

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

November 1, 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Processional of Praise

Come and Let Us Sweetly Join

**Come, and let us sweetly join,
Christ to praise in hymns divine;
give we all with one accord
glory to our common Lord.**

**Sanctify us, Lord, and bless,
breathe thy Spirit, give thy peace;
thou thyself within us move,
make our feast a feast of love.**

Holy Ground

**We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

Call to Worship

Rev. Latrice Mallard

We come to gather with the saints,
who have gone before us.

To worship the God of our mothers and fathers.

We come to celebrate God's blessings in this life.

**To glorify God and respond in humble and
faithful service.**

We come to claim our calling that comes from our God,
**who loves us and entrusts us to carry on
the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the world.**

All Saints Day Act of Remembrance

Pastors

Martha Stringfield

Gloria Petty Young

Dorothy O'Neal

Shelby Roper

Rev. Carlos Welch

Martin Johnson

Sidney Marshall Longwell

Jeff Johnson

Yvonne Fuller

Mary May

Judy Koonce

Thomas "Tom" Burch

Achilla Idikwu

Stephanie Fuson

James "Jim" Sullivan

Prayer of Remembrance

Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

We celebrate the lives of those we have named, O God,
and lift up many more names in our hearts.

**O God, whose love embraces all your sons and
daughters, bind us together into one
beloved community.**

**Make us conscious not only of those whom our
eyes can see,**

**but also of that great unseen community of those
who have gone before us, our forefathers and
mothers in the faith,
men and women who have lived and died trusting
your promise,
our loved ones, whose memory we honor this day,
whose living presence is all around us.
By the power of your Spirit, make us one with them
and one with you,
members of that communion, which is beyond
all space and time.
Grant us strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Anthem

For All the Saints

Listening

Gospel Reading

Pastor Deirdré

Matthew 23:1-12

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

"Practicing What We Preach"

Pastor Deirdré

Anthem

Make Me a Servant

Responding

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

Creator God,

**You made us to be neighbors, members of one
family, blessed with great diversity.
You created us to be helpers and friends to one
another, entrusting to us your justice
and your joy.**

**Yet we have denied justice and joy to many,
creating worlds of poverty and pain,
lost opportunities and an absence of hope.
We are not being our best, most loving selves.
In so many ways, we break each other's hearts.
Still, you do not reject us.**

**We ask your forgiveness and pray
to be transformed.**

**Restore us to each other and to you. Mend our
hearts and repair the world.**

Through the power of your Holy Spirit,
you shape us to be for others what Christ is for
us: pardon and peace, new life and blessing.
We give you thanks for your love, forgiveness, and
constant presence. Amen.

Words of Assurance, Pardon, and Peace

Pastor Lane

Hear the good news:

Through the expansive, mysterious, divine gift of grace,
made known in the person of Jesus Christ,
we have been reconciled and restored to our Creator,
and entrusted to bear this unimaginable love
to the world.

Through Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And with your spirit.

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Elegie

by Johannes Donjon
Penny Kemler on flute

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!

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.

The pastor gives thanks and recalls God's acts of salvation.

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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 pastor tells the story of Jesus and the Last Supper.

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer After Receiving

Rev. Latrice

**Holy God, Three in One,
thank you for this feast and the fellowship
of saints around your table.
We have remembered whose we are and who we love.
We have blessed our grief and tasted goodness.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength
of your Spirit,
following Christ's example of humble service,
as we give ourselves for others and seek to bring
about your peace and justice.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Departing to Serve

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Hymn of Discipleship

Marching to Zion

**Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.**

REFRAIN

**We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion,
the beautiful city of God.**

**Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King,
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad,
may speak their joys abroad.**

REFRAIN

**Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high.**

REFRAIN

Benediction

Pastor Deirdre

Let us go to be God's saints this week.
**Not because we are more pious or special,
but because we are called to care for those whom
the world has tossed aside.**

Let us go now to serve with Jesus this week.
**Not because we are better than those around us,
but because we are called to humble ourselves in
serving those whom society has forgotten.**

Let us go now to journey with the Spirit this week.
**Not because we have the inside track,
but because we have all lost our way, yet hand
in hand, will be led to God's heart. Amen.**

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us!

*The flowers on the altar are given by Parker and Rhonda
Tucker in loving memory of Margaret Ann Steffen,
Rhonda's mother who would have been 82 today
and in memory of Tom Burch.*

*The red roses on the altar are to St. John's
from the Burch family.*

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

*Permission to stream music covered by
OneLicense A-732159 and CCLI 20233858.*

230 Renee Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70810 | 225-766-4596
office@stjohnsbr.org | www.stjohnsbr.org