



Sunday, December 26, 2021 - 10 a.m.

Carols, Communion, and Cookies

*All Are Welcome*

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the pew) so we know you're here and we can get to know you better.

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## OUR MISSION

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.

## OUR VISION

Our church will be known as a center for feeding people spiritually and physically in our community.

## OUR CORE VALUES

We believe the following guiding principles make us a fruitful and spiritually intentional church:

- Fellowship: A sense of family, hospitality, and belonging to an open, accepting, and nurturing community.
- Caring: Loving response to needs of all people through empathy and compassion.
- Mission: giving of ourselves to meet and serve the needs of all others by faithful witness through our actions, servanthood and way of living.
- Spiritual Growth: Studying, understanding and growing in the word of God by Christ-centered prayer, worship and service through discipleship in action.

## OUR CONTACT INFO

230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810

office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594 | stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - noon

## 60TH ANNIVERSARY

St. John's was founded in 1961 by 60 charter members. Ground was broken for the present sanctuary in August 1962, and it was dedicated Easter Sunday 1963. We are celebrating our 60th anniversary throughout 2021. Give God the Glory!

## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Do No Harm, our first Wesleyan rule continues to be our benchmark for all recommendations. Following the recent guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health regarding the holidays, we recommend mask wearing during our worship services. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available in the Narthex entry of the Sanctuary. If you are immunocompromised or you are having any cold symptoms, we encourage you to worship with us online.

We look forward to the day when COVID will no longer be a part of our daily lives, until then, let us pray for our world, country, state, parish, and each other.

Grace & Peace

*The Covid -19 Task Force*

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We fully welcome and love engaging children in worship! We include a special Children's Moment each Sunday.

- **The St. John's Playground** is located in the front of the sanctuary. This is a place for children and their families to worship together, allowing children to more fully participate in the service. More details about the Playground may be found on our website.
- A staffed **nursery** for infants through preschool is open every Sunday morning and is located next door in our Education/Administration building.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms in the back of the sanctuary and our nursery.
- Children are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**, which is served weekly at 8:30 a.m. and on the first Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. Our communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free elements are also available.
- **Sunday School** is offered for children starting at age 3 through 12th grade from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

*Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.*

# Welcome Home

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable.*  
**Bold** indicates congregational response.

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## \*Carols of Praise

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 220, vs. 1

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 224, vs. 1

## \*Call to Worship

Mari Walker

The second day of Christmas can contain  
a twinge of let down.

The presents are all open, and  
if we didn't get what we wanted  
or even if we did, it can feel sad to be over.

**Yet we worship and praise you, God.**

God is the God of our disappointments  
as much as God is the God of our delights.  
So come into this space with all your feelings.  
Come into this space just as you are.  
This is God's home.

**This is our home.**

**We worship and praise you, God.**

Be present with us now,  
in fresh ways...  
in tangible ways -  
in the carols and the candles,  
in the cookies and the cocoa,  
be in our hearts during this service  
and as the season of Christmas unfolds.

**We worship and praise you, God.**

Thank you, God, for your steady presence with us,  
for being near in the bustle, in the quiet, in the parties,  
and in the clean-up.

**We worship and praise you, God!**

by Mari Walker, adapted

## Prayers Around the Advent Wreath

Pastor Lane

Because injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us,  
we pray for Hope...

*We light the candle of Hope.*

Because so many swords have not yet been beaten into ploughshares, we pray for Peace...

*We light the candle of Peace.*

Because grief and loss weigh so heavily, we pray for Joy...

*We light the candle of Joy.*

Because hatred is still so strong, and because people all over the world are suffering, we pray for Love.

*We light the candle of Love.*

Friends, be not afraid, even now — even now — the light of Christ is overwhelming the world, on earth as it is in heaven! God has come to us as a child, to dwell with us, and to walk with us.

*We light the Christ candle.*

May the light and the fire from these candles burn away everything that is preventing the God of hope and peace and joy and love from making a home among us. **Amen.**

## Candle Song

*Light the Advent Candle*

**Light the Christmas  
candles, now:  
Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;  
birthday candles for the King,  
let the alleluias ring.**

**Candle, candle, burning bright,  
shining in the cold winter night;  
candle, candle, burning bright,  
fill our hearts  
with Christmas light.**

## Caroling

*The Story of God  
Entering our Home*

## Sacrament of Baptism

*Emmie Kait White*

Daughter of Edward and Lauren White,  
little sister to Lily

## Commendation of Love and Care

Members of the household of faith, I commend to your love and care Emmie Kait, 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 Emmie Kait, 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.**

## Children's Moment

Pastor Lane, Betty Schroeder

*Blessing of the Toys*

## \*Ancient Text

Guy Johnson

*The Story of Home*

John 1:1-2, 4-5, 12-14

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Modern Text

*Christmas Evening*

A Poem by Guy Johnson

## Caroling

## Reflection

The Sunday After Christmas

Daphne Grady

## Hymn Sing

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

featuring Lydia Rahkawi on violin

*We appreciate your generosity.*

*Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.*

*You may give online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://stjohnsbr.org/give).*

## \*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!**

# *Gathering at Christ's Family Table*

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

Pastor Lane, Steve Rushing

A sung Communion Liturgy for Christmas  
set to the tune of "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O Come, all you faithful, gather at the table  
O Come, lift your hearts up and give praise to God  
Come and be welcomed; Come and be filled with life

**We come now to the table,  
We come now to the table,  
We come now to the table  
of Christ the Lord.**

God, our Creator, set us in the garden  
God offered to us all our hearts' desire.  
We turned away, convinced that we knew better

**Yet God would not forget us  
Yet God would not forget us  
Yet God would not forget us  
Thanks be to God!**

All through the ages, God still sought to reach us,  
Through prophets and poets, through leaders and law,  
Yet, we kept wandering, yet we kept falling

**The people walked in darkness  
The people walked in darkness  
The people walked darkness  
O save us, God!**

Just at the right time, God sent us the Christ Child  
Born to redeem us, Prince of Peace  
Jesus: God with us, Word made flesh among us

**O Come, Let us adore him  
O Come, Let Us adore him  
O Come, Let Us adore him  
Christ, the Lord**

He called us to follow, he preached to us repentance  
He ate with sinners; he taught and he healed.  
Sharing the good news, he showed us salvation

**Our savior walked among us,  
Our savior walked among us,  
Our savior walked among, us  
God with us!**

With his disciples, he sat down to supper  
Broke bread and shared it; his life for us  
Cup of redemption, new covenant God gives us

**He calls us to remember  
He calls us to remember  
He calls us to remember  
Give thanks to God!**

God, pour out your Spirit, on these gifts before us  
May bread and cup become Body of Christ  
Transform us too, God! We are your people!

**Your love is what redeems us,  
Your love is what redeems us,  
Your love is what redeems us,  
in Christ the Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

*Everyone is welcome to share in Holy Communion.*

*Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction" with only the pastor and servers touching the elements, or, if you prefer, you may receive pre-packaged elements. Our communion elements are bread and grape juice.*

*A gluten-free option is also available.*

*You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

*If you are mobility challenged, please let the usher know and someone will bring communion elements to you.*

## **Communion Response Song**

**O God, we thank you, for this holy mystery  
in which you give yourself for us.**

**Send us forth now, send us in your Spirit,  
For we are Christ's Body  
For we are Christ's Body  
For we are Christ's Body  
Thanks be to God!**

*Lighting the Way Home  
for Others*

## **Call to Action**

*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*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 251

## **\*Benediction**

## **\*Postlude**

# *Worship Notes*

## **Worship Stewards**

Ushers in today's service are Bobbi Marino and Susan Johnston.

## **Coffee Time**

Everyone is invited outside for cookies following worship!

## **Prayers and Liturgy**

"A Sung Communion Liturgy for Christmas" was written by Rev. Beth Quick.

Thank you to members of the St. John's Writers' Group for sharing your gifts in today's service.

# Announcements

## Holiday Closures

**The church office** will be closed Monday, December 27. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, December 28 at 9 a.m. The church office will be closed Friday, December 31 and Monday, January 3. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, January 4 at 9 a.m.

**The Shepherd's Market** will be closed through Monday, January 3. Regular drive-through pantry hours will resume Tuesday, January 4 at 8 a.m.

## Star Words for 2022

On Epiphany Sunday, January 2, each person will be offered a special word for the year printed on a star. These words are a symbol of the star the magi followed on their way to baby Jesus. Just as the Christmas star once shined for all people to see, the light of Christ still shines for all people. Following in the footsteps of the magi, we are invited to follow our individual star and open our hearts and minds to see where it takes us in 2022. May we use these star words as reminders of the Christmas star we invite into our lives so that we might be led toward Jesus Christ. *If you are unable to worship in person with us on January 2 and would like to receive a Star Word, please contact Lynn Cooper (225-766-4594; office@stjohnsbr.org) in the church office to arrange a pick up.*

## New Adult Sunday School

A new adult Sunday School class is forming in January! This new class will begin on **Sunday January 16 at 9:45 a.m.** in the Parlor (first floor of Admin/Education building) and is open to adults of all ages. The class will use scripture and thought-provoking questions to guide conversations around important matters of faith raised by the news of the week. In this discussion-oriented class, The Wired Word curriculum will be used to connect current events with your faith life. You are invited to come try it out for a week or two! Make your personal and spiritual growth a priority in the New Year. This new class will be coordinated by Bobbi Marino and Jami Prince. Everyone is invited to join in the conversation of bringing Christ into the 21st century. If you want to know more about this exciting new opportunity or want to get on the email list for the class, please contact Bobbi Marino (bobbimarino@hotmail.com) or Jami Prince (thecastle2018@gmail.com).

## Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir has resumed rehearsals on **Wednesdays at 7 p.m.** Whether a former member of the Chancel Choir or a new person wanting to join, all are invited. We are a volunteer group and no audition is required. Knowing that some may be hesitant to participate, the church has ordered several "singer's masks" that are washable and reusable

## Lagniappe Kitchen Renovation Fund

Our fundraising efforts for the kitchen renovation are underway and we have already raised \$108,844! To give online go to [www.stjohnsbr.org/give](http://www.stjohnsbr.org/give) (under Fund, select Kitchen Renovation); to give by check write kitchen renovation in the memo line. Thanks for helping fill the pot!



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

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*