

The Glory of Christmas

DECEMBER 15, 2019

8:30 & 11 A.M.

Welcome to All

All are invited to to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

† Please stand as you are able. **Bold** indicates congregational response.

We GATHER WITH GOD

INTROIT

Advent Carol

Alleluia Ringers

WORDS of WELCOME

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Guests, friends, members, welcome to worship! We are glad you are here. Please feel free to participate in ways that you feel led and comfortable or just observe, if you prefer. We welcome your presence among us.

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE

8:30 - Allen and Diane Roark

11:00 - Betsy, Brandon, and Max Adams

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. . . .

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

(Psalm 30:2-3, 5b NRSV)

We light the candle of joy as a reminder that whether we climb the
highest heavens, or make our bed in the pit of despair,
God is with us.

**Gracious God, our hearts leap for joy knowing that you,
though almighty and everlasting,
will soon be born as a humble baby,
revealing to us the depths of your love for all of creation.**

**By your Spirit, give us the courage to share
the everlasting joy of your messiah. Amen.**

CANDLE RESPONSE SONG

He Came Down

FWS 2085

**He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah for evermore.**

THE GLORY of CHRISTMAS

by Lloyd Larson

Presented by

St. John's Chancel Choir

Directed by

Carrie Poynot

Accompanist: Terry Byars

The Hope of Christmas

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

The Promise of Christmas

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

The Wonder of Christmas

Child of Promise, Child of Love

We OFFER THANKS

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

Christmas Meditation

Alleluia Ringers

† 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!**

The Majesty of Christmas

Jesus Is Born Tonight!

The Mystery of Christmas

Christ Is Born This Holy Night

The Brilliance of Christmas

Guide Us to the Perfect Light

The Glory of Christmas

The Glory of Christmas!

We DEPART 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 SENDING FORTH

UMH 89

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

† BENEDICTION

† RECESSIONAL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Alleluia Ringers

*Thank you to all who participated in making this morning's services
so meaningful: St. John's director of music ministries Carrie Poynot,
accompanist Terry Byars, our Chancel Choir, Alleluia Ringers,
and the readers: Caleb Doan and Latrice Mallard.*

*Thank you, also, to our guest instrumentalists:
Sinella Aghasi (violin), Claudia Aizaga (flute), Rebecca Babin (harp),
Centria Brown (horn), Penny Kemler (flute), Paul Lauve (trumpet),
Mike Levitskiy (violin), Joe Poynot (percussion), Kim Sands (cello),
Laura Smith (clarinet), Jana Zilova (oboe).*

*After the 8:30 service, all are invited to stay for refreshments
in the Family Life Center.*

*The flowers on the altar are given by Pat Cobb
in memory of her husband, Earl.*

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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Christmas Eve, **Tuesday, December 24** we will hold two candlelight worship services. We hope you will join us for either of these beautiful services that will prepare your heart to welcome the Christ child.

Our family-friendly service at **4 p.m.** will have a "live" nativity with our children in costumes as the angels and animals that were in the stable the night Jesus was born. We will also celebrate Holy Communion.

At **6 p.m.** we will hold our traditional service that will feature a Service of Lessons & Carols. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

STAFF APPRECIATION GIFT

An annual Christmas tradition at St. John's has always been saying thank you to our staff for all the work they do to make events and programs at St. John's possible. If you would like to participate in thanking them, please put "Staff Appreciation" in the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope, if cash. Donations may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. Deadline for staff appreciation gifts is **Monday, December 16**.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

In the busyness of the holiday rush, we often miss the quiet messages of hope. In this service we offer space to tend both our joys and griefs and to center our hearts on the peace we find in Christ. Join us on **Thursday, December 19** at 6 p.m. Our Chancel Choir will sing. We will celebrate Holy Communion as well as have anointing stations for those who wish it. Child care will be available.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

St. John's offices will be closed Tuesday December 24 and Wednesday December 25. We will reopen Thursday December 26 at 9 a.m. for regular office hours. We will also be closed Tuesday December 31 and Wednesday January 1, 2020. We will reopen Thursday January 2 at 9 a.m. for regular office hours.

The Shepherd's Market will be closed from Monday December 23 through Thursday January 2, 2020. They will reopen for regular shopping hours on Monday January 6.

2020 FLOWER CHART

The Flower Chart for 2020 is up on the bulletin board in the hall of the Admin. Building. If there is a special date you want to commemorate, a special person you want to honor or remember by putting flowers on the altar, now is the time to do it! You will be called prior to the date asking for a dedication to be put in the Sunday bulletin. If you wish, you may bring the flowers yourself just prior to the 8:30 service or call Heroman's on Staring (769-9898) and they will deliver to the Sanctuary on Saturday.

UMW BAKE SALE

St. John's United Methodist Women are holding their semi-annual Bake Sale **TODAY** during coffee time and after the 11:00 service in the FLC. The sale always has the most delicious home-baked goodies - great for those Christmas parties and family get togethers! All proceeds go toward the UMW mission projects.

THANKS, FROM THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET

Thank you to ALL volunteers of all ages who helped by donating food or money, storing bread, and came out on a cold Saturday morning to help at our Ninth Great Turkey Giveaway. We gave away more than 500 turkeys with all the fixings for a wonderful Christmas dinner. You helped make this all possible. This is surely the Spirit of Christmas.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Christmas Cantata, Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC
9:30 a.m. UMW Bake Sale, FLC
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
11:00 a.m. Christmas Cantata, Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. UMW Bake Sale, FLC
7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary

Monday, December 16

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
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, December 17

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, FLC
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Pastor's Office
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, Library

Wednesday, December 18

10:00 a.m. Spanish Class, Library
5:00 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, FLC-A
6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, Choir Room

Thursday, December 19

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
6:00 p.m. The Longest Night Service, Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

Friday, December 20

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

Saturday, December 21

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

CONNECT WITH ST. JOHN'S

TEXTING: St. John's sends out timely reminders about church events via text message. Email the office (office@stjohnsbr.org) requesting that you be signed up for the texting service.

FRIDAY NEWSLETTER: Our Friday Newsletter keeps you up to date about all the happenings around St. John's, including worship information, special events, and service opportunities.

INSIDE ST. JOHN'S EMAIL: This new email is in addition to our Friday e-newsletter, and geared towards our active members and friends. It includes prayer requests, birthdays, anniversaries, celebrations, memorial and funeral announcements, and other St. John's family news.

*This email will **not** be sent to you unless you request it.* If you would like to receive this new weekly email, fill out the form that can be found in the Narthex or the hallway of the Admin Building; you may also contact Lynn in the church office at 225-766-4594 or office@stjohnsbr.org.

Like us and check-in on Facebook:
facebook.com/stjohnsbr

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

STEWARDS SERVING TODAY

8:30 - Ushers: Joyce Robinson, Randy Thayer, Maureen Robertson, Dawn Staves
Host: Bobbi Marino

11:00 - Ushers: Kathleen and Fred Adams, Amy Fine, Frances Anderson
Hosts: Richard and Marilyn Damberg

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

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Rev. Deirdre Halliburton
Associate Pastor
pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
deirdrehalliburton@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



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



ALMOST CHRISTMAS

ALTOGETHER JOY

DECEMBER 15, 2019

8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship Services

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.