

The Celebration of the Gospel

July 4, 2021 at 11 a.m.

All Are Welcome

If you are a guest, we welcome you to worship and ask that you consider filling out a contact form at www.stjohnsbr.org/guest so we can be in touch with you this week.



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

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.

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Introit

Call to Worship

Joyce Perry

God's creative Spirit draws us together to share in worship.

We gather together to share praise to our Creating God!

God's Spirit continues to breathe life into all creation!

May we delight in the ways you have created all living things: diverse, unique, surprising, and beautiful.

Make us people who recognize and proclaim your beauty and goodness in unexpected places.

Surprise us. Challenge us. Transform us.

We trust in you, Holy One, to reveal to us the sacredness of every life, of every way of being, of every manifestation of your Spirit.

In faith, we will praise the Lord. O God, how wonderful you are!

Hymn of Praise

UMH 189, vs. 1, 2, 3

Fairest, Lord Jesus

**Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels heaven can boast.**

Journeying

Road Trip Notes - Great Smoky Mountains

Video

Children's Moment

ShiRae Transou

Scripture

Selected verses from Psalm 104
Psalm 104:1-5, 10-14, 16-19, 24, 33

Pastor Lane

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God, at the beginning of time your Spirit moved over the waters. So now, send your Spirit to stir our hearts and inspire us to receive the re-creating power of your Word. Grant us wisdom and courage as we seek to learn from you. We pray through Christ, your incarnate Word. Amen.

Sermon

"Celebrate the Diversity of Creation"

Pastor Lane

Communing

Hymn of Faith

UMH 697, vs. 1, 3, 4

America

**My country, 'tis of thee,
sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;
land where my fathers died,
land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring!**

**Let music swell the breeze,
and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song;
let mortal tongues awake;
let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.**

**Our fathers' God, to thee,
author of liberty, to thee we sing;
long may our land be bright
with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might, great God, our King.**

Independence Day Litany

As prayers are offered our response will be:

**With hearts lifted and voices raised,
we offer God our thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Confession

God who created the world of diversity,
we lament that we have loved those who are the same as us and those who are dear to us, instead of loving all your people.

We fall too easily into wanting people to be like us,
instead of seeing the unique gift of who they are.
Embolden us to celebrate the diversity of our differences.

**Change us so that we can see and treasure the
fullness of your diverse creation.**

God who created the world of diversity,
we repent of the harm we have done to your
creation, using some of it to make our lives easier
and causing death and harm to other parts because
of our negligence.

Creation groans under our harmful touch.
Inspire us to become better stewards of this world.

**Change us, O God, so that we can see the treasure
and fullness of your diverse creation.**

We pray these things in the name of your Son,
who loved all of creation and everyone in it. **Amen.**

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online here: www.stjohnsbr.org/give*

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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

*Our sung communion responses are from
The Faith We Sing Hymnal #2257*

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. (3x)

**Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*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.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*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. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

- ♦ *All are welcome to partake in Holy Communion.*
- ♦ *Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction" with only the pastor touching the elements, or, if you prefer, you may receive pre-packaged elements.*
- ♦ *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 the pastor will bring communion elements to you.*

Prayer After Receiving

**Gracious God,
we thank you for inviting us
to share the hospitality of your table
and to enjoy the blessings of your
creation's diversity.**

**Call forth in us the same generosity
that we find in you.
In the power of your Spirit,
raise up in us a hunger for justice,
a commitment to kindness
and a passion for service,
that we may be a blessing in the world,
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hitting the Road...

Call to Action

Hymn of Discipleship

UMH 89, vs. 1, 2, 4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!**

**All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.**

Blessing and Sending Forth

Pastor Lane

Postlude

*The flowers on the altar are in celebration of
Independence Day. God Bless America!*

Thank you for worshipping with us!

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