

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

December 29, 2019

8:30 A.M. and 11 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

There's a Song In the Air

UMH 249, vs. 1 - 3

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

PSALTER

Psalm 148

UMH 861

REFRAIN:

Let all things their creator bless: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens, Praise the Lord, in the heights!
**Praise the Lord, all his angels,
Praise the Lord, all his hosts!**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon,
Praise the Lord, all shining stars!
**Praise the Lord, highest heavens,
And all waters above the heavens!**

REFRAIN

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
Who commanded and they were created,
**Who established them for ever and ever,
And fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
Sea monsters and all deeps,
**Fire and hail, snow and smoke,
Stormy wind fulfilling God's command!**

REFRAIN

Mountains and all hills,
Fruit trees and all cedars!
**Beasts and all cattle,
Creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
Princes and all rulers of the earth!
**Young men and maidens together,
Old men and children!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
Whose name alone is exalted,
Whose glory is above earth and heaven.
**God has raised up a horn for his people,
Praise for all his faithful ones,
For the people of Israel who are near their God.
Praise the Lord!**

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Natalie Cooper

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

Matthew 2:12-23

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

“New Beginnings”

Pastor Deirdre

...to CONFESS and OFFER THANKS...

✠ HYMN of FAITH

Angels From the Realms of Glory

UMH 220, vs. 1 - 3

PRAYER of CONFESSION

**O God of goodness and light,
illumine a path for us by which we may walk in faithfulness.
Too often we have lost our way.
Too often we have lived out of our pride and stubbornness and
failed to turn to you in our times of need.
You have given us all that we need to live sober lives in a right mind.
Impel us to sin no more and give us a more perfect knowledge
of your divine ways in the world.
Help us accept the forgiveness you offer if we but only
ask for it.
Grant us the opportunity to celebrate this coming year with
a faithfulness that we scarcely knew we had in us.
Power this celebration through your Holy Spirit—the greatest gift
you can offer us today.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

(A time for silent prayer and confession)

WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

Release the burdens of the past. Relinquish control from that which is only in God's hands. Allow the peace of God to dwell in you. In the name of Jesus Christ You are forgiven. Accept the gift. Relax in the warmth of God's embrace.

✠ SHARING the PEACE and LOVE of CHRIST

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

*Betty Schroeder and
John Toney*

✠ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him,
all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

UMH 95

...to CELEBRATE AROUND the TABLE...

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

UMH 15

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.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

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.

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

God of All Seasons, we give You thanks for this Holy meal and for the memories of this past year. We cannot go back and relive the good or the bad, but we can live in the now. Help us to know that You are present with us, right now. Your love is with us, right now. No matter what suffering we have endured, no matter what pain we are going through, no matter what worries we have for the road ahead, You are present with us, right now. May we live with the wonder and awe of this gift in this moment. May we look forward with hope, peace, joy, and love, into this New Year, knowing that in You, this moment is eternal. Amen.

...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

Go Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

After the 8:30 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.

WESLEYAN COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE JANUARY 5, 2020

Begin the year with us as we celebrate a Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service on the first Sunday of January. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, first instituted the service in 1770, and may be the best gift you can give God: the commitment of your heart. The Covenant Renewal Service is a way of setting a fresh start for the New Year by asking for God's grace, forgiveness, and direction for your life. We hope you will join us for this meaningful time together as we begin 2020!

The following Sunday, January 12, our services will include a Reaffirmation of Baptism, as we remember the Baptism of the Lord that day.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

St. John's offices will 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 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.

NURSERY WORKER NEEDED

St. John's is seeking to fill a permanent part-time nursery position. If you wish to apply, or know someone interested in this position, please contact Pastor Deirdre at pastordeirdre@stjohnsbr.org.

NO YOUTH GROUP

There will be no Youth Group tonight. Youth Group will resume their regular schedule **Sunday January 5**. All students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome to join us from 4 - 6 p.m. in the FLC.

EXERCISE CLASS

The Pilates/Yoga exercise class will resume **Monday January 13**. Classes are \$5 per session. Bring your New Year's resolutions and join us!

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 by December 31. Online giving (<http://bit.ly/stjohnsgive>) must be entered before midnight December 31. If you have any questions, please contact LeAnn Davis (email: leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org or phone: 225-766-4594).

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, December 29
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

Monday, December 30
THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, December 31
OFFICE CLOSED
THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

Wednesday, January 1, 2020
HAPPY NEW YEAR
OFFICE CLOSED
THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED

Thursday, January 2
OFFICE REOPENS
THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED
7:00 a.m. Boy Scouts, FLC

Friday, January 3
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, Library

Saturday, January 4
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](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbr)

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

POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY

The poinsettias are given to the glory of God and in memory and in honor of our loved ones.

STEWARDS SERVING TODAY

8:30 a.m. Ushers: Sandra Kuykendall, Randy Thayer, Mike and Sally Allen
11 a.m. Ushers: Mary Jo Brook, Tommie Reinhardt, Joyce Perry, Deidra Matthews
8:30 a.m. Host: Sandra Kuykendall; 11 a.m. Host: Rhonda Tucker

CHURCH STAFF

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

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 29, 2019

St. John's United Methodist Church
230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810
www.stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

8:30 and 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.*