

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

June 23, 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.

GATHERING with GOD

BELL TOLL

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

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

† SONGS of PRAISE

What a Mighty God We Serve

FWS 2021, vs. 1 -3

**What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve,
what a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve!**

**Let us sing and praise the Lord, let us sing and praise the Lord,
let us sing and praise the Lord, let us sing and praise the Lord!**

**Let us show and praise God's name, let us show and praise God's name
let us show and praise God's name, let us show and praise God's name!**

Cry of My Heart

FWS 2165

**Teach me your holy ways, O Lord, so I can walk in your truth.
Teach me your holy ways, O Lord, and make me wholly devoted to you.**

REFRAIN: It is the cry of my heart to follow you.

It is the cry of my heart to be close to you.

It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the days of my life.

Open my eyes so I can see the wonderful things that you do.

Open my heart up more and more, and make me wholly devoted to you.

REFRAIN

† CALL to WORSHIP

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.

† SONG of RESPONSE

Jesus, Draw Me Close

FWS 2159

**Jesus, draw me close, closer, Lord, to you.
Let the world around me fade away.
Jesus, draw me close, closer, Lord, to you.
I desire to worship and obey.**

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.

SCRIPTURE

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

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

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"

RESPONDING to GOD'S GRACE

† HYMN of FAITH

This Is My Father's World

UMH 144

† PRAYER of CONFESSION

God of Grace, in the days when your word was rarely heard and when visions were scarce, you broke into Samuel's life and called his name...

and he said "Here I am, speak, for your servant is listening."

We confess that often, so many voices clamor for our attention that your word is again hard to hear.

Forgive us if you have called us to be prophetic witnesses or to use our gifts to serve you, and we have not heard, or have been unwilling to respond.

Lord Jesus Christ, you met Philip and Nathaniel on the road and said "Follow me" and they did...

We confess that we do not expect to meet you on the familiar roads we travel and so we fail to discern your presence or your call on our lives.

Holy Spirit, you empower us to recognize and to respond to the invitation of Jesus to follow him, even when that means traveling on unknown and unfamiliar paths...

Merciful God, take from us all that hinders our hearing your voice and fill us anew with the Holy Spirit that we may joyfully respond to Jesus' call on our lives.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

† WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

The good news is that even if we, at first, do not hear the divine word addressed to us, God calls again and again.

When our words and actions separate us from God, Jesus was prepared to pay the price to restore us to God.

Let us joyfully proclaim that we are beloved and forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Open our hearts and minds to hear the welcome and love you freely lavish on us.

Thanks be to God for this unbounded love. Amen.

† SHARING the PEACE and LOVE of CHRIST

May the Spirit's peace be always with you,
and also with you.

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

Come Thou Fount

UMH 94

† 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!**

† THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Our sung communion responses are from
The Faith We Sing Hymnal #2275

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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 is risen; Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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.

Hosanna in the highest. (3x)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING the BREAD and CUP

- ♦ 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 cup.
- ♦ Gluten-free communion is offered to anyone who desires it at the station in front of the pulpit.
- ♦ You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DEPARTING to SERVE

INVITATION to CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

We joyfully welcome all those who wish to become members of St. John's and invite you to come forward during the singing of the closing hymn.

† HYMN of DISCIPLESHIP

Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace

UMH 668

† BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

† POSTLUDE

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

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.-Thur.: 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*



Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Jim and Theresa Sandifer, Aileen Pine, Dawn Staves
Host: Chris Stubbs

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
(on renewal leave until September 3)

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June 23, 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.

Check in on Facebook: facebook.com/stjohnsbr Follow us on Twitter: [@stjohnsbr](https://twitter.com/@stjohnsbr)

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