

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

December 24, 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.

We Gather

Prelude Terry Byars

Words of Welcome Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Procession of Light Julian Hartman

Soloist:

*I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun,
even when, even when it's not shining.
I believe in the light, I believe in the light
that has come, that has come, and is coming.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle Rev. Deirdré Halliburton,
Julian Hartman

Prayer, together

Holy One,

**we thank you for the glimpse of heaven on earth
in the faces and the light of those around us.
Even in the midst of fear, of challenge,
of struggle—
even when our view is obscured
by clouds of doubt,
You have ignited the flame of hope,
love, joy, and peace within us.
Let us glow with its brilliance from
the inside out. Amen.**

Carol

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

We Proclaim

Children's Time to Shine

This Little Light of Mine

Prophetic Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Pastor Deirdré

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Christmas Prayer

Pastor Deirdré

Children's Christmas Pageant

"O Zoom, All Ye Faithful"

Gabriel: Caleb Doan

Mary: Alex Lohmann

Zechariah's Angel: Bishop Idikwu

Joseph's Angel: Ella Fountain

Heavenly Hosts

Lailah: Haylee Matthews

Ariel: Jane Walker

Charmeine: Evie Durham

Sariel: Anna Durham

Dina: Livia Walker

Anthem

Mary Hannah Johnson

Welcome to Our World

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1-5

Bill and Joyce Perry

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,

how still we see thee lie;

**above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.**

Yet in thy dark streets shineth

the everlasting light;

**the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

Luke 2:6-7

The Idikwu Family

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

Luke 2:8-14
Ana de la Fuente

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Luke 2:15-18
Guy Johnson
What Child Is This

What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Luke 2:19-20
Margaret Sprunger
O Come, All Ye Faithful
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
Sing, choir of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O Come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Meditation

"All Shall Be Well"

Pastor Lane

We Respond

Pastoral Prayer *and* Lord's Prayer

Pastor Lane

Offering Our Tithes *and* Gifts to God

Thank you for making a Christmas gift to St. John's;
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!

We Go Forth

Witness to the Light

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, the Lord, at thy birth.
Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Benediction

Pastor Lane, Pastor Deirdre

Please join us responsively in our Benediction:

We wait for justice,
but we do not wait to work for change;
We wait for restored health,
but we do not wait to work towards healing;
We wait for wholeness,
**but we do not wait to work at binding
brokenness;**
We wait for peace,
but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.

A blessing is offered, then:

Raise your voices and repeat after me

"Do not be afraid!"

"Do not be afraid!"

"All shall be well!"

"All shall be well!"

Amen!

Amen!

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us!

Merry Christmas!

*We thank all our musicians,
tech team, and staff for assisting in our service.*

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*Some liturgy adapted from Worship Design Studio
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