



The

Long and Winding

Road

Following Jesus When the Path is Rough

Lent 2022

Sunday, April 3, 2022

11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

From a very young age, children are conditioned to believe there is always one right answer, one best answer, in any situation. But life and faith is messier and more complicated than that. Today's Bible story poses an either/or question: is it better to lavishly care for Jesus, or to feed the poor? Jesus cuts through this false dichotomy with a reminder that there is time for both. How would our journey of faith be different if we discerned how to give the most beautiful within us to God, rather than fight and stress over what the one "right" choice is?

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



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 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.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Lead Pastor
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
Media Producer
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
Manager of Finance & Facilities
leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnsbr.org

Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator
cherylroubique@stjohnsbr.org

JOURNEYING INWARD

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Introit

*Call to Worship

Ana de la Fuente

We gather this day to worship the Christ
bringing all of who we are here.

As we pour ourselves out in praise,
may we become ever more like Jesus, the Crucified.

With all we are and all we have
**we honor you, Beautiful Savior,
with our hearts and lives,
our worship and praise.**

*Hymn of Praise

Lord, Speak to Me
The United Methodist Hymnal 463, vs. 1, 4, 5

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Children's Moment

Sarah Prevot

Prayer for Illumination

Ana de la Fuente

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

John 12:1-8

Ana de la Fuente

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"When There's Not One Right Answer"

Pastor Lane

PATH TO HONESTY AND GRATITUDE

*Hymn of Faith

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service
The United Methodist Hymnal 581, vs. 1, 3, 4

*Call to Confession

Rev. Larry Norman

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

Rev. Larry

**Merciful Lord, forgive us
for the ways we judge each other's faithfulness,
our defensive postures,
our quick aggravations,
our comfortable soapboxes.
Teach us instead to look inside ourselves
and to strive each day to do the most beautiful
that is within us.
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Rev. Larry

Friends, hear this Good News:
Christ offers what is most beautiful in him – his love – to us.
God's love, grace and forgiveness is poured out for us
and never runs out.
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*Sharing Signs of Peace

*Offer signs of peace, reconciliation,
and the love of Christ to others.*

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 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.**

COMMUNING WITH GOD

***The Great Thanksgiving**

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.

The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation.

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.**

**Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The congregation is seated and the pastor recalls
the institution of the Lord's Supper.*

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.

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit
and praises the Trinity.*

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing in Holy Communion

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.

Prayer after Receiving

Rev. Larry

God, Your bread and your cup renew our spirits. No matter the times we have failed to show up to your call, or to our own needs, or to the cries of our neighbors, you receive us again. May your unending grace be our foundation as we journey onward with Jesus. 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

Take My Life, and Let It Be

The United Methodist Hymnal 399, vs. 1, 2, 3

*During the hymn, we invite you to bring forward
The Shepherd's Market grocery bags.*

*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 Liz McDonald, Renée Rodi.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Hang Out

All YOUTH (and their Grown-Ups) are invited to come to the YOUTH HANG OUT **this afternoon from 3-4 p.m.** You will get to meet Josh Lee, one of our candidates for our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries.

Ruth Circle UMW

The Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, April 5 at 9:30 a.m.** in the parlor. Pat Lively will present the program "One With Each Other, One With the Walk." All women are invited to attend.

Volunteer to Make Our Windows Sparkle!

The Trustees Committee invites all congregation members to come out at **9 a.m., Sat., 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 (225-281-0314).

Easter Lilies

We will be ordering lilies to adorn the sanctuary on Easter. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one, call the office (225-766-4594), send an email (office@stjohnsbr.org), or pick up a form in the narthex to place your order. Lilies are \$15. You may pay by check or online at stjohnsbr.org/give, under Fund>Other>Sub Fund. **Deadline is Mon., April 11.**

Mission to St. Mark's UMC

Our bi-annual mission to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans to provide a meal to those experiencing hunger and homelessness in and around the French Quarter is set for **Sunday, April 24**. St. Mark's has returned to serving meals so St. John's will be providing a meal that will be prepped on **Saturday, April 23**. We will be leaving for New Orleans on April 24 at 7 a.m. You may contact Rev. Larry Norman for more information at lducknataol@gmail.com or 225-933-1881. There is no cost to participate in this mission and all ages and abilities are welcome to serve. Volunteers are needed both days.

Ukraine Offering

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways: give from the St. John's website, 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.

Voices of Ukraine Prayer Service, Friday, April 15 at 12 p.m.

At noon on Good Friday we will gather in prayer for the war and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. As a form of solidarity, we will hear first-person accounts of people suffering from the violence in Ukraine coupled with the "Stations of the Cross" readings, which chronicle Jesus' final hours from his arrest to his violent death. Ukraine is "being crucified before the eyes of the world," said the Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Philadelphia, Borys Gudziak. On the day of Christ's crucifixion, we will journey with Jesus and the people of Ukraine through testimony, prayer, scripture and song. A special offering will be taken for the humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

Holy Week at St. John's (in person and online)

Palm/Passion Sunday, 8:30 and 11 a.m. - Celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Children and the young at heart will process with palms. Families with children: please plan to arrive early in order that we may have all the children in line and with a palm.

Maunder Thursday Worship, 6 p.m. - Remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples, the evening before his crucifixion. We will partake in a night of blessing and Holy Communion. Join us for this engaging worship service at 6 p.m. in our sanctuary and online.

Good Friday Worship, 6 p.m. - "The Long and Winding Road to the Cross" will weave together the traditional Good Friday readings about Jesus' final hours, his crucifixion, and his death, along with time for reflection and prayer. Join us for this solemn worship service at 6 p.m. in our sanctuary and online.

Easter Sunday, 8:30 and 11 a.m. - Celebrate the glory of Christ's resurrection on Easter at our regular worship times in the sanctuary and online. Children will process with flowers to pin on the cross. Families with children: please plan to arrive early in order that we may have all the children in line and with a flower.