

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

December 22, 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

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH 204

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.**

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLES

Dave and Bonnie Byland

Listen to Mary's words, spoken to the angel, Gabriel:

"With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name." (Luke 1:46-49)

We light this candle as a reminder of the power of love,
which comes to us just as we are
and fills every corner of our hearts,
bringing light wherever there is darkness.

Eternal God, we stand in awe of your overwhelming love.

**It is frightening to welcome it, to allow ourselves to be fully loved
just as we are,**

to say yes to your love without knowing where it will lead us.

**By your grace, fill us with love and drive out all the darkness in our
hearts, that we might say yes to you and bring your love to others.
Amen.**

CANDLE RESPONSE SONG

He Came Down

UMH 204

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

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastor Lane

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.

SACRAMENT of HOLY BAPTISM

Jamisyn Payne

Daughter of Zach and Delaina Payne

COMMENDATION of LOVE and CARE

Members of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care

Jamisyn, whom we this day recognize as a member of the family of God.

Will you endeavor so to live that she may grow in the knowledge and love of God, through our Savior Jesus Christ?

**With God's help we will so order our lives after the example
of Christ that, Jamisyn, surrounded by steadfast love, may be
established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the
way that leads to life eternal.**

HYMN of BLESSING

Welcome to the Family

**Welcome to the family,
we're glad that you have come to share your life with us,
as we grow in love, and may we always be to you
what God would have us be, a family always there,
to be strong and to lean on.**

✠ SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

Rev. Larry Norman

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 Love"

Pastor Lane

...to OFFER THANKS...

PASTORAL PRAYER

✠ HYMN of FAITH

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

Love Came Down at Christmas

✠ 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

...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 Love!
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

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

UMH 213, vs. 1 - 3

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

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

*We thank Rev. Larry Norman and Rev. Marie Williams
for assisting in worship today.*

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 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. At both services Holy Communion will be shared and a nursery will be provided.

At 4 p.m. our family-friendly service 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.

At 6 p.m. we will hold our traditional service that will feature a Service of Lessons & Carols and special music.

CHRISTMAS EVE PARKING

We are asking members of the congregation to park in the FLC parking lot (with the nice, new, bright stripes) on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. We are expecting a lot of visitors for both services and would like for them to be able to park close to the sanctuary. Thank you for your consideration.

END OF YEAR GIVING

If you would like to claim your pledges and gifts to St. John's on your 2019 taxes, they must be received in the Sunday, December 29 collection, brought to the church by Monday, December 30, or, if mailed, postmarked December 31. Also, online giving must be entered before midnight on December 31. If you have any questions, please contact LeAnn Davis at leannDavis@stjohnsbr.org or 225-766-4594.

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.

YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group will not meet on **Sunday December 29**. Regular gatherings will resume Sunday, January 5. All youth in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join us in the Family Life Center Sundays from 4 - 6 p.m.

STAFF THANK YOU!

From the staff, both clergy and lay, we thank our St. John's family for their generosity in giving to our Staff Love Offering. It is much appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR POINSETTIAS

Many thanks to everyone who dedicated poinsettias to go in the Sanctuary for the Christmas season. If you wish, you may pick it up after the 6 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, December 22

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

Monday, December 23

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED
10:00 a.m. Almost Christmas Devotion Study, Library
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, December 24

OFFICE CLOSED
THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED
4:00 p.m. Family-friendly Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, December 26

THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED
9:00 a.m. Office Reopens

Friday, December 27

8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library

Saturday, December 28

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>

POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY

The poinsettias in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory and in honor of our loved ones. A list of dedications can be found in your bulletin.

STEWARDS SERVING TODAY

Ushers: *Donnie and Susan Lambert, Darren and Chris Stubbs*

Host: *Kathy King*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
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ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



ALMOST CHRISTMAS

ALTOGETHER LOVE

DECEMBER 22, 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.*