

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

August 16, 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 Terry Byars

Words of Welcome Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Call to Worship Troy Prevot

We come here to draw water —
thirsty for new life.

We come here to draw water —
bringing our past and our present, our messy
truths and our deepest scars.

We come here to draw water —
carrying shame, and in need of grace.

Fortunately for us, God always meets us at the well. So
breathe deeply and drink up.

God is here, the well is deep, and
the water is pure.

We come here to drink deeply from the wellspring of life.
We come here to be with Jesus.
We come.

Hymns of Praise

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Alleluia, alleluia!

I Will Enter His Gates

I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart,
I will enter his courts with praise.

I will say, "This is the day that the Lord has made."
I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.

He has made me glad, he has made me glad.

I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.

He has made me glad, he has made me glad.

I will rejoice, for he has made me glad.

Affirmation of Faith Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

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.

Amen.

Woven by the Word

Unraveled Anthem

Carrie Poynot

Our Shame Feels Like a Spiral
A hymn inspired by John 4:1-29

Our shame feels like a spiral, a never-ending depth.
Our past weighs down our present; we're burdened by its breadth.
We feel ourselves unraveled, unworthy, and undone;
exhausted from the gauntlet and judged by every one.

When we compare each other, it seeks to tear apart.
When we spew words of judgment, it breaks our haggard hearts.
Sometimes we're shamed for mores that haunt us from the past.
And other times we're judged for the sins that we've amassed.

O, Lord, you see us truly, as children whom you love.
Let's end our shaming culture through wisdom from above.
Instead of judging others by standards we create,
help us see them as you do, as folks to celebrate!

Help us, dear God, unravel the shame that weighs us down,
and give us Jesus' courage to spread your grace around!
Together we can flourish and heal the deep divides.
We pray, O Lord, to lead us with you, our faithful guide!

Children's Moment

Pastor Lane

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Deirdré

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.**

Sharing the Good News

Pastor Deirdré

“Unraveled by Shame”

*A monologue based on John 4:1-42,
adapted from an original work by Guy Johnson*

Hemming Our Lives to God

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Deirdré

O God,
like the woman at the well, we so often are
unraveled by shame.
We carry shame for broken relationships.
We carry shame for being unable to balance
work and parenting, tithing and bills,
social distancing and staying connected,
productivity and Sabbath.
We get stuck in a comparison game and in critical
self-monologues, consumed with the nagging
feeling that we should be able to do more.
Forgive us for forgetting that we are made
in your image.
Forgive us for forgetting that you see us
and love us as we are.
Unravel the shame that unravels us.
Gratefully we pray,
Amen.

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Pastor Deirdré

Through Jesus Christ, we are invited into a new life!
Thank you, God, for your forgiveness and grace.
Let the guilt and shame you carry be unraveled.
**Thank you, Jesus, for seeing us and loving us
back to life.**
Go in peace. Your sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to the Spirit, who is with us always.
Amen.

Prayer Response

Halle, Halle, Halleluja
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halleluja! Halleluja!

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Penny Kemler

Bach, Partita in A Minor

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>

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Lane

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

Bound by the Trinity for Service

Hymn of Discipleship

He Touched Me

**Shackled by a heavy burden,
neath a load of guilt and shame,
then the hand of Jesus touched me,
and now I am no longer the same.
He touched me, O he touched me,
and O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
he touched me and made me whole.**

**Since I met this blessed Savior,
since he cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise him;
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.
He touched me, O he touched me,
and O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
he touched me and made me whole.**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Benediction

Pastor Deirdré

Postlude

Terry Byars

Thank you for worshipping with us!

Today's worship stewards:
Carrie Poynot, Terry Byars,
Penny Kemler, Troy Prevot, Heath Remedies,
Haleigh Schwartz, Mari Walker, and St. John's Pastors:
Rev. Lane Cotton Winn, Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

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