

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

March 15, 2020

*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

PRELUDE

WORDS of WELCOME

*Rev. Lane Cotton Winn*

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

*We welcome your presence among us.*

✠ OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God,**  
we gather – both physically and virtually –  
in the light of your love.  
**Shine on us now, enabling us to see you,**  
know you,  
and find our way to you.  
Just as Jesus traveled through towns and villages healing  
the sick, come to our aid now,  
in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus,  
that all may experience your healing love.  
In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.  
Remind us that we are not alone.  
And may we hold close to our hearts WHO we are and  
WHOSE we are:  
beloved children of a compassionate, loving, and  
healing God. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*He Leadeth Me*

UMH 128, vs. 1-3

## GROWING

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Lily Marie White*  
*daughter of Lauren and Edward White, Jr.*

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 READING

*John 8:12-20*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

## RESPONDING

OFFERING OUR TITHES and GIFTS to GOD

*Be Thou My Vision*

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

*As prayers are offered our response will be:*

Lord of love and light,  
**Circle us with the light of your presence.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

## DEPARTING

INVITATION to CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

CLOSING LITANY

When we look around us and feel that only darkness and emptiness surround us, illuminate our hearts with Jesus' words,

**"I am the Light of the World."**

When we look for God in the places of pain and suffering, pleading for that holy presence to be made evident even in the gloomiest of places, help us to see God at work through Jesus' promise,

**"I am the Light of the World."**

When we feel far away from God, even when we try to create that distance ourselves, remind us that the love of God is always touching us through Jesus' words,

**"I am the Light of the World."**

When we can't figure out where to go next, what to do, or who to be, help us to hear God's call and see the path illuminated for us by the one who says,

**"I am the Light of the World."**

When we wonder how we will go out into the world and shine God's light, sharing God's love with all the earth, let us follow Jesus' lead as he reveals himself to us, saying,

**"I am the Light of the World." Amen.**

✠ CLOSING PRAYER

✠ POSTLUDE

*The flowers on the altar are given by Richard and Marilyn Damberg  
in celebration of the 50th birthday of their son, Brannon,  
and the 62nd wedding anniversary of Curt and Wanda Vanover.*

## 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.*

Dear St. John's family,

Out of an abundance of caution for our church family and our community, at the recommendation of Bishop Harvey and with the support of St. John's church leadership, it has been decided that all worship services and Sunday activities will be canceled for the next two Sundays, March 15 and March 22. Additionally, we will postpone all large group gatherings until further notice, which includes the postponement of the UMW Garage Sale and the General Conference Forums. The Boy Scout chicken dinner and the Bloodmobile will be also be rescheduled.

Through the end of March, the Shepherd's Market will be operating with a modified distribution plan in the parking lot, similar to the Great Turkey Giveaway. Volunteers will be needed on Mondays (3 a.m.), Tuesdays and Thursdays (8 a.m.), however, if you are not feeling well, have been advised by the CDC to limit your mobility or feel uncomfortable, please do not hesitate to stay home.

The leaders of our Bible Studies, classes, support groups, and our community partners will decide individually whether to continue gathering. We encourage you to be wise and prayerful when making the decision to gather. We will send out additional information in the coming days via email and Facebook with ways you can remain spiritually connected during this time.

Please take note that because we won't gather for worship we also won't be taking up a weekly offering. However, the church still relies on your gifts to continue our ministries and missions. Even in the absence of worshipping together, please consider giving online: <http://bit.ly/stjohnsgive>.

We did not make these decisions lightly and it was not the outcome we had hoped and prayed about. However, we believe this is the right thing to do during the pandemic. Please be in prayer for our church family as well as our community, national, and world leaders as they navigate this pandemic. Pray also for those who are at risk and those who are fearful and anxious at this time. Though we must limit our time spent together, our love for one another remains strong.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lane

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Please contact the leader of your small group to confirm if you are meeting *this* week.

### Monday, March 16

- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
- 10:00 a.m. **Canceled**-Fast Track Bible Study
- 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, *Parking Lot*
- 6:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting, *FLC-C*
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

### Tuesday, March 17

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *Parking Lot*
- 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, March 18

- 10:00 a.m. Spanish Class, *Library*
- 12:00 p.m. Everybody Reads Training, *Library*
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, *FLC-A*
- 5:30 p.m. The God We Can Know Study, *Library*
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, *Choir Room*
- 6:30 p.m. Alpha Bells, *Sanctuary*

### Thursday, March 19

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

### Friday, March 20

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*

### Saturday, March 21

- 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org).

Like us and check-in on Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohnsbr](https://facebook.com/stjohnsbr)

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

## CHURCH STAFF

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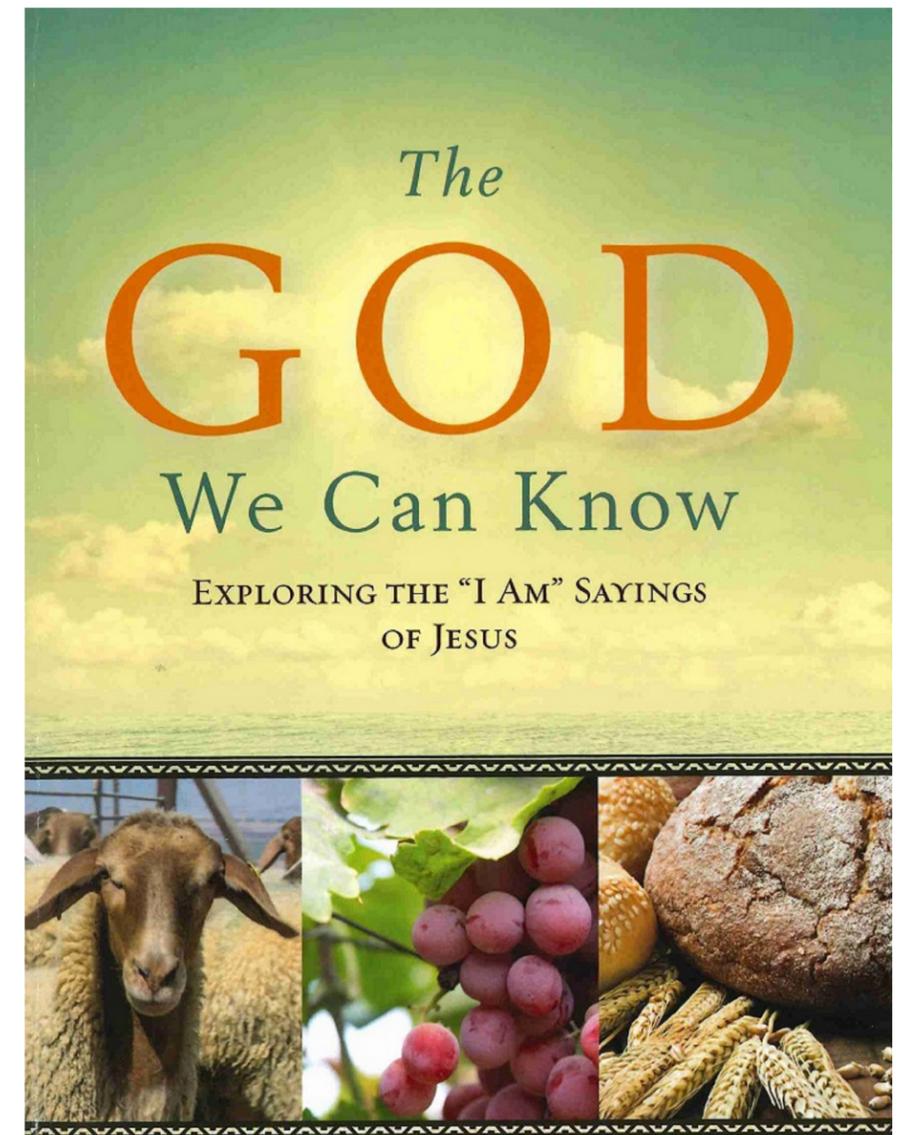
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**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*



March 15, 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.*

St. John's United Methodist Church  
230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810  
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