



Friday, December 24, 2021

**5 P.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

*All Are Welcome*

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the pew) so we know you're here and we can get to know you better.

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

# WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## OUR MISSION

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.

## OUR VISION

Our church will be known as a center for feeding people spiritually and physically in our community.

## OUR CORE VALUES

We believe the following guiding principles make us a fruitful and spiritually intentional church:

- Fellowship: A sense of family, hospitality, and belonging to an open, accepting, and nurturing community.
- Caring: Loving response to needs of all people through empathy and compassion.
- Mission: giving of ourselves to meet and serve the needs of all others by faithful witness through our actions, servanthood and way of living.
- Spiritual Growth: Studying, understanding and growing in the word of God by Christ-centered prayer, worship and service through discipleship in action.

## OUR CONTACT INFO

230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810

office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594 | stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - noon

## 60TH ANNIVERSARY

St. John's was founded in 1961 by 60 charter members. Ground was broken for the present sanctuary in August 1962, and it was dedicated Easter Sunday 1963. We are celebrating our 60th anniversary throughout 2021. Give God the Glory!

## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Do No Harm, our first Wesleyan rule continues to be our benchmark for all recommendations. Following the recent guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health regarding the holidays, we recommend mask wearing during our worship services. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available in the Narthex entry of the Sanctuary. If you are immunocompromised or you are having any cold symptoms, we encourage you to worship with us online.

We look forward to the day when COVID will no longer be a part of our daily lives, until then, let us pray for our world, country, state, parish, and each other.

Grace & Peace  
*The Covid -19 Task Force*

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

We fully welcome and love engaging children in worship! We include a special Children's Moment each Sunday.

- **The St. John's Playground** is located in the front of the sanctuary. This is a place for children and their families to worship together, allowing children to more fully participate in the service. More details about the Playground may be found on our website.
- A staffed **nursery** for infants through preschool is open every Sunday morning and is located next door in our Education/Administration building.
- **Changing tables** are located in the restrooms in the back of the sanctuary and our nursery.
- Children are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**, which is served weekly at 8:30 a.m. and on the first Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. Our communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free elements are also available.
- **Sunday School** is offered for children starting at age 3 through 12th grade from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

*Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.*

# Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2021

## Welcome Home

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable.  
**Bold** indicates congregational response.*

**Prelude**

Terry Byars

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

**Christmas Greetings**

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

**Introit**

**Words of Welcome**

Pastor Lane, Natalie Cooper,  
Steve Rushing

**\*Carol of Praise**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 234, vs. 1-3

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.

True God of true God,  
Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he shuns not  
the Virgin's womb;  
Glory to God, Son of the Father,  
begotten, not created;  
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.

**Lighting of Advent Candle**

Grace, Paul, and Bishop Idikwu

In this sacred time and space, we are welcomed home.  
In God's house, there is hope.

**For God loves us too much to leave us just as we are.**

*We light the candle of Hope.*

In God's house, there is peace.

**For all that separates us from God falls away.**

*We light the candle of Peace.*

In God's house, there is joy!

**Because God created music, and coffee, and dance floors, and laughter that is contagious, and endless rounds of peek-a-boos with babies; and if those things have God's fingerprints, then God's house surely exudes joy.**

*We light the candle of joy.*

In God's house, there is love.

**Because God is love, from start to finish, and that love exists for us all.**

*We light the candle of love.*

And in the center of our hope,  
in the center of our peace,  
in the center of our joy,  
in the center of our love,

is God, Emmanuel - who entered our home to dwell among us.

**So tonight we light the Christ candle, for God's love just could not stay away.**

Family of faith, welcome home. **Amen.**

*We light the Christ candle.*

### **Candle Response Song**

*Away in a Manger*

The United Methodist Hymnal 217, vs. 1

**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 Story of God  
Entering our Home*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Pastor Lane

**Holy God,  
we've heard this story a million times -  
of Mary and Joseph, the angels and the shepherds.  
Though we've heard it a million times,  
help us hear it like it's the first.**

**So move among us.**

**Circle back.**

**Draw close.**

**Crack open our hearts and fill them with your goodness.**

**Help us to hear what it is you might be saying to us  
with curiosity, joy, and hope.**

**This is an invitation.**

**Come be here with us.**

**Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

Children's Moment

Pastor Lane

Special Music

Steve Rushing

*Some Children See Him*

The Story of God's Love

Pastor Lane

John 3:16

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish  
but may have eternal life."**

Carol

*Love Came Down at Christmas*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 242, vs. 1

**Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas;  
star and angels gave the sign.**

The Story of the Journey

Julian Hartman

Luke 2:1-5

Carol

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 230, vs. 1, 4

**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.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!**

The Story of the Birth

Jane Walker

Luke 2:6-7

Carol

*What Child Is This*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 219, vs. 1, 2

**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.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear,  
for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard  
and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**The Story of the Angels**

Evie Durham

Luke 2:8-14

**Carol**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 238, vs. 1, 2

**Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains  
prolong? What the gladsome  
tidings be which inspire your  
heavenly song?  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**The Story of the Shepherds**

Carissa Murray

Luke 2:15-20

**Carol**

*The First Noel*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 245, vs. 1

**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**Christmas Meditation**

Pastor Lane

“Invited and Welcomed Home”

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pastor Lane

*Accepting our Place  
in God's Family*

**\*Carol**

*Joy to the World*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 246, vs. 1, 4

**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.**

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*Christmas Sanctus*  
Chancel Choir and Alleluia Ringers

### \*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!**

## *Gathering at Christ's Family Table*

### \*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.  
You loved the world so much you gave your only Son,  
Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. At his birth, the angels  
sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
In him, the Word became flesh and made a home among us,  
full of grace and truth. In him we witnessed the height and depth and  
length and breadth of your unfailing love for all the world. In him, from  
the cradle to the cross, was revealed the matchless wonder of your  
amazing grace and expansive welcome to us all.

*At the altar the pastor will recount the story of the Last Supper,  
break the bread, and pour the cup.*

And so, in remembrance of his life given for us, we offer ourselves to you, Eternal God, and to one another as together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

God of starlight and angel choruses, on this Christmas Eve, as you come dwell among us, pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts. May your love be born within us, transforming us and strengthening us, so that we might help build the world you have in mind.

In the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup we may know the living presence of Jesus Christ, who was, and is, and ever shall be,

**King of kings, Lord of lords,  
Prince of Peace, Emmanuel,  
God With Us. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

Steve Rushing

#### *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*

*Everyone is invited and welcome to share in Holy Communion.*

*Communion will be served using the ancient means of "intinction" with only the pastor and servers touching the elements, or, if you prefer, you may receive pre-packaged elements.*

*Our communion elements are bread and grape juice.*

*A gluten-free option is also available.*

*You are invited to stay at the chancel for prayer as long as you desire.*

*If you are mobility challenged, please let the usher know and someone will bring communion elements to you.*

### **Prayer After Receiving**

Natalie Cooper

**We thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus,  
who invites us in and welcomes us at his table.**

**We are filled with Love,  
having felt your presence among us.**

**We are filled with Joy,  
having heard the good news!**

**We are filled with Hope,  
for the angels still sing,  
and there is a Light for us to follow.**

**We pray in the name of the One  
who brings Peace to our souls.**

**Amen.**

# *Lighting the Way Home for Others*

## **\*Carol by Candlelight**

*Silent Night*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 239

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!

## **\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

### **\*Carol**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 240, vs. 1, 3

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!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince  
of Peace! Hail the Sun of  
Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born  
that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

### **\*Postlude**

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Terry Byars

## *Worship Notes*

### **Worship Stewards**

Ushers in tonight's service are Emeric Csaszar, Ginger Gauthier, Paul Ivey, Sandra Kuykendall, and Cadee Murray. Our acolyte is Daniel Csaszar.

### **Prayers and Liturgy**

Some of our prayers and liturgy were written by Sarah Are Speed | A Sanctified Art, LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

# Announcements

## Carols, Communion, and Cookies - December 26

We invite you to come comfortable on **Sunday, December 26 for Carols, Communion, and Cookies at 10 a.m.** We will sing tons of Christmas carols, share in Holy Communion, and following the service, we will enjoy cookies on the lawn in front of the Sanctuary. Children are invited to bring one toy they received for Christmas for a Blessing of the Toys during worship – in person and virtually. You won't want to miss this uplifting morning of worship and fellowship! If you would like to bring cookies to share bring them to the Narthex.

## Holiday Closures

**The church office** will be closed Monday, December 27. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, December 28 at 9 a.m. The church office will be closed Friday, December 31 and Monday, January 3. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, January 4 at 9 a.m.

**The Shepherd's Market** will be closed through Monday, January 3. Regular drive-through pantry hours will resume Tuesday, January 4 at 8 a.m.

## Star Words for 2022

On Epiphany Sunday, January 2, each person will be offered a special word for the year printed on a star. These words are a symbol of the star the magi followed on their way to baby Jesus. Just as the Christmas star once shined for all people to see, the light of Christ still shines for all people. Following in the footsteps of the magi, we are invited to follow our individual star and open our hearts and minds to see where it takes us in 2022. May we use these star words as reminders of the Christmas star we invite into our lives so that we might be led toward Jesus Christ. *If you are unable to worship in person with us on January 2 and would like to receive a Star Word, please contact Lynn Cooper (225-766-4594; office@stjohnsbr.org) in the church office to arrange a pick up.*

## New Adult Sunday School

A new adult Sunday School class is forming in January! This new class will begin on **Sunday January 16 at 9:45 a.m.** in the Parlor (first floor of Admin/Education building) and is open to adults of all ages. The class will use scripture and thought-provoking questions to guide conversations around important matters of faith raised by the news of the week. In this discussion-oriented class, The Wired Word curriculum will be used to connect current events with your faith life. You are invited to come try it out for a week or two! Make your personal and spiritual growth a priority in the New Year. Everyone is invited to join in the conversation of bringing Christ into the 21st century. If you want to know more about this exciting new opportunity or want to get on the email list for the class, please contact Jami Prince (thecastle2018@gmail.com) or Bobbi Marino (bobbimarino@hotmail.com).

## Our Staff

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
*Lead Pastor*  
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis  
*Manager of Finance & Facilities*  
leannadavis@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing  
*Choir Director*  
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler  
*Media Producer*  
benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper  
*Administrative Assistant*  
office@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Terry Byars  
*Praise Team Director & Accompanist*  
terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org

Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

# Christmas Poinsettias

At St. John's United Methodist Church

## **DEDICATIONS IN MEMORY OF**

Corinne Allen, Beatrice Elaine Schmidt,  
John & Charlene Maxwell,  
& Thomas Adams  
Baby Adams  
Freddie Carter  
Hans Metcalf  
The Perry & Hargis families  
Carolyn Pynes McKeough  
Christopher Schroeder  
Jake Shearer  
Kaitlin & Riley Hunt  
Rev. John N. Williams, Roland C. Palmer, Jr.

*by Brandon, Betsy, & Maxwell Adams*  
*by Brandon, Betsy, & Maxwell Adams*  
*by Cindy Carter*  
*by Bill & Jane Metcalf*  
*by Bill & Joyce Perry*  
*by Michelle McKeough Pynes*  
*by Betty Schroeder*  
*by his parents, Fred & Becky Shearer*  
*by Kathy Vandiver*  
*by Rev. Marie Williams*

## **DEDICATIONS IN HONOR OF**

Pastor Lane & Bill Perry  
My Aunt Pauline, in her 96<sup>th</sup> year  
My daughter, Brooke  
Billy Metcalf  
The Hargis and Perry families  
Luke Schroeder, my son  
My husband, John Toney  
The baptism of Emmie Kait White  
Lauren & Edward White & girls  
Jane & Livia Walker  
My children & grandchildren  
Our church staff  
Our St. John's church family

*by Lynn Cooper*  
*by Beth Forester*  
*by Bob Hoover*  
*by Bill & Jane Metcalf*  
*by Joyce & Bill Perry*  
*by Betty Schroeder*  
*by Pam Toney*  
*by Kathy Vandiver*  
*by Kathy Vandiver*  
*by Mari & Shawn Walker*  
*by Rev. Marie Williams*  
*by Rev. Lane Cotton Winn*  
*by Pastor Lane, Ben Hartman,*  
*& Julian*



**ST. JOHN'S**

United Methodist Church

*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*