



# UPSIDE DOWN LIVING

PARABLES WITH A PUNCH

Sunday, July 31, 2022

**11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

All Are Welcome

Today is our final sermon in our series, “Upside Down Living: Parables with a Punch,” and we are looking at two twin parables: that of the lost sheep, and the lost coin. Jesus tells these parables as a response to some grumbling comments from the Scribes and Pharisees about him and his understanding of God. These parables demonstrate Jesus’ radical hospitality and the belief that Jesus’ table can only be whole and complete when all are welcomed at it.

*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.*

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# 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

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*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*

# GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome to worship! We are glad you've joined us and hope you feel at home here. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome. Our ushers are happy to assist you in anyway. Restrooms are in the Narthex.

You are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

*Thank you for being here.*

## 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 in 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

Lynn Cooper  
*Administrative Assistant*  
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Dr. Steve Rushing  
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Dr. Terry Byars  
*Praise Team Director and Accompanist*  
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Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
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Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez  
*Nursery Worker*  
srodms23@gmail.com

# GLORIFYING GOD

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

**Prelude**

Terry Byars

**Words of Welcome**

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

**Introit**

**\*Call to Worship**

Steven Rushing

Shepherding God,  
You call us and welcome us to worship this day -  
whether we come week after week  
or it is our very first time.

Here we discover your true character,  
and your greatest hopes for the world.

**Here we find that we are sought after and welcomed,  
loved and forgiven, and invited to rest in your care.**

Let this hour of worship fill us with grace,  
renewing us and transforming us,  
so that we are made ready to go out into the world again.

**Create us to be a people and place of radical hospitality,  
so that the welcome we experience from in this moment  
is replicated out in the world.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*To God Be the Glory*

The United Methodist Hymnal 98, vs. 1, 2, 3

# STORYTIME WITH JESUS

**Children's Moment**

Barbara Benton

**Prayer for Illumination**

Steven Rushing

**Storytelling Jesus,  
Guide me as I keep learning how to live into the life you offer,  
to stretch myself and grow in the atmosphere of your grace.  
Keep my heart open to let the truths you taught hit home  
to the places where I need them.  
Keep shaping and forming me into your likeness. Amen.**

**\*Scripture**

Steven Rushing

Luke 15:1-9

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin  
"Radical Hospitality"

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

## \*Hymn of Faith

*Wonderful Words of Life*

The United Methodist Hymnal 600, vs. 1, 2, 3

## \*Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

Gracious and loving Savior, hear our prayer.

**God of Mystery,**

**We are constantly amazed  
by the depth and breadth of your love.**

**Over and over again,  
you turn our expectations upside down,  
and still we don't understand  
the radical nature of your grace.**

**We play by our own rules of justice,  
even when it means excluding those  
we are called to love and defend.**

**In our darkest moments,  
we doubt if we are worthy of your care.**

**God, help us remember that you give us all the tools we need;  
that through the solid foundation of your love,  
we find the strength to follow your call  
as true disciples of Jesus Christ.**

**Surprise us again, Lord.**

**Surprise us again.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## \*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

In his stories and in his way of life,  
Jesus demonstrated grace upon grace.

Together, let us proclaim the Good News:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

We are not only forgiven, we are also freed.

**Let us greet the world as people made new in Christ our Lord.**

## \*Sharing the Peace and Love of Christ with Others

## Ministry Moment

Inspire: Annual Conference 2022

Pat Cobb

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*Idylle*

by Benjamin Godard  
Flute: Penny Kemler  
Piano: Terry Byars

*We appreciate your generosity.  
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.  
You may give online at [stjohnsbr.org/give](http://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!**

# BEING FED BY THE SPIRIT

## Celebration Around God's Table

Pastor Lane

### 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

Steve Rushing

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.**

# SENT OUT TO SHARE THE STORY

## **Call to Action**

*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**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 549, vs. 1, 5, 6

## **\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

Pastor Lane

## **\*Postlude**

Terry Byars

## WORSHIP NOTES

### **Worship Stewards**

Ushers in today's service are Joyce Perry and Tommie Reinhardt.

### **Flowers on the Altar**

The flowers on the altar are given by Larry and Dee Muenzler and are dedicated to all those mourning the loss of a loved one.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Back to School Spirit Sunday August 7**

- Show your school spirit by wearing your school colors or favorite spirit wear! At both services we will offer a bag blessing and bag tag for EVERYONE in worship. If you worship online, come by the office and pick one up.
- Children going into Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th and 9th grades will be presented Bibles. If your student is moving up into one of those grades, please email Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org) **by July 31** so we can have a Bible ready.
- **Age-specific Sunday School classes for children and youth will resume at 9:45 a.m.**

## **Annual School Supply Drive Deadline August 7**

Opening Doors is collecting school supplies for schools in our neighborhood through Sunday, August 7. There is a blue tub in the Narthex as well as the hallway in the Admin/Education Building. Schools receiving supplies are Wildwood Elementary, Charlie Thomas Head Start, and Gardere Christian Academy.

Suggested supplies are: loose leaf paper, pencils, pens (black or blue), Elmer's glue, glue sticks, 24-pack of crayons, colored pencils, spiral notebooks (3 subject or more), standard rulers, folders with clasps and pockets, scissors, boxes of Kleenex, rolls of paper towels, Clorox wipes, hand wipes, dry erase markers, kid scissors, construction paper, copy/computer paper.

## **United Women in Faith Ruth Circle**

The Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, August 2 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Parlor. Pat Lively will present the program based on the book by Rev. Reuben Job, *Three Simple Rules of Living*. All women are invited to attend.

## **August 7 Grocery Bag Sunday**

Don't forget to pick up a Yellow Bag after worship today and return it next Sunday with items for The Shepherd's Market. Some items needed are canned green beans, canned fruit, jam/jelly, canned and dry beans, rice, and drinks.

## **Bereavement Food Team**

When a loved one passes away, we need the support of our community. An important part of the grieving process is the opportunity to be together and share a meal. One of St. John's core values is caring for one another and our vision is to feed people. One of the ways to do this is by serving in the Bereavement Food Ministry.

There are several ways to serve:

- You can offer to serve on a food team, whose members takes turns providing items for a reception or meal following a funeral or memorial service. Sometimes items need to be purchased rather than cooked so you don't need to be a gourmet chef. (Many of our Sunday School classes have set up a food team you can sign up through, as well.)
- Additionally, we need volunteers to serve as hosts, helping set up, serve, and/or clean up on the day of the service.

If you are willing to serve, contact Dee Muenzler (225-933-1668; deemuenzler@gmail.com) or sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex today.

## **Coffee Time Snacks Needed**

We need to replenish our snacks for Coffee Time! If you are willing, you may bring individually wrapped snacks (sweet or salty) to the office during the week or on Sunday to the kitchen. You may also bring bought or home made snacks that can be separated and served on a plate or tray.