

# The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

Welcome to All

Thank you for joining us! Please register your attendance at:

<https://www.stjohnsbr.org/attendance>



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.*

## Spending Time Together

### Prelude

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Terry Byars

### Words of Grace and Wisdom

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

In the Bible, the early church was described in this way:

*"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people."*

*(Acts 2: 46-47a)*

### Centering Our Hearts as One

*I invite you to place your hand on your heart.*

*Feel your breath and the beat of your heart as we pray.*

Hear this assurance from God:

*(sung to the tune of Amazing Grace)*

**Be still, O heart, you're not alone,  
your beat is shared with me.**

**Come now, and calm, and center here,  
you're mine, secure and free.**

*Let us pick up our heart stone, sometimes called a "worry stone," and let our touch on its surface remind us that God's touch is within us, between us, and around us.*

We offer a prayer song of letting go.

Sing along, if you're comfortable:

*(sung to the tune of Amazing Grace)*

**Into your care, we offer now,  
our worries, fears and strife.**

**We turn to you and know you're near-  
Your light, our love and life.**

*Let's light our candles now  
and set our heart worry stones next to it.*

### Call to Worship

We know Jesus is present among us... [repeat]  
even in this very home... [repeat]

We will not let fear be louder than love... [repeat]  
but with glad hearts and rejoicing souls... [repeat]

we will sing God's praise... [repeat]  
for we are Easter People...! [repeat]

Alleluia! Amen. [repeat]

### Hymn of Praise

*For the Healing of the Nations*

**For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action**

**help us rise and pledge our word,  
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom;  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.**

**Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase,  
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span,  
may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, Creator God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find,  
earth its destiny may find.**

## Breaking Open the Word

### A Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 23

Tom Burch

### Song of Response

*Shepherd Me, O God*

### A Reading from the Gospels

John 10:1-10

Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### Song of Response

*People Need the Lord*

**A Reading** from the Acts of the Apostles  
Acts 2:42-47

Pastor Lane

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 art  
our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

**The Message** Pastor Lane

“An Overflowing Heart”

## *Breaking Open our Hearts and Lives*

**Visual Meditation** “Only Just Begun”

**Sharing in Prayer** Pastor Deirdré

**The Lord’s Prayer**

## *Praising God!*

**Stewardship Witness** Harriet Walters

**Prayer of Dedication** Pastor Lane

**Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God**  
*Hymn of Grateful Praise*  
arr. Sally DeFord

*Take a moment to give thanks to God for the gifts in your life.*

*We encourage you to contribute to the mission  
of St. John’s UMC by giving online now:*

<http://bit.ly/stjohnsgive>

*Checks and other gifts may be dropped off at the church during our  
Drive-By Offering today from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. or mailed to  
230 Renee Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810*

*Please register your attendance at:*

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**Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**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!**

## *Practicing Goodwill*

**Faith in Action**

*From children to octogenarians this is a time for everyone to  
put their faith into action.*

**Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

*Today is Grocery Bag Sunday. We invite you to bring groceries and  
household items for the Shepherd’s Market  
from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. during the Drive By Offering.*

**Hymn of Discipleship**

*Jesus Calls Us*

**Jesus calls us o’er the tumult  
of our life’s wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,  
saying, “Christian, follow me!”**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
“Christian, love me more than these!”**

**Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.**

**Benediction**

*based on Psalm 16*

God is always with you.  
No matter what you face,  
no matter what trials or hardships  
come your way,  
God is right beside you, offering love  
straight from the heart,  
guiding and directing your path.  
So, acknowledge your fear and your worry  
and know it is as true and holy as any feeling,  
including joy and hope and love.  
Take heart! This is the heart of the matter.  
**Amen.**

**Postlude**

*He Leadeth Me*

Terry Byars

*Thank you for worshipping with us!*

*Today’s worship stewards are:  
Carrie Poynot, Terry Byars,  
Tom Burch, John Toney, Mari Walker,  
Harriet Walters, and our pastors.*

*Portions of today’s liturgy are adapted from  
[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/series](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/series) by Dr. Marcia McFee.*

*Our CCLI streaming license is 20233858.*