

The Celebration of the Gospel

March 21, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Fifth 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

Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Songs of Praise

Breathe On Me, Breath of God
Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will,
to do and to endure.

More Like You

More like you, Jesus, more like you.
Fill my heart with your desire
to make me more like you.
More like you, Jesus, more like you.
Touch my lips with holy fire
and make me more like you.

Lord, you are my mercy.
Lord, you are my grace.
All my deepest sins
have forever been erased.
Draw me in your presence.
Lead me in your ways.
I long to bring you glory
in righteousness and praise.

Call to Worship

Rev. Latrice Mallard

Every week is a new week, Another chance to say:
"Here I am. Use me."

Every day is a new day, Another chance to say:
"Thank you for yesterday.
Thank you for tomorrow."

Every hour is a new hour, Another chance to say,
"Again and again, make me new."

We do not come to this place to stay the same.
We come to this place to be changed.

So let us worship holy God,
Who created yesterday, will create tomorrow,
and even now is creating something new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song of Praise

Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

Again We Proclaim

Children's Moment

Heather and Anna Durham

Scripture

Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

John 12:20-33

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,
Scripture tells us that your word
is written on our hearts,
but we struggle to hear it.
Is it possible that we have covered up
your words with our own self-narratives?
Is it possible that we have erased your truth
to write our own?
Is it possible that we have forgotten your
words entirely?
Take us back to the beginning.
Remove the self-talk that distracts.
Clear away the cobwebs of doubt.
Show us how to look inside ourselves
for your truth, and then write
on our hearts once more.
We are listening.
We are hopeful.
We are here.
Speak now. Amen.

Sermon

"Again & Again, We Are Reformed"

Pastor Deirdré

Again We Respond

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Deirdré

Gracious God,
We want to see you.
We want to be known as the people
who looked for Jesus; but not only that,
we want to be people who have
your covenant written on our hearts.
Why do we feel so far away from that at times?
What went wrong?
Where did we lose our way?
Could you, would you, once again,
write on our fragile hearts?
We would be so grateful.
Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Pastor Deirdré

Friends,
despite our wonderings, despite our distractions,
Despite wrong turns time and time again, We are
known and loved by God.
Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea, God will never stop
waving us home.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
Our fragile bones are held by the Great Creator.
Our fragile hearts are loved by the Great Creator.
Today is a new day.
Again and again, we are forgiven;
Again and again, we are reformed.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Christ Beside Me

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. Latrice

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

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy
Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.

REFRAIN

I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh.

REFRAIN

Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth
is to feel your need of him.

REFRAIN

Benediction

Young People of St. John's

*Betsy Adams, Jane Walker, Bishop Idikwu, 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!

*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*

