafts, a pancake breakfast AND maybe a visit from the Easter Bunny! **WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP:** We are now collecting plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy for the Easter egg hunt. There will be blue tubs in the narthex and the hallway of the Admin Building for you to put the eggs and candy.

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

Palm Sunday Worship - April 14 at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Our children will begin our worship service processing with palms.

Holy Thursday - Thursday, April 18 at 6 p.m. Our service remembering the Last Supper will include footwashing, handwashing, and Holy Communion.

Good Friday - Friday, April 19 at 6 p.m. Our Chancel Choir will present "It Is Finished" - a service of shadows and the Alleluia Ringers will provide special music.

Easter Sunday - April 21 at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Our services will begin with children processing with flowers and will feature beautiful special music as we celebrate the risen Christ.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, March 24

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*
3:00 p.m. Faith, Family and Formation, *Library*
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, March 25

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Lectionary Ladies Bible Study, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
4:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, March 26

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, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Library*
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, *Library*

Wednesday, March 27

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

Thursday, March 28

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

Friday, March 29

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*

Saturday, March 30

8:00 a.m. Trustees Spring Work Day
9:00 a.m. Days for Girls, *FLC*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Mike and Sally Allen, Sandra Kuykendall, Beth Forester

Host:

CHURCH STAFF

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

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Amy Fine
Coordinator of Youth Ministries
amyfine@stjohnsbr.org

Latrice Mallard
Ministry Intern
latricemallard@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Rev. Deirdre Halliburton
Associate Pastor
pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org

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

Carrie Poynot
Director of Music Ministries
carriepoynot@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.



March 24, 2019

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.