

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

February 23, 2020 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.

GATHERING

WORDS of GRACE

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

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.

✠ SONGS of PRAISE

Christ Is the World's Light

UMH 188, 1 & 4

**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!**

**Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father;
give God the glory, God with us, my brother:
Glory to God on high!**

All Creatures of Our God and King

UMH 62, vs. 1 & 5

**All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care!
O praise ye! O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

✠ CALL to WORSHIP

Latrice Mallard

Let the radiance of Christ be evident among us:

**in our songs and our words;
in our deepest thoughts and desires;
in the youthful and the experienced,
the exhausted and the energetic;
in the hungry and the scared.
We are here together.**

We gather as witnesses to the transforming power of God.

We join our voices and our hearts in praise.

Gather us in, God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

✠ SONG OF RESPONSE

FWS 2086

Open Our Eyes Lord

**Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.**

LISTENING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Pastors

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.

When Jesus came down from the mount of Transfiguration, he began to tell his disciples that he would be betrayed and crucified.

Sometimes we lose our Alleluia.

Jesus did not enter into glory before he stretched out his arms on the hardwood of the cross.

Sometimes we lose our Alleluia.

Jesus told his disciples, "If you want to become my followers, deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow me."

Sometimes we must let go of our Alleluia.

For the days of Lent, we discontinue singing and saying, "Alleluia."

During Lent, we will refrain from Alleluia.

At Easter we will again celebrate the Resurrection and sing "Christ is risen!"

In God's time we will find our Alleluia.

✠ SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 17:1-9

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

Based on Psalm 19:14

**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

"A Reflection of Glory"

Pastor Lane

RESPONDING

✠ HYMN of FAITH

Holy Ground

FWS 2086

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor Deirdre

**Illuminating God,
we want to follow Jesus, but we cower in fear, unable to bear the
light of God's radiance.
You invite us to join with Peter, James, and John on the
mountaintop, yet we deny the wonders you have worked in our
own lives.
While we desire a world of justice and peace, we walk in clouds of
selfishness, unable to share God's loving-kindness.
Forgive our selfishness, we pray.
Transform us by your Spirit into that which pleases you and sheds
light on your world.**

WORDS of ASSURANCE and PARDON

In the blazing light of God's grace, Jesus touches us and says,
"Get up and do not be afraid." In the name of Christ, all is forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

MINISTRY MOMENT - LAY SERVANT MINISTRY

Natalie Cooper

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

Be Thou My Vision

✠ 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

And also with you.

We lift them up to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks and recalls God's acts of salvation.

And so, with your people on earth and all the great cloud of witnesses in heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in your holy name.

Hosanna in the highest!

The congregation is seated and the pastors tell the story of Jesus and the Last Supper.

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice 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.

As those illuminated by the Word of God, let us pray together:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

GIVING of the BREAD and CUP

- ♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.*
- ♦ *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 of grape juice.*
- ♦ *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

Latrice Mallard

**Radiant God, Your glory has been revealed to us through the
breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup.**

**We are not the same as before. We have been transformed.
As we go to our homes, neighborhoods, schools, and places of work,
we go as new people, illumined by the glory of God in Christ and
renewed by the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

DEPARTING 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 Every Voice and Sing

UMH 519

✠ BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

✠ POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar are given by Valerie Burton in memory of the birthday of her mother, Margy Burton.

Don't forget to pick up a yellow grocery bag for next week's Grocery Bag Sunday.

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.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

The last spring work day for Days for Girls will be **Saturday February 29**, 9 a.m. – noon. Sewers and non-sewers are needed. For more information contact Joyce Perry at 763-6613 or joyce.perry@cox.net.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION MEETING TODAY

There will be a Christian Formation meeting following the 11:00 service. We will meet in the parlor and have a working lunch. We will be discussing Easter and summer plans. Everyone is invited.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

On **Wednesday, February 26**, **Drive-Thru Ashes** will be available from 6:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. in the circle driveway. Our pastors will also offer ashes outside Starbucks (Perkins-Rowe) at 8:30 a.m. and Rouses Supermarket (at Bluebonnet and Perkins) at 11 a.m. Come out for your ashes. **Ash Wednesday worship service** will be at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. **Following worship**, we invite you to join us at California Pizza Kitchen at Perkins Rowe (10001 Perkins Rowe) for dinner and fellowship. 20% of the meal will go to the St. John's Youth for their summer mission trip.

REDISCOVERING THE ART OF CONVERSATION

Save the Date: Friday evening, March 6 and Saturday morning, March 7.

How do we have difficult conversations about things that really matter to us in a way that respects the dignity of others and self, even when we do not agree? This question will set the tone for our time in this learning experience, led by Rev. Dr. Craig Gilliam. Registration fee of \$25 includes a light supper Friday night and breakfast pastries Saturday morning (please put conversation in memo line of check). You may register by using the form in the Narthex or online at <http://bit.ly/artstjohns>. A nursery will be provided both days upon request.

GARAGE SALE

It's time to clean out those closets, the garage, the attic - the UMW is having a Garage Sale on **Saturday, March 21** from 8 a.m. to noon in the FLC. If you have anything to donate, you may bring your donations to the FLC on Sunday, March 15 between the hours of 8 and 11 a.m. or all day Friday, March 20. Large items can be dropped off beginning Saturday, February 22 by calling Liz McDonald (318-542-9272) or Sherri Artecona (985-320-3018) for a meeting time.

INSIGHTS ON GENERAL CONFERENCE

We will host a two-part information forum about the upcoming United Methodist General Conference on **Sunday March 22** and **Sunday March 29**. Each session will begin with an all-ages potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by insights on General Conference from 6 - 7 p.m. At the first session (March 22), we will have a panel discussion with Rev. Brady Whitton and Rev. Karli Pidgeon, both delegates to the upcoming General Conference. Please plan to attend both sessions, as we will offer follow up from your questions on March 29. A nursery will be provided and youth are encouraged to attend.

AL-ANON MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT ST. JOHN'S

On **Monday, March 9**, at 6 p.m., St. John's will begin offering weekly Al-Anon meetings. If you or anyone you know has a need for such a group, please join us in Room C of the FLC. These will be open meetings. Everyone who needs this support is welcome.

"THE GOD WE CAN KNOW" - LENT WORSHIP AND STUDY SERIES

In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives us the "I Am" sayings, meaningful metaphors such as "I am the bread of life" and "I am the light of the world," to reveal his mission and purpose. One by one, the "I Am" sayings of Jesus not only grab our imagination about Jesus' identity, they also help us to experience God, who spoke the first "I am" to Moses.

Worship: Beginning March 1, our Lent sermon series will be inspired by the "I Am" statements in scripture and a book called *The God We Can Know*, by Rev. Rob Fuquay.

Study: Pastor Deirdre will lead a 7-week study of the book on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., before choir. Sign up with the insert in the bulletin. Classes and Small Groups are encouraged to use the book and the accompanying DVD and guidebook during Lent to continue the learnings. Contact the office for more information.

Take-home Devotion: Each Sunday during Lent we will offer a new daily devotion for you to take home and use that week. There are Lenten calendars available for pick up today in the Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, February 23

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*
12:00 p.m. Christian Formation, *Parlor*
6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers, *Sanctuary*

Monday, February 24

SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED
9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
3:00 p.m. Ladies Lectionary Study, *Parlor*
4:30 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Tuesday, February 25

OFFICE CLOSED
SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED
7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

Wednesday, February 26

6:30 a.m. Drive-thru Ashes, *Circle Drive*
8:30 a.m. Portable Ashes, *Starbucks, Perkins-Rowe*
10:00 a.m. Spanish Class, *Library*
11:00 a.m. Portable Ashes, *Rouses Supermarket, Bluebonnet & Perkins*
Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
4:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, *Sanctuary*
6:00 p.m. Youth Fundraiser Meal, *California Pizza Kitchen, Perkins-Rowe*
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 27

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

Friday, February 28

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
8:00 a.m. Food Bank Delivery, *FLC*
8:30 a.m. Holy Folders, *Library*

Saturday, February 29

9:00 a.m. Days for Girls, *FLC*
12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

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>

STEWARDS SERVING TODAY

Ushers: *Phil and Jill Slicker, Sandra Kuykendall, Dawn Staves*
Host: *Susie Newton*

CHURCH STAFF

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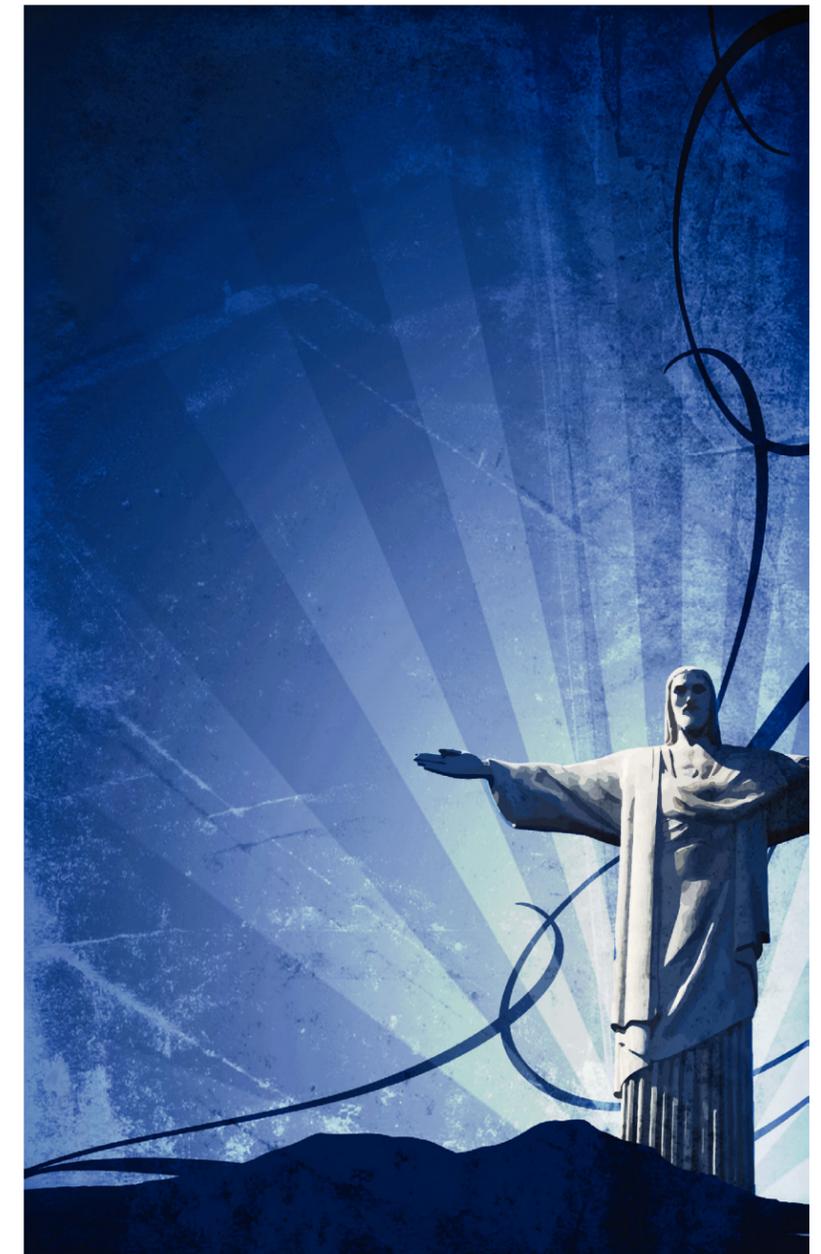
St. John's United Methodist Church
230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810
www.stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.



February 23, 2020
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.