

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

December 1, 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.

...We GATHER to PRAISE...

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.

✠ SONG of PRAISE

Christ Is the World's Light

UMH 188, vs. 1 & 2

**Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high!**

**Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other;
no one can serve him and despise another.
Who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high!**

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE

Joe, Katy, and Joseph Pritchett

“Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together. You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope.”

Ephesians 4:2-4

We light this candle to signify our hope for the Prince of Peace, whose birth we await in this Advent season, who brings peace, not as the world gives, but true peace that passes all understanding.

Lord God, we look to you to bring us true peace in a world where peace seems far away.

We hear your call to us to be peacemakers within ourselves and in the world around us, but we know we cannot find peace apart from your grace.

Come, Prince of Peace. Be born in our midst. Grant us peace in our hearts and lives. Amen.

CANDLE RESPONSE SONG

He Came Down

FWS 2085

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

...to HEAR GOD'S WORD...

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Deirdré

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

Isaiah 2:1-5

Sandra Kuykendall

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Light of Christ, shine on our path, chase away all darkness and lead us to the heart of God. Amen.

SERMON

“Altogether Peace”

Pastor Lane

...to CONFESS and OFFER THANKS...

✠ HYMN of FAITH

Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose

UMH 153

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Deirdré

Holy and loving God, it is almost Christmas and yet we still live in darkness and prefer it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts.

Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again.

Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin, free us from our captivity, birth in us your joy and healing, blessing and hope.

Free us to a life lived in Peace.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.

(A time for silent prayer and confession)

WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

Hear these words of comfort from the prophet Isaiah:

“Surely God is our salvation; We will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is our strength and our might; God has become our salvation.”

Friends, God has become our salvation, indeed!

Open yourselves to the peace found in forgiveness; never more are we to be held captive by that which seeks to tear us from God. Hear the Good News of the Gospel: we are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen!

✠ SHARING the PEACE and LOVE of CHRIST

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

Instrumental Medley

John Toney, Betty Schroeder

✠ 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!**

...to CELEBRATE AROUND the TABLE...

ADVENT GREAT THANKSGIVING

Sung to tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Lord be with you as we gather here
Lift up your hearts unto the Lord your God.

For it is right to give God our praise.

Let us prepare our hearts for coming days:

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

You created all things and called them good,
Made us like you, but we cast off your love.
You set us free and claimed us as yours,
Through sage and prophet spoke to us your word.

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O Holy God of power and might,
Bless'd be the one who comes in your name,
Hosanna in the highest, God!
Hosanna in excelsis.

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Holy are you and blessed is your Son,
Jesus, the Light, your presence here with us.
You sent him in the fullness of time,
He came to preach good news to all.

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

And on the night our Lord was betrayed,
Christ took the bread, and unto you gave thanks
He broke the bread and shared it with friends.

“Take, eat, my body given for you.”

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

After the meal he lifted up the cup,
“My blood, my life, I pour it out for you.

This covenant I make anew.

Set free from sin! Remember me!”

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Spirit of God descend upon us now,
And make these gifts become for us
The body and the blood of Christ
A holy, living sacrifice.

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

SHARING the BREAD and CUP

- ♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion. Ushers will direct you forward.*
- ♦ *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

Sung to tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**We thank you God of Mystery
For sacred meal, community.
Send us forth now to share your light,
Disciples of the One of Peace!
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

...we SCATTER 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 There Be Peace on Earth

UMH 431

*During the singing of the hymn, we invite you to bring forward
The Shepherd's Market grocery bags*

✠ 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.

ALMOST CHRISTMAS

Almost Christmas Advent Worship Series. In 1741, John Wesley preached his famous sermon "The Almost Christian," in which he encouraged people to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, striving to be altogether Christians. This Advent, we will consider how God is inviting us to move from an almost faith to an altogether one, as we prepare to welcome the Christ child in a fresh way this Christmas. Our series will bring together the traditional Advent themes of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love and the best of our Wesleyan heritage.

Almost Christmas Devotional Book. Every household is invited to take home the daily devotional, *Almost Christmas: Devotions for the Season*. It contains 31 daily readings for December, based on reflections from John Wesley's sermon, "The Almost Christian," and hymns by Charles Wesley. A love offering will help us offset the cost of the books. Suggested donation: \$5.

Advent Placemat. Kids and those who are young at heart, pick up an Advent Placemat in the Narthex to color and decorate. There will be a different one each week.

Almost Christmas Devotional Study, Begins Monday at 10 a.m. in the library, December 2. Although Wesley's sermon "Almost Christian," was not intended to be an Advent or Christmas sermon, its timeless teachings will guide us in this 4-week study led by Guy Johnson.

This study is different from the study many of our Sunday School classes are doing based on Almost Christmas. If you would like to find a Sunday School class study for Advent, please contact Pastor Deirdre at pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org.

PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE TODAY

You are invited to an Advent Open House at the Parsonage (1924 N. Oak Hills Pkwy.) today. Pastor Lane, Ben, and Julian are looking forward to seeing you any time between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. for a "come and go" reception.

WE NEED YOUR FREEZER SPACE!

Duane Craig is once again baking bread for the Great Turkey Giveaway and we need to find freezer space for them. A buggy full of bread can be found in the Narthex. We ask that you bring all bread back on Friday, December 13.

GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY

The 9th Great Turkey Giveaway will be **Saturday December 14** in the FLC parking lot. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome - please arrive by 7 a.m.

While much of the food for the giveaway is donated, the Shepherd's Market purchases the turkeys and produce for over 500 meals. A donation of \$20 to the Shepherd's Market will buy the turkey and produce for one family. Gifts can be made to St John's with Shepherd's Market in the memo line, in an offering envelope, or online at <http://bit.ly/stjohnsgive>.

2019 ADVENT FEST

Join us on Sunday, December 8 from 4-6 p.m. for an old-fashioned Advent Festival, with caroling, crafts, treats, and good cheer. This congregation-wide event is a holiday favorite for all ages. If you would like to decorate and host a table or volunteer in some other way, please email Pastor Deirdre at pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org.

STAFF LOVE OFFERING

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. You may also make your gift online at <http://bit.ly/stjohnsgive>. Deadline for staff appreciation gifts is Sunday, December 15.

ADVENT SAVE THE DATES

Monday, December 2 "Almost Christmas" Devotional Study begins, 10 a.m., Library
Sunday, December 8 Advent Fest, 4 - 6 p.m., FLC
Saturday, December 14 Ninth Great Turkey Giveaway, volunteers to arrive at 7 a.m.
Sunday, December 15 "The Glory of Christmas" Cantata, both services
UMW Bake Sale, 9:30 a.m., FLC
Thursday, December 19 Longest Night Service, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. (note time change)

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, December 1

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
2:00 p.m. Open House, Parsonage
4:00 p.m. Youth Group, FLC
6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, Sanctuary

Monday, December 2

9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
10:00 a.m. Almost Christmas Devotion Study, Library
11:30 a.m. Exercise Class, Narthex
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, Library
3:00 p.m. Ladies Lectionary Study, Parlor
3:00 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
6:00 p.m. Fast Track Bible Study, Library
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, December 3

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
8:15 a.m. Worship in the Market, FLC
9:30 a.m. UMW Ruth Circle Christmas Party, Parlor
2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting, Pastor's Office
4:30 p.m. Wellness Covenant Group, Library
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Parlor
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, December 4

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

Thursday, December 5

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
7:00 a.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

Friday, December 6

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

Saturday, December 7

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>

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Richard Damberg in celebration of the birthdays of Marilyn Damberg (12/10) and Whitney Walker (12/1).

STEWARDS SERVING TODAY

Ushers: Beth Forester, Carol Gordon, Mike and Sally Allen

Host: Chris Stubbs

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
leanndavis@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 PEACE

DECEMBER 1, 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.*