

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

July 12, 2020

Welcome to All

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.

Threadbare before God

Prelude

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Call to Worship

Rhonda Tucker

Come in from the darkness.

It is a new day, and it is here where God's love meets us.

Take off the burdens you carry, let the weight fall off your shoulders;

for here, we are known as children of God.

Here, we are welcomed and loved.

Rest here for a while. Remember your baptism and the saints who have traveled this road before us.

We are God's children and the sheep of his flock.

We will survive together.

When the world unravels from under your feet, draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

God is always here. We are sheltered in God's love. We will never be alone.

Let us worship the God who weaves us together. **Amen.**

Songs of Praise

Cares Chorus

**I cast all my cares upon you,
I lay all of my burdens down at your feet,
and anytime that I don't know what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.**

My Life Is In You, Lord

**My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you.**

**My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you.**

**I will praise you with all of my life,
I will praise you with all of my strength;
with all of my life, with all of my strength.
All of my hope is in you.**

**My life is in you, Lord; my strength is in you, Lord;
my hope is in you, Lord; in you, it's in you.**

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

**Holy God,
we have been angry because we see suffering and we don't understand.
We have been skeptical because we know heartbreak that doesn't seem fair.
We have withheld love because sacrifice only feels real when it's our own.
Forgive us for forgetting that you created the heavens and the earth.**

**Forgive us for withholding our pain from you.
Forgive us for thinking that we know everything.
When the world falls apart around us—
when love unravels and life slowly fails
draw us in.**

**Show us grace; for you gave the wind its weight and
you gave our bodies life.
Forgive us for forgetting that. Amen.**

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Pastor Deirdré

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

Rend your heart and not your garments.

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

We believe and although we fall short, we will persevere to the end and hold tight to God's Word.

**Jesus knows our every weakness,
and loves us still.**

Awaken to the promise of Christ's amazing grace.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Prayer Response

Halle, Halle, Halleluja

Halle, Halle, Halleluja!

Halle, Halle, Halleluja!

Halle, Halle, Halleluja!

Halleluja! Halleluja!

Woven by the Word

Scripture Reading

Rhonda Tucker

Job 28:12-28

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Children's Moment

Pastor Deirdré

Unraveled Anthem

*There Are No Easy Answers
A hymn inspired by the Book of Job*
**There are no easy answers
when suffering comes our way.
We seek the explanations,
the tired, old clichés:**

Like “bad things for bad people
and good things for the good.”
But we know this is foolish,
a trope misunderstood.

God’s servant, Job, was faithful,
but evil came his way.
He lost all his possessions
when came that fateful day.
His life had come unraveled,
he lost all he held dear.
Why must a good man merit
a sentence so severe?

Lord, each of us knows heartbreak,
a pain so unexplained.
Sometimes us humans ask
if it’s random or ordained.
When evil forces threaten,
our careful plans unwind.
Lord, in the midst of suffering
help us your wisdom find.

Prayer for Illumination

God of unending surprises,
this life is a tapestry of moments woven together,
and we long to be weavers of love.
Today we gather and pray that you would
unravel our bias.
Unravel our assumptions.
Unravel whatever it is that keeps us from you.
And as you do, clear space in our hearts
for your Word.
We are listening. We are praying. **Amen.**

Sermon Pastor Lane
“Seeking Understanding When Things Unravel”

Hemming Our Lives to God

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer Pastor Lane

Affirming Our Faith Pastor Lane

I believe in God, the Great Sewer—
who weaves us together in community,
collecting our loose ends and turning them
into belonging.
I believe in the Holy Spirit—
who hems us in before and behind,
catching us when we fall and writing us into
God’s holy narrative.
And I believe in Jesus Christ—
who loved and claimed the people society
had thrown out, refusing to disregard
anyone as scrap.
I believe God has woven part of God’s self into the
fiber of our being, making us inherently worthy
of love and belonging.
I believe the fabric of my life is weak,
that I am prone to error and need God’s
handiwork to remind me of love.
I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of
different fabrics, she is designed to be as diverse
and beautiful as God’s creation.
And I believe that when life unravels,
God is there to stitch my wounds together,
to hold me in the palm of God’s hand, to tell me
of love, and to invite me into a new journey.

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God
On Wings of Song

*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>*

Bound by the Trinity for Service

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Hymn of Discipleship

Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
There’s a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there’s a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Benediction Pastor Lane

Postlude Terry Byars

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Thank you for worshipping with us!

*Today’s worship stewards:
Carrie Poynot, Terry Byars,
John Toney, Rhonda Tucker, Mari Walker,
and St. John’s Pastors:
Rev. Lane Cotton Winn, Rev. Deirdré Halliburton*

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