

The Celebration of the Gospel

March 14, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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.

Again We Gather

Prelude

Love Divine All Loves Excelling

Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

Songs of Praise

Celebrate Love

We can celebrate his love today. Jesus loves everyone.
We can celebrate new life today. Jesus loves everyone.
Celebrate love, love, love. Celebrate love, love, love.
Celebrate love so amazing.
He's creating his wonderful love in you.

We can sing about his love for us. Jesus loves everyone.
He is living here inside of us. Jesus loves everyone.
Celebrate love, love, love. Celebrate love, love, love.
Celebrate love so amazing.
He's creating his wonderful love in you.

God Is So Good

God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, God's so good to me.

God loves me so, God loves me so,
God loves me so, God's so good to me.

Call to Worship

Rev. Marie Williams

Before we were born,
before we took our first breath,
before the week started,
before the year started,
before we said, "I love you,"
before we said, "I'm sorry,"
before we figured out who we really are,
before we figured out who we want to be,
before it all—
God loved us.
Unconditionally and freely,
fully and honestly—
God loved us.
Again and again,
this is where our story begins.
Let us worship God!
We come to worship the God of Love.

Song of Praise

God Is So Good

God loves me so, God loves me so,
God loves me so, God's so good to me.

Prayer for the Pandemic

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Prayer Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Again We Proclaim

Children's Moment

Molly Means

Scripture

John 3:14-21

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

God of the here and now—
We have heard the words,
"For God so loved the world
that he gave his only son,"
time and time again.
We have read them on billboards,
heard them in worship,
and seen them on signs.
And yet we know,
there is a difference between
hearing those words in passing
and truly, deeply listening.
We long to listen, God.
We long to hear your truth.
We long to know your love.
Open our hearts and minds.
We are listening.
Amen.

Sermon

"Again & Again, God Loves First"

Pastor Lane

Again We Respond

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

God of love,
We forget the beginning of the story—
that we were made from love,
to be love, to give love.
We forget that first there was you, and you are love.
We forget that out of that love you created us.
We forget that from the very first day,
you loved first.
We forget, because a love like that doesn't make
sense to us.
Forgive our low self-esteem.
Forgive our resistance to love ourselves.
Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could
be made good.
And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on—
from generation to generation.
Write a new beginning for us that roots our
confidence in your unrelenting love.
With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of Faith,
no matter what we do, where we go, or what we tell
ourselves—God is love, and God is loving us.
Again and again, we are claimed, held, forgiven,
and cared for.
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Give Yourself to Love
John McWilliams

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 him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Sharing Holy Communion

Pastors

*If you live in the Baton Rouge area and
would like someone to bring Communion to your home,
please contact us in the church office.*

Again We Are Sent Out

Closing Prayer

Rev. Marie

Again and again,
we are fed by your love, grace, and forgiveness.
Let us follow your way to the cross, to be for others a
sign of your compassion and life.
As you have fed us, let us go out to be part of feeding
the world.
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Call to Action

Hymn of Discipleship

O How He Loves You and Me
**O how he loves you and me!
O how he loves you and me!**
He gave his life. What more could he give?
O how he loves you; O how he loves me;
O how he loves you and me!
Jesus to Calv'ry did go;
his love for sinners to show.
What he did there brought hope from despair.
O how he loves you; O how he loves me;
O how he loves you and me!

Benediction

Young People of St. John's

*Betsy Adams, Jane Walker, Bishop Idikeyu, Eric Threadgill,
Julian Hartman, Anna Durham, Seth Robertson, Evie Durham,
Cadee Gauthier, Faith Robertson, Carissa Gauthier, Livia Walker.*

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us!

*The flowers on the alter are given by Kathleen and Jim Matthew
in celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.
Thanks be to God.*

*We thank all our worship stewards, musicians,
tech team, ushers, and hosts for assisting in today's service.*

*Permission to stream music covered by
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*Most of our liturgy and prayers were written
by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

