



Sunday, March 20, 2022

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

In today's scripture, the gardener in Jesus' parable is willing to cut the tree down if in another year it is not fruitful. We work, we trust, and we hope, but we must also be prepared to let go. Neither good things or bad can be taken as proof of God; only God's presence with us through good and bad.

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

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



ST. JOHN'S
United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

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 Prayground** 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 Prayground 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.

JOURNEYING INWARD

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Songs of Praise

People Need the Lord (2x)
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2244

My Life Is In You, Lord
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2032

*Call to Worship

Natalie Cooper

Gracious and eternal God,
you call us into a new way of being,
and give us endless second chances in life.

**May your love wash over us, as we turn toward you
and away from our sinful ways.**

Mold us as your people in new and powerful ways,
that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and spirits this morning,
Lord, that we may be healed of our faithlessness, freed from
our fears and anxieties, and placed on the pathways that lead
to peace and service to you. Amen.**

*Song of Response

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
The United Methodist Hymnal 474, vs. 1

REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Children's Moment

Darlene Dickson

Prayer for Illumination

Natalie Cooper

Your word, O Lord, is a light in this journey of faith.
**Open our eyes that we may see your way.
Open our ears, that we may hear your truth.
Open our hearts that we may know your presence.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

*Scripture

Natalie Cooper

Luke 13:1-9

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PATH TO HONESTY AND GRATITUDE

*Hymn of Faith

All I Need Is You

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2080, vs. 1 - 3

*Call to Confession

Natalie Cooper

In the season of Lent, as we prepare to receive the Easter gift of resurrection, we are invited on a journey. We are invited to walk a path of introspection and reflection, acknowledging both the shadows and light of our lives. Trusting in the grace of God, and before one another, let us admit the shadows and light, first in silent prayer.

*Prayer of Confession

Natalie Cooper

Patient Lord,

forgive us for the things we have done and not done.

Forgive us for the words we have said and not said.

Forgive us for the life we have lived and not lived.

Renew our trust in your guidance, that we might reflect the image

of the One we profess to follow in thought, word and deed,

and know deeply the power of your mercy.

In Christ's name do we pray. Amen.

*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

Natalie Cooper

You are given another chance! God has heard your cries.

Turn again to the Lord. Find comfort and strength in God's eternal love for you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen.

*Sharing Signs of Peace

*Turn and offer signs of peace, reconciliation,
and the love of Christ with those around you.*

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

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

COMMUNING WITH GOD

*The Great Thanksgiving

A Service of Word and Table III

The United Methodist Hymnal 15

Our sung communion responses are from The Faith We Sing Songbook 2257

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.

The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation.

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. (3x)**

**Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The congregation is seated and the pastor recalls
the institution of the Lord's Supper.*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

*The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit,
praises the Trinity, and concludes*

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing in Holy Communion

Everyone is 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

God, Your bread and your cup renew our spirits. No matter the times we have failed to show up to your call, or to our own needs, or to the cries of our neighbors, you receive us again. May your unending grace be our foundation as we journey onward with Jesus. Amen.

JOURNEYING OUTWARD

Call to Action

We joyfully welcome all those who wish to become members of St. John's and invite you to come forward during the singing of the closing hymn.

*Hymn of Discipleship

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
The United Methodist Hymnal 136, vs. 1, 3, 5

*Benediction

Pastor Lane

When the journey is long and winding,
Guide us, Lord.

When there are dangers along the way,
Guard us, Lord.

When we are tempted to lose faith,
Give us strength, Lord.

Let the Holy Spirit guide you on the journey ahead.
We go forth knowing that the Spirit of God goes with us.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Postlude

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Beth Forester and Emeric Csaszar.

Coffee Time

Everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and refreshments after worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UMW General Meeting

This afternoon at 3 p.m. the Mary Martha Circle and the Ruth Circle will host the General Meeting of St. John's United Methodist Women in the Family Life Center. The program will be "Learning to Listen to God." All women are invited to attend.

Spring Play Read-Through

Our spring play by Guy Johnson will be "The Girl Who Must Be Loved." Those interested in being part of the production will have their first-read through **today at 3 p.m.** in the Library. Newcomers are welcome. If you are unable to attend today's read-through, please contact Guy Johnson (225-766-7931 or storyteller1750@att.net).

Church Council Meeting

There will be a Church Council meeting on **Thursday, March 24 at 6 p.m.**

Volunteer to Make Our Windows Sparkle!

The Trustees Committee invites all congregation members to come out at **9 a.m., Saturday, April 9**, to assist in making our windows sparkle! We will wash as many windows as possible throughout the campus during the morning hours. Questions? Contact Kathy King (281-0314).

Announcing 2022 Summer Ministry Intern

This full-time, salaried summer ministry internship is for young adults who have a passion for youth ministry and may be exploring a call to ministry. The internship will include a range of ministerial responsibilities half of which will be devoted to providing leadership and support to our Youth ministries. Additional ministry time will be spent exploring the various areas of church leadership. If you are interested or you know of someone who might be interested, send an inquiry cover letter, resume, and references to jobs@stjohnsbr.org by April 18.

Ukraine Offering

We are taking a special offering through UMCOR, The United Methodist Committee on Relief for Ukrainians remaining in Ukraine and those fleeing for safety. Remember - 100% of your donation will go to this humanitarian effort. Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways: give from the St. John's website: stjohnsbr.org/give – select UMCOR/Ukraine from pull down list of funds, make a check to St. John's and include "UMCOR-Ukraine" on the memo line, or a cash donation, cash donations in envelopes should be marked with "UMCOR-Ukraine" as well.

Mission to St. Mark's UMC

Rev. Larry Norman is planning our annual mission trip to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans to provide a meal to the hungry and homeless in and around the French Quarter. Mark your calendar for the weekend after Easter (April 22 - April 24). St. Mark's has returned to serving meals so St. John's will be providing a meal for April 24. However, right now that is all we know. Please be looking for more information in our "Inside St. John's" and Friday Newsletter. You may contact Rev. Larry Norman for more information at lducknataol@gmail.com or 225-933-1881.

Lent 2022 Worship Series

The season of Lent, the 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter has long been called a journey. It is a journey we take with Jesus, even when the road he walks is rough. Our Lent worship series is titled, "The Long & Winding Road: Following Jesus When the Path is Rough." Our faith often faces struggles and challenges along the way. Through this worship series, we are looking to the teachings of Jesus from the Revised Common Lectionary readings for Lent to find the grace and wisdom to continue the journey, even when the path is rough. To follow Jesus is to be a person of the long and winding road.