

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

June 23, 2019 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.

GATHERING *With* GOD

BELL TOLL

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

GREETING *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

† CALL to WORSHIP

Richard Damberg

Welcome this day to the house of our God.

We are greeted in peace and in love.

Welcome this day to the worship of our creator.

We worship in hope and with grace.

Welcome this day to our community of faith.

Where we are sisters and brothers in Christ.

Welcome this day to the presence of the one who calls us beloved.

† HYMN of PRAISE

To God Be the Glory

UMH 98

† PSALTER

Psalm 28

SUNG RESONSE

UMH 760

**With my song I give thanks and praise,
for the Lord is my strength and shield.**

To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,
lest, if you are silent to me, I become like those
who go down to the pit.

**Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you
for help, as I lift up my hands toward your
most holy sanctuary.**

SUNG RESONSE

Take me not away with the wicked, with those who
are workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors,
while mischief is in their hearts.

**Repay them according to their work,
and according to the evil of their deeds;**

Repay them according to the work of their hands;
render them their due reward.

**The Lord will break them down and build them up
no more, because they do not regard the deeds
of the Lord, or the work of the Lord's hands.**

SUNG RESONSE

Blessed be the Lord, who has heard the voice of my supplications!

**The Lord is my strength and shield in whom my heart trusts;
so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song
I give thanks to the Lord.**

The Lord is the strength of the people, the saving refuge
of his anointed.

**O save your people, and bless your heritage;
be their shepherd, and carry them for ever.**

† GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

LISTENING to GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Daphne Grady

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

Love Lifted Me

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a

¹Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." ³Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

⁸So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

¹¹The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He replied, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

^{15a}The Lord said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus.

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

*Rev. Ken Irby
Baton Rouge District Superintendent
"Distractions"*

PASTORAL PRAYER *and* the LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONDING to GOD'S GRACE

† HYMN of FAITH

This Is My Father's World

UMH 144

OFFERING OUR TITHES *and* GIFTS to GOD

† DOXOLOGY

**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!**

UMH 94

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

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

UMH 127

† BLESSING *and* SENDING FORTH

† POSTLUDE

*The flowers on the altar are given by Bill and Joyce Perry
in memory of Mabel Perry, Bill's mother, and in honor of Bill's 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.



The journey to a deeper faith life can be summed up in three words: Listen, Love, Leap! God is constantly speaking to people, but too often we struggle to hear and discern the message. Today we begin a series that calls us to quiet our thoughts and hearts and LISTEN to what God has to say. Join us as we open our hearts and minds to God's surprising Word, as we Listen (Sundays in June), Love (Sundays in July) and Leap (Sundays in August).

VBS BEGINS ON MONDAY!!

VBS - Power Up, Raise Your Game begins tomorrow at 9 a.m.! We can always use the help of volunteers during the week. Look for Pastor Deirdre or Darlene Dickson to see where they need your help. NOTE: We still need volunteers to bring snacks for the volunteer break room, "Stop 'n Go," Monday through Thursday. Your food donations may be brought to Room A in the FLC from 9 a.m. to noon; after that they may be brought to the church office.

SUMMER ONLINE GIVING

Though you may have a different routine during the summer, the ministries of St. John's continue going strong. It's easy to forget about your financial commitments to the church when you are busy or away. One easy way to *not* forget is to *not* have to remember! Setting up recurring scheduled giving is the way to do this. You can set up a weekly or monthly gift, or make a one-time gift and not have to worry if you wrote that check. Online giving can be accessed through our website www.stjohnsbr.org and clicking on Give Now. We accept credit cards and debit cards.

DONATE NEW OR GENTLY USED SHOES

About 300 million people in the world don't have shoes to wear. For a mission project, our children's Sunday school classes are collecting new or gently used shoes of **all types and sizes** to be donated to Soles4Souls.org. Children outgrow shoes so fast sometimes their shoes are still in pretty good shape when it is time to buy another size and adults have shoes they no longer wear. Please consider donating these shoes to this very worthwhile mission. There will be a blue tub in the narthex and the hallway of the Admin Building to place your donations. Please have all donations in by August 31. Thank you, St. John's.

BORN WITH ANGEL WINGS MISSION

St. John's UMW is supporting a mission of the Baton Rouge District UMW. This mission, *Born With Angel Wings*, accepts donations of formal gowns, such as wedding, bridesmaid, or prom dresses, that will be transformed into little gowns to be given to those parents who have had a still-born baby or a baby who lived only a short time. If you have a garment to donate, you may bring it to the church office during regular office hours (Mon.-Thu.: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m. to noon) or contact Janet Hogstrom by email (jhogstrom@cox.net) or phone (832-236-0627) and she will arrange a pick up.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Opening Doors is sponsoring Dave Ramsey's 9-week course *Financial Peace University*. The class will begin on **Tuesday, August 20** in the library from 6:30 - 8 p.m. If you are interested in participating, go online to www.fpu.com/1091639 to register for the course.

HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN'S

- Sunday, June 23**
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*
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, *FLC*
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*
- Monday, June 24**
9:00 a.m. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*
- Tuesday, June 25**
9:00 a.m. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
- Wednesday, June 26**
9:00 a.m. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*
- Thursday, June 27**
9:00 a.m. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*
- Friday, June 28**
6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
9:00 a.m. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*
- Saturday, June 29**
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Ushers: *Guy Johnson, Deidra Matthews, Harriet Walters, Rhonda Tucker*

Host: *Barbara Lively*

CHURCH STAFF

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(on renewal leave until September 3)

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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



June 23, 2019

11:00 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.