

The Celebration of the Gospel

March 7, 2021 at 11 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent

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.

Again We Gather

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Introit

Call to Worship

Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

Again and again,
We come to this space.
Again and again,
We gather as a community.
Again and again,
We move closer to God.

And again and again,
God is here.

We are met.

We are heard.

We are shown the way.

So again and again,
let us worship our God. Amen.

Hymn

Jesus Thine All Victorious Love
Jesus, thine all-victorious love
shed in my heart abroad;
then shall my feet no longer rove,
rooted and fixed in God.

O that in me the sacred fire
might now begin to glow;
burn up the dross of base desire
and make the mountains flow!

O that it now from heaven might fall
and all my sins consume!

Come, Holy Ghost, for thee I call,
Spirit of burning, come!

Refining fire, go through my heart,
illuminate my soul;
scatter thy life through every part
and sanctify the whole.

Again We Proclaim

Children's Moment

Ben Hartman

Scripture

John 2:13-22

Pastor Lane

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

Creator God,
We don't just want to listen, we want to hear you.
So turn our hearts toward you,
just as you turned strangers into disciples.
Turn our ears toward you,
just as you turned tables in the temple.
We are present.
We are listening.
This space is holy.
Amen.

Sermon

Pastor Lane

"Again & Again, We Are Shown the Way"

Again We Respond

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

God of Justice,
we are guilty of building tables.
We have built tables that oppression dines on,
sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.

God of Justice,
we are guilty of forgetting where we are,
of turning faith into a negotiation tool
and the church into a place for insiders.

God of Justice,
we are guilty of ignoring the point;
for you taught that the temple was for worship
and your message was for all.

God of our hearts,
be in our decision making.
Draw near to our choices.
Forgive our mistakes.

And as you do,
flip every table, habit, belief,
or point of view that needs adjusting.
With hope we pray for a better day. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of Faith
The good news is that God took on flesh
and walked this earth to show us the way.
God took on flesh so that we could see
what it looks like to disrupt and overturn
systems of corruption.
God took on flesh to teach us another way.
God took on flesh to point us to restoration.
God took on flesh so that we might be forgiven.
Friends, we are held, loved, and forgiven by a just
and merciful God.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

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:

<http://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

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You brought all things into being and called them good.
From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love
remained steadfast.

Again & again you meet us where we are.

Again & again, you show us the path of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company
of heaven, we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

SUNG RESPONSE

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*The congregation is seated, and the pastor
continues the thanksgiving.*

Again & again we remember the story of Jesus, your Son,
who led by example:

feeding the hungry,
welcoming the children,
offering water to the Samaritan,
eating with the tax collector,
listening to women and others who were marginalized,
healing the sick,
and offering second chances.

We give thanks for you -
a God who knew that we would lose our way,
and still said, "This is my body broken for you."
We give thanks for you -
a God who knew our capacity for mistakes,
and still said, "I'm going to prepare a place for you."
And because of this love, You, O God, show us the way,
again & again & again.

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.

SUNG RESPONSE

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,
that, once again, we may be refreshed
by the love of your Son.
Make this bread and this cup sustenance
for our Lenten journey.
By your grace, may we experience anew the call you place
on our lives to serve one another.
In feasting at your table, may our hearts be filled with
courage once again to follow Christ, come what may.

**SUNG RESPONSE
Amen, amen, amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Pastors **Sharing the Bread & Cup**

Again We Are Sent Out

Closing Prayer

Pastor Deirdré

**Again and again,
we are fed by your love, grace, and forgiveness.
Let us follow your way to the cross, to be for others a
sign of your compassion and life.
As you have fed us, let us go out to be part of feeding
the world.
Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

Call to Action

Hymn of Discipleship

Are Ye Able

**"Are ye able," said the Master, "to be crucified with me?"
"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered,
"to the death we follow thee."**

REFRAIN

**Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine.
Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be
a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.**

**Are ye able to remember, when a thief lifts up his eyes,
that his pardoned soul is worthy of a place in paradise?**

REFRAIN

**Are ye able? Still the Master whispers down eternity,
and heroic spirits answer, now as then in Galilee.**

REFRAIN

Benediction

Young People of St. John's

*Betsy Adams, Jane Walker, Bishop Idikwu, Eric Threadgill,
Julian Hartman, Anna Durham, Seth Robertson, Evie Durham,
Cadee Gauthier, Faith Robertson, Carissa Gauthier, Liv Walker*

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us!

*We thank all our worship stewards, musicians,
tech team, ushers, and hosts for assisting in today's service.*

*Permission to stream music covered by
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*Most of our liturgy and prayers were written
by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

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