

The CELEBRATION of the GOSPEL

July 5, 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 Terry Byars
Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Words of Welcome Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Call to Worship John Toney

God of mystery,
You called Ananias by name, and he responded,
"Here I am."
You called Paul to the work of your Church,
and he responded
By giving his life to your Word.
Similarly, you call us into community and faith,
So we respond with love and time, energy and hope. We respond with worship.
Let us worship the God of transformation and grace.
Amen.

Hymn of Praise

God Is Here
God is here!
As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Prayer of Confession Pastor Lane

God of new life,
What would we give to have you appear with a flash of light and a clear voice like you did for Saul?
Maybe then, our doubts would disappear.
Maybe then, we would live as you called us to live.
However, when our lives depend on faith, we forget your surprising grace.
Instead, we draw lines around enemies and friends, who's in and who's out.
We see the "other," faster than we see our "neighbor," and refuse second chances.

Pull the scales from our eyes.
Help us see as you see.
Help us live as you live, and forgive us when we fail to.
Humbly we pray, Amen.

Words of Assurance and Pardon Pastor Lane

Siblings in Christ,
Hear this good news and see the grace of God!
You are forgiven.
You are free to go and live in the light of love.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Prayer Response

Halle, Halle, Halleluja
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halleluja! Halleluja!

Woven by the Word

Scripture Reading Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

Acts 9:1-20

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Children's Moment Pastor Lane

Anthem

Saul Left for Damascus
A hymn inspired by Acts 9:1-20
Saul left for Damascus, his orders were clear: to send folks to prison and leave them in fear. He searched for the people who followed the Way, but found someone else when he ventured that day.
A bright light from heaven! Saul fell to the ground! A voice boomed around him, a voice most profound: "Saul, why do you murder and persecute me?" Saul saw only darkness; his eyes could not see.
His friends had to lead him for now he was blind. They came to Damascus by God's own design. God sent Ananias to tell Saul God's plan. Saul's sight was restored and he was a new man!
No more would Saul murder; he grew in God's grace. In all he would serve he would see Jesus' face. Lord, help us to follow with hearts that are brave, and worship our savior who rose from the grave.

Prayer for Illumination

Based on Psalm 19:14

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, thou who are my strength and my redeemer. Amen.

Sermon

“Discovering a New Path”

Pastor Deirdré

Hemming Our Lives to God

Affirming Our Faith

Pastor Deirdré

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

I Need Thee Every Hour

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 Lane

Bound by the Trinity for Service

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Hymn of Discipleship

Sent Forth By God’s Blessing

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

Benediction

Pastor Deirdré

Postlude

Gift of Love

Terry Byars

Thank you for worshipping with us!

Today’s worship stewards:

Carrie Poynot, Terry Byars,

Julian Hartman, Betty Schroeder, John Toney,

Mari Walker, and St. John’s Pastors:

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn, Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

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