

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

December 8, 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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

UMH 206, vs. 1 & 3

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE

Lauren and Lily White

“May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

1 Peter 1:3

As we light the candle of Hope, we not only look to our own bright future, but we also seek the well-being of our neighbors and even our enemies, bearing witness to a living hope that the One who lifts us up has come to redeem and restore the world.
Gracious God, you are the source of our hope and the One we hope for. May the hope we find in you surround us and lift us, driving out fear and inspiring us to love. And may this lively hope lead us into new birth through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CANDLE RESPONSE SONG

He Came Down

FWS 2085

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

...to HEAR 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

Isaiah 11:1-10

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 Hope”

Pastor Deirdré

...to CONFESS and OFFER THANKS...

✠ HYMN of FAITH

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Lane

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

Hope for Everyone

✠ 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

Words by Rev. Beth Quick

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 Hope!
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

Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring

UMH 644

✠ 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.

OBSERVE ADVENT AT HOME

Devotion 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.

2019 ADVENT FEST

Join us **TODAY** 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. Bring the whole family, invite your neighbors!

THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Chancel Choir and guest orchestra will present *The Glory of Christmas* by Lloyd Larson on **Sunday, December 15** at both services. In this cantata we experience the majesty, mystery, hope, and finally the GLORY of the season. Through the songs and narrations, we celebrate the brilliance of the eternal Light of Christ entering the world to guide us on our journey. Bring the whole family, invite your friends - celebrate the message of Christmas through song.

UMW MARY MARTHA CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Mary Martha Circle Christmas Party will be held on **Tuesday, December 10** at 7 p.m. at the home of Sherri Artecona (1506 Ridgeland Dr.). Please bring a snack to share. All women are invited. Call Kathleen Adams for more information (225-921-2664).

WE NEED YOUR FREEZER SPACE!

We need to find freezer space for all of the homemade bread Duane Craig is baking for the Turkey Giveaway. There will be a buggy full of bread in the FLC; you may take as many or as few as you want. We ask that you bring all bread back to the FLC by noon 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>.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Youth will hold their Christmas party on **Saturday, December 14** from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Robertson home (286 Stanford Ave.). St. John's youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to the celebration. There will be bar-b-que, a white elephant gift exchange, a Christmas fire, Christmas Games, and fellowship. Please bring a gift (up to \$20) and a Christmas treat to share.

THE LONGEST NIGHT

In the busyness of the holiday rush, we often miss the quiet messages of hope. We invite you to take time out and join us in our Longest Night Service, **Thursday, December 19** at 6 p.m. 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.

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 with a monetary gift, 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

Friday, December 13	Set up for Turkey Giveaway, FLC, 9 a.m., volunteers welcome!
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 8

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. ADVENT FEST, FLC
6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, December 9

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*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, December 10

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. Wellness Covenant Group, *Library*
4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *Parlor*
5:30 p.m. RUMCR Meeting, *Library*
6:00 p.m. Emmaus Board Meeting, *FLC-A*
7:00 p.m. UMW Mary Martha Christmas Party, *Member's Home*
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Wednesday, December 11

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 12

8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
5:30 p.m. Good Grief Support Group, *Parlor*
7:00 a.m. Boy Scouts, *FLC*

Friday, December 13

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, *FLC*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*
9:00 a.m. Turkey Giveaway Set Up, *FLC*
NOTE: *Frozen bread due back, FLC*

Saturday, December 14

7:00 a.m. Volunteers Arrive for Giveaway
8:00 a.m. TURKEY GIVEAWAY, FLC Parking Lot
8:30 a.m. Prime Timers Breakfast, *Piccadilly*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*
3:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*
4:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party, *Members' Home*

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are in honor of Sarah and Troy Prevot's 35th wedding anniversary.

STEWARDS SERVING TODAY

Ushers: *Jim and Theresa Sandifer, Sandra Kuykendall, Susan Johnston*
Host: *Kris Renfroe*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
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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>

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 HOPE

DECEMBER 8, 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.