



The

Long
and

Winding

Road

Following Jesus When the Path is Rough

Lent 2022

Sunday, March 20, 2022

11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

In today's scripture, the gardener in Jesus' parable is willing to cut the tree down if in another year it is not fruitful. We work, we trust, and we hope, but we must also be prepared to let go. Neither good things or bad can be taken as proof of God; only God's presence with us through good and bad.

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

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



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

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 Prayground** 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 Prayground 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.

JOURNEYING INWARD

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Introit

*Call to Worship

Joyce Perry

Gracious and eternal God,
you call us into a new way of being,
and give us endless second chances in life.

**May your love wash over us, as we turn toward you
and away from our sinful ways.**

Mold us as your people in new and powerful ways,
that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and spirits this morning,
Lord, that we may be healed of our faithlessness, freed from
our fears and anxieties, and placed on the pathways that lead
to peace and service to you. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise

Trust and Obey

The United Methodist Hymnal 467, vs. 1 - 3

Prayer

Joyce Perry

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing, put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,

exalted for you or brought low for you;

let me be full, let me be empty,

let me have all things, let me have nothing;

**I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure
and disposal.**

**And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.**

So be it.

And the covenant made on earth,

let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Children's Moment

Darlene Dickson

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Amazing Grace
John Newton, Composer

Prayer for Illumination

Joyce Perry

**Your word, O Lord, is a light in this journey of faith.
Open our eyes that we may see your way.
Open our ears, that we may hear your truth.
Open our hearts that we may know your presence.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

*Scripture

Luke 13:1-9

Joyce Perry

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Lane

"When Bad Things Happen"

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

PATH TO HONESTY AND GRATITUDE

*Hymn of Faith

All I Need Is You
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2080, vs. 1 - 3

*Call to Confession

In the season of Lent, as we prepare to receive the Easter gift of resurrection, we are invited on a journey. We are invited to walk a path of introspection and reflection, acknowledging both the shadows and light of our lives. Trusting in the grace of God, and before one another, let us admit the shadows and light, first in silent prayer.

*Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

**Gracious God,
we lay before you now the times when, in seeking our own safety, we have made a place unsafe for others.
We confess to resisting your message of welcome and shelter when it threatens our status quo.
We ask you to gather us up again, and tenderly show us how wide your world is, wide enough for all your creatures to find a place called home. Amen.**

***Words of Grace and Forgiveness**

Pastor Lane

You are given another chance! God has heard your cries.
Turn again to the Lord. Find comfort and strength
in God's eternal love for you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God. Amen.**

***Sharing Signs of Peace**

*Turn and offer signs of peace, reconciliation,
and the love of Christ with those around you.*

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Steven Rushing

The Long and Winding Road

We appreciate your generosity.

*Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online at 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.**

JOURNEYING OUTWARD

Call to Action

Pastor Lane

*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**

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
The United Methodist Hymnal 136, vs. 1, 3, 5

***Benediction**

Pastor Lane

When the journey is long and winding,
Guide us, Lord.

When there are dangers along the way,
Guard us, Lord.

When we are tempted to lose faith,
Give us strength, Lord.

Let the Holy Spirit guide you on the journey ahead.

**We go forth knowing that the Spirit of God goes with us.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Postlude**

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Zach and Kristine Isenhower.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UMW General Meeting

This afternoon at 3 p.m. the Mary Martha Circle and the Ruth Circle will host the General Meeting of St. John's United Methodist Women in the Family Life Center. The program will be "Learning to Listen to God." All women are invited to attend.

Spring Play Read-Through

Our spring play by Guy Johnson will be "The Girl Who Must Be Loved." Those interested in being part of the production will have their first-read through **today at 3 p.m.** in the Library. Newcomers are welcome. If you are unable to attend today's read-through, please contact Guy Johnson (225-766-7931 or storyteller1750@att.net).

Church Council Meeting

There will be a Church Council meeting on **Thursday, March 24 at 6 p.m.**

Volunteer to Make Our Windows Sparkle!

The Trustees Committee invites all congregation members to come out at **9 a.m., Saturday, April 9**, to assist in making our windows sparkle! We will wash as many windows as possible throughout the campus during the morning hours. Questions? Contact Kathy King (281-0314).

Announcing 2022 Summer Ministry Intern

This full-time, salaried summer ministry internship is for young adults who have a passion for youth ministry and may be exploring a call to ministry. The internship will include a range of ministerial responsibilities half of which will be devoted to providing leadership and support to our Youth ministries. Additional ministry time will be spent exploring the various areas of church leadership. If you are interested or you know of someone who might be interested, send an inquiry cover letter, resume, and references to jobs@stjohnsbr.org by April 18.

Ukraine Offering

We are taking a special offering through UMCOR, The United Methodist Committee on Relief for Ukrainians remaining in Ukraine and those fleeing for safety. Remember - 100% of your donation will go to this humanitarian effort. Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways: give from the St. John's website: stjohnsbr.org/give – select UMCOR/Ukraine from pull down list of funds, make a check to St. John's and include "UMCOR-Ukraine" on the memo line, or a cash donation, cash donations in envelopes should be marked with "UMCOR-Ukraine" as well.

Mission to St. Mark's UMC

Rev. Larry Norman is planning our annual mission trip to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans to provide a meal to the hungry and homeless in and around the French Quarter. Mark your calendar for the weekend after Easter (April 22 - April 24). St. Mark's has returned to serving meals so St. John's will be providing a meal for April 24. However, right now that is all we know. Please be looking for more information in our "Inside St. John's" and Friday Newsletter. You may contact Rev. Larry Norman for more information at lducknataol@gmail.com or 225-933-1881.

Lent 2022 Worship Series

The season of Lent, the 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter has long been called a journey. It is a journey we take with Jesus, even when the road he walks is rough. Our Lent worship series is titled, "The Long & Winding Road: Following Jesus When the Path is Rough." Our faith often faces struggles and challenges along the way. Through this worship series, we are looking to the teachings of Jesus from the Revised Common Lectionary readings for Lent to find the grace and wisdom to continue the journey, even when the path is rough. To follow Jesus is to be a person of the long and winding road.