

# The Celebration of the Gospel

April 4, 2021 at 11 a.m.

## Easter Sunday



**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

### Flowering of the Cross

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

*During the song, we invite children and the young at heart to place a flower on the Resurrection Cross.*

### Call to Worship

Rev. Latrice Mallard

This day is like every other day.  
Alarm clocks beeped. Covers were removed.  
Coffee was brewed. Weary bodies came to life.  
And yet this day, is like no other day.  
For the sun rose, and we knew it was a miracle.  
The tomb was empty, and they knew it was love.  
So again and again we say...  
The longest night is over.  
Death has lost its sting.  
Jesus is among us.  
Alleluia! Amen.  
Again and again and again...  
Alleluia! Amen.

### Hymn of Praise

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

Easter people, raise your voices,  
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;  
heavenly music, let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us  
from our pressing here below.  
For our Lord empowered us  
to triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter,  
with its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster  
to our God who rights the wrong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

## Again We Proclaim

### Children's Moment

Pastors

*Raising Alleluias!*

### Scripture

Pastor Lane

John 20:1-18

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### Prayer for Illumination

Based on Psalm 19:14

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, thou who are our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

### Sermon

Pastor Lane

"Again & Again, The Sun Rises"

## Again We Respond

### Hymn of Faith

*Up From the Grave He Arose*

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,  
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!  
Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior;  
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!  
Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;  
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

### Prayer of Confession

Rev. Latrice

Beloved Community, before God and before one another,  
we confess:  
We have seen the sun rise and withheld our praise.  
We have seen our neighbors suffer and have withheld our aid.  
We have seen love extended and chosen to walk away.  
We have seen divisions deepen and managed to remain unfazed.  
Forgive us, and use us for your good.

### Words of Forgiveness

I hear you. I see you.  
God hears you and see you, too.  
You are forgiven.  
God's love is like the sun.  
No matter how lost we are in the night,  
day after day, the light will find us.  
Rest easy.  
We are held in God's warmth.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, amen.

## 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 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!**

### Invitation to the Table

#### The Great Thanksgiving

Pastors

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.**  
In every time and every age, O God, it is right  
to give you thanks,  
for your mercy is sure and your steadfast love  
endures forever.  
We rejoice that your faithfulness is as sure as the rising of  
the sun.  
Even when your people have broken your covenant,  
Your light breaks over the horizon and illumines  
us in love.  
You are holy, Lord, and heaven and earth are  
full of your glory.  
Again and again, we join the unending refrain:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who  
comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,**

*The congregation is seated. The pastors recall the story of the Last Supper and the institution of Holy Communion.*

Again and again, we find ourselves here, as your story  
surrounds us. Remembering our Lord's self-giving love,  
together, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Sharing the Bread & Cup

*If you live in the Baton Rouge area and  
would like someone to bring Communion to your home,  
please contact us in the church office.*

#### Prayer After Receiving

Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

**Again and again, when we gather at your table,  
we are fed by your love, grace, and forgiveness.  
As you have fed us, send us out into the world, to be  
part of feeding your people.  
Following in the footsteps of Mary Magdalene,  
may we go forth declaring that "Christ is risen!"  
Christ is risen, indeed!  
May we live out our days with joy and love  
in our hearts. Amen.**

# Again We Are Sent Out

### Call to Action

#### Hymn of Discipleship

*He Lives!*

**I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;  
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.  
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,  
and just the time I need him, he's always near.**

REFRAIN

**He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
along life's narrow way.  
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know he lives?  
He lives within my heart.**

**In all the world around me I see his loving care,  
and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.  
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;  
the day of his appearing will come at last.**

REFRAIN

**Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing  
eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!  
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;  
none other is so loving, so good and kind.**

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, Livia 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.*

*Some of our liturgy and prayers were written  
by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

