

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

September 20, 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 in Spirit

Prelude

Be Still My Soul

Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

Call to Worship

Phil Sprunger

So much in life is unpredictable.

Life begins and ends. Seasons come and go.

Love surprises us!

Doors close. Others open.

Life is unpredictable.

One thing we can count on is

finding God wherever we are;

for this is God's world, and all are created
in God's image.

So bring your questions and concerns,

your doubts and wonderings,

all yours feelings and emotions,

for in the midst of this unpredictable life,

we can predict this:

Love goes on.

Let us worship our loving God together.

We are bound by love and together in Spirit.

Hymns of Praise

Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.

Blessed be the name of our God now and ever.

From the rising of the sun may the Lord be praised.

Praise to the name of the Lord!

We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise

**We bring the sacrifice of praise
into the house of the Lord.**

**We bring the sacrifice of praise
into the house of the Lord.**

**And we offer up to you
the sacrifices of thanksgiving;
and we offer up to you
the sacrifices of joy.**

Psalter

Psalm 121

Phil Sprunger

SUNG RESPONSE

**Be strong in the Lord
and in the strength of God's might.**

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From whence does my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved,
the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold, the One who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper;
**the Lord is your shade
on your right hand.**

The sun shall not smite you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil,
and will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Proclamation of Hope

Children's Moment

Pastor Deirdré

Scripture

Rev. Marie Williams

Isaiah 43:1-7

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Prayer for Illumination

O God,

Light the dark corners of our minds.

Warm the cold places in our hearts.

Fill the empty chambers of our spirits.

Heal the brokenness in our lives. Amen.

Sermon

"Remember and Fear Not"

Rev. Williams

Responding with Thanks

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Fear Not

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 Deirdré

Almighty God, you gave us your son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray and to offer our petitions to you. Lead us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers may be in accordance with your will. Heal us we pray and work in us your steadfast love.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

You created all things in your wisdom, and in love you offer salvation to all that you have created. We pray for the world, that evil may be overcome by goodness, that wrongs will be made right, that justice will prevail for the needy and that the hungry will be satisfied.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

You have called us to be the body of Christ, the church, and so we ask that you keep us faithful. Unite us through this new way, in which we are called to worship, bind us in service as we seek to use our gifts and talents for your glory. Inspire us to be proclaimers of the good news of your love for all people and so live in the light of your goodness, grace and forgiveness.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

You, O God, offer peace that passes all understanding, and so we humbly plead this day for peace. Break down the walls of hatred and division that separate us. Hurry the day when greed, violence and anger will be no more. Hear us as we offer prayers for our neighbors and families and lead us to reconcile the broken relationships in our lives.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

You, O God, are sovereign over all the nations and we pray this day for those who lead us. For those in authority, may they be guided by your wisdom and lead in paths of righteousness. Give compassion and wisdom to our President, our elected leaders, our governor, our bishop and to our pastors.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, who came as God made into flesh, you know the pain and suffering of your people. Grant healing and comfort to those we now name.....

May we be sure that neither death, nor life, not things present or things to come, will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Bless us, and those we love, our friends and our families, and we ask for your hand of care and protection to be upon us. We pray for those of our St. John's family and community whom we now hold in our hearts and thoughts.

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Hear O merciful God, these requests and further those that will bring glory and honor to your name. For we pray together in the way that Jesus taught us to pray by saying...

**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.**

*Sharing Comfort with Others***Invitation to Christian Discipleship****Hymn of Discipleship***God Will Take Care of You*

**Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.**

REFRAIN

**God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you,
God will take care of you.**

**Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
God will take care of you;
when dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.**

REFRAIN

**All you may need he will provide,
God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.**

REFRAIN

**No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
lean, weary one, upon his breast,
God will take care of you.**

REFRAIN

Benediction

Rev. Williams

Postlude

Terry Byars

*How Firm A Foundation***Thank you for worshipping with us!***Today's worship stewards:**Carrie Poynot, Terry Byars,**Natalie Cooper, John McWilliams, Troy Prevot,**Casey Remedies, Heath Remedies, Betty Schroeder,**Phil Sprunger, John Toney, Mari Walker, Rev. Marie Williams,**Our Drive-thru Ushers, and St. John's Clergy:**Rev. Deirdré Halliburton*

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Prayer for Illumination written by John Winn.