

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

June 21, 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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Call to Worship

Pastor Lane

Gracious God, we bring you the broken parts of ourselves.

Hem us in before and behind.

Creator God, we bring you the joyful parts of ourselves.

Weave us together in hope and praise.

God of new life, we bring you doubt and faith knotted up in our hearts.

Unravel our doubt. Weave faith into our hearts.

Draw us together and point us toward you.

In hope and faith we pray.

In hope and faith we worship.

Hymn of Praise

My Life Flows On

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.

How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his!

How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

The proof of God's amazing love is this:

While we were sinners Christ died for us.

Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins together now:

God of the wind and the sea,

You invite us to be brave, but we are more familiar with fear.

You invite us to trust you, but we'd rather trust wind and gravity.

You invite us to believe in ourselves, but we have never been very good at that.

You invite us to move—to change and take risks—but we stay planted where we are, afraid of the ways growth might hurt.

Unravel our unbelief and replace it with your grace.

Forgive us for our self-doubt and fear.

Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Pastor Deirdré

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer Response

Halle, Halle, Halleluja

Halle, Halle, Halleluja!

Halle, Halle, Halleluja!

Halle, Halle, Halleluja!

Halleluja! Halleluja!

Woven by the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Bryan Adams

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.**

Scripture Reading

Bryan Adams

Matthew 14:22-33

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Unraveled by Uncertainty
A hymn inspired by Matthew 14:22-33
Written by Stephen M. Fearing
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Unraveled by uncertainty, the waters stir our doubt,
 Though sea surrounds us on all sides,
 our faith is in a drought.
 When storms arise and weather turns,
 our balance comes undone,
 And right when we think all is lost,
 God's work has just begun.

The boat was battered by the waves,
 the winds with fury blew.
 What once was bad turned quickly worse,
 their dreadful panic grew.
 But through the rain they saw a man
 who walked upon the waves.
 They hoped that he would keep them safe
 from going to their graves.

"Take heart, my friends!" He yelled to them
 as thunder bashed their ears,
 "Fret not, for I AM with you now,
 God's stronger than your fears."
 Then Peter stepped out from the boat,
 and walked to reach his friend,
 But soon distraction took its toll,
 he started to descend.

Then Jesus saw his friend's distress
 and reached for Peter's hand,
 He held him in the savage storm,
 it ceased at his command.
 Then Peter saw his faithful friend,
 his source of saving love,
 He knelt in praise and worshiped God,
 for strength sent from above.

When doctors give the painful news,
 when memory starts to fade,
 When bullets fly and children die,
 and trust has been betrayed,
 Come, Jesus, save us from the depths
 and hold our hands secure,
 When certainty seems but a dream,
 your steadfast love endure.

Sermon

"Unraveled by Uncertainty"

Pastor Lane

Hemming Our Lives to God

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

Precious Lord

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>

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Deirdré

Bound by the Trinity for Service

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Hymn of Discipleship

Love Lifted Me

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
 Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more;
 But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry,
 From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

REFRAIN

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
 When nothing else could help,
 Love lifted me.
 Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
 When nothing else could help,
 Love lifted me.

All my heart to Him I give, ever to Him I'll cling,
 In his blessed presence live, ever his praises sing.
 Love so mighty & so true merits my soul's best songs;
 Faithful loving service, too, to Him belongs.

[Refrain]

Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;
 He will lift you by His love out of the angry waves;
 He's the master of the sea, billows His will obey;
 He your Savior wants to be, be saved today.

[Refrain]

Blessing and Sending Forth

Postlude

God Be with You till We Meet Again

Terry Byars

Thank you for worshipping with us!
Happy Father's Day!

Today's worship stewards:

Carrie Poynot, Terry Byars,

Bryan Adams, John Toney, Mari Walker, and St. John's Pastors:

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn, Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

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