



Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT

December 24, 2022

5 P.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

We are delighted you have chosen to join us during this most blessed season, to celebrate the Light of Christ that has come into the world. The St. John's family welcomes all to this sacred night of worship. As a people claimed and shaped by God's love, we invite you into this community of faith. We hope you will return to experience how God might change your life at St. John's United Methodist Church.

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.



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome to worship! We are glad you've joined us and hope you feel at home here. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome. Our ushers are happy to assist you in anyway. Restrooms are in the Narthex.

You are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

Thank you for being here.

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 in 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 18 months through 12th grade from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

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

Lynn Cooper
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Dr. Steve Rushing
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Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2022

**Please stand as you are comfortable.*

Bold indicates congregational response.

GATHERING *With the Angels*

Prelude

Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Grace and Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

***Call to Worship**

Stop! Look! Do you see it?

See what?

That light shining in the distance. The one that seems to dance and sing on the horizon.

Yes I see it! It is so warm. What could it mean?

Something special is happening. Something new is being born!

Let us go and see!

Come and worship! Come and worship!

Worship Christ the new-born King!

***Hymn**

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;
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 the Christ Candle

The Idikwu Family

In the dark of winter we look for light.

We light candles to bring light into our world.

(The Advent candles are lit.)

The light of Hope, of Peace, of Joy, and of Love surround us.

And now there is one light left.

On this night of glory we remember that God is born in our midst,
the Light of the world shines in our communities.

And so we light our center candle, remembering the Babe who is the center of our celebration, the Christ who is the center of our faith.

(The Christ candle is lit)

God of angels and starlight, God of shepherds and stables,
God of Christmas glory,

**tonight we gather to hear the story we have heard
so many times.**

God who comes to live among us, God who chooses to share our joys
and sorrows, to share our lives,

**as we listen for angels sharing Good News,
awaken hope in our lives.**

God who is at work in the world, as we celebrate the birth of Christ,
**remind us that the Good News the angel shares is for us,
for all the people.**

For to US a Child is born, to Us a Son is given.

May his birth-light shine in and for and through us.

Glory to God in the Highest!

Candle Response Song

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

The United Methodist Hymnal 240, vs. 1

**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!"**

EMMANUEL
God With Us

Children's Moment

Pastor Lane

Grownups may accompany their children to the altar if they so desire.

Scripture

Our Confirmation Class

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.”**

Anthem

Dr. Steven Rushing

O Holy Night

Scripture Reading

Jane Walker

Luke 2:1-7

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Carol

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

Scripture Reading

Ana de la Fuente

Luke 2:8-20

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High
The United Methodist Hymnal 238, vs. 1
**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!**

Christmas Meditation

Pastor Lane

“Free From Fear”

PRESENTING
Our Gifts

Anthem

Rev. Dr. Jack O'Dell

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Christ Was Born On Christmas Day

by Pat Messick

Chancel Choir

Dr. Penny Kemler, flute

We appreciate your generosity.

Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.

You may give online at 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!**

CELEBRATING *at God's 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.

In him, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Through him we witness the height and depth and breadth of your unfailing love for all the world.

The congregation is seated and the Lord's Supper is recalled.

In the same way you moved through that upper room at the last supper, we pray that you will move among us tonight. Bring your story to life in the bread and cup we share.

Come to us again, and say,

"This is my body, given for you.

This is my life, laid down for you."

In these words, we experience the truth that God is with us - Emmanuel. From the cradle to the cross, we experience the matchless wonder of your amazing grace.

Let us pray.

With this bread and wine may we open our hearts anew to receive your love and grace in Jesus Christ. Send your Spirit upon us, let your love be born within us, so that 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Carol Medley During Communion:

What Child Is This? UMH 219, vs. 1 & 2

The First Noel, UMH 245, vs. 1 & 2

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, UMH 204

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 mobility is a concern, please let an usher know and someone will bring communion to you.

Communion Response

Bryan Adams

Mary Did You Know?

SHARING *the Light Of Christmas*

***Candlelighting Carol**

During the candlelighting, the pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle and pass the light on.

Watch the light grow as we share it with one another.

Let us remember this is the light of Christ that shines brighter and brighter as we share God's love with one another.

Silent Night

The United Methodist Hymnal 239, vs. 1, 3, & 4

**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,
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!**

***Closing Prayer and Sending Forth**

***Hymn of Celebration**

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.**

***Postlude**

Dr. Terry Byars

Merry Christmas

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

230 Renee Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70810
stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr

*Worship with us Sundays at 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.,
with Coffee Time at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School for All Ages at 9:45 a.m.*

Church Office Hours:
Mondays to Thursdays
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Fridays
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE CHURCH & THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET

The **church office** will be closed on Monday, December 26 for Christmas, as well as Friday, December 30 and Monday, January 2 for New Years. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, January 3.

The **Shepherd's Market** is currently closed for the holidays until Tuesday, January 3 when regular shopping hours will resume at 8 a.m.

REGULAR PANTRY HOURS

Mondays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. starting January 9
or until we serve 45 households

Tuesdays from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. starting January 3
or until we serve 45 households

Thursdays from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. starting January 5
or until we serve 45 households

ABOUT THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET: New volunteers are always welcome! In addition to being a client choice food pantry, we also serve a meal every time the pantry is open. A snack supper is offered on Mondays and a hot breakfast is served on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Clients can shop twice a month, and you can eat as many times as you would like. Find out more about The Shepherd's Market at shepherdsmarket.org. Whether you are in need of food or fellowship, there is a place for you at The Shepherd's Market!

Announcements

CHRISTMAS DAY CAROLS, COMMUNION, AND COOKIES

We invite you to come comfortable on **Sunday, December 25 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, coffee, and cocoa in the Narthex. Children are invited to bring one toy they received for Christmas for a Blessing of the Toys during worship. You won't want to miss this uplifting morning of worship and fellowship! If you would like to bring cookies to share, bring them with you tomorrow!

LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Many of us know the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” but did you know that each verse refers to a different teaching of church doctrine? The “Partridge” refers to Jesus Christ, who died on a tree, and the “True Love” is God, our Creator, the giver of life and every good gift. **Join us for a single service at 10:00 a.m. on January 1** for a lively service of *Lessons and Carols for the Twelve Days of Christmas*. Don't worry, we'll only sing the song once, but once you've heard the meaning behind this familiar carol, it will bring a whole new appreciation to the song.

GROCERY BAG SUNDAY JANUARY 8

We collect nonperishable foods, dry goods, and household items on the first Sunday of the month for The Shepherd's Market. Due to the holidays, Grocery Bag Sunday will happen on January 8. If you are able, please add some items to your buggy and bring them back with you to worship on the 8th. Some items we are running low on are jelly, mac & cheese, crackers, and drinks other than water.

STAR WORDS FOR 2023

On **Epiphany Sunday, January 8**, 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 2023. 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.

FUN BY THE FIRE JANUARY 8

All Children, Youth, their Families and Family Ministry Volunteers are invited to come hang out, play games, eat, and meet Connor Dean, our new interim Director of Youth and Children's Ministries at **Fun by the Fire on January 8 from 5-7 p.m.** Weather permitting, our bonfire will be outside on the St. John's grounds. Dress in warm clothes, come hungry, and bring a chair. Invite your friends and families!

UWF FREE WATERCOLOR ART WORKSHOP

United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) will be offering a free workshop in watercolor painting for teen and adult members of St. John's or members of their families, on consecutive Saturdays beginning **Saturday, January 14 from 9-11 a.m.** Paints and paper sufficient for working on projects in class will be provided. The 6-lesson workshop will be held in Classroom E of the Family Life Center. Due to space restrictions we must limit enrollment to 12 individuals. Contact Marie Varnes to enroll in the class (by text: 225-252-8936).

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Want to get your finances in order in 2023? Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is being offered at St. John's on **Tuesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. beginning January 17**, in the Library. The cost of the course is \$40, scholarships are available; checks should be made out to St. John's UMC with FPU in the memo line. If you have any questions contact Jill Brant, Class Coordinator, at jbrant96518@gmail.com or (985) 503-4246. You may register online at stjohnsbr.org/financial-peace-university-2023 or fill out a form found in the Narthex. The class is limited to 15 participants so register soon so you don't miss out on this great opportunity!

DISCIPLE I NEW TESTAMENT

A 12-session Bible study that covers the entire New Testament will begin on **Monday, January 23 at 6 p.m.** in the Library. The class will be facilitated by Guy Johnson, Danielle Blackwood, and Rhonda Tucker. Registration is online (stjohnsbr.org/disciple-jan-23) or by the form in the Narthex. The cost of the study book is \$18. A nursery is available on request, call the church office (225-766-4594).



Christmas Poinsettias

At St. John's United Methodist Church

DEDICATIONS IN MEMORY OF

Bevelyn Yonts by Pam and John Toney

George and Frances Lindsley, &

James and Hilda Thomason by Jim and Norma Thomason

Our son, Jake Shearer, by Fred and Becky Shearer

My sister, Pat Grace, by Janice Schmidt

Mary and Jake Marino &

Tony Marino by Bobbi and Frank Marino

Alline and Papa Webb by Bobbi and Frank Marino

Karen Cochran by Bobbi and Frank Marino

Rev. John Williams by Rev. Marie Williams

Jack and Betty Byrd, Eddie Byrd,

Dorothy Worthy, & Gerald Creed by Mike and Jackie Creed

Christopher Schroder by Betty Schroeder

Our parents, John and Mae Fowler &

James and Frances Ruth Roby by Jim and Claudia Fowler

Our parents by Don and Carol Gordon

Tommy Dunbar by Susan Dunbar

Keith Hartman by Ben and Julian Hartman & Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Dan Winn by the Winn Family

Nancy R. Brown by Jessica Brown

DEDICATIONS IN HONOR OF

My mother, Janice Silver by Karen Silver Holton

My son, Luke, by Betty Schroeder

Jim and Claudia Fowler by the Brooks family

Revelation Sunday School Class by Bill and Joyce Perry

Our four great grandchildren: Weston, Hensley, Emmylou,

and Wrenley by Phil and Jill Slicker

My children and grandchildren by Rev. Marie Williams

Pastor Lane and Bill Perry by Lynn Cooper

God's gift of our sons, Billy and Hans by Bill and Jane Metcalf

Our family by Don and Carol Gordon

Jane and Livia Walker by Mari and Shawn Walker

*Poinsettias may be taken home
after the Worship Service.*