



Sunday, February 27, 2022  
**8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**  
All Are Welcome

During today's service we will read the fantastical story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This experience had such an incredible impact on the disciples that it is written about in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. We welcome Rev. Greg Toney, Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge, as our guest preacher.

*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.*

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# 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



**ST. JOHN'S**  
United Methodist Church

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*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*

## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Do No Harm, our first Wesleyan rule continues to be our benchmark for all recommendations. Following guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health regarding indoor activities and the virulence of the Omicron variant, we recommend wearing a high quality mask during our worship services.

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 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. As a safety precaution, masks are required in the Prayground for everyone ages 2 and older. If you or your child need a mask, some are available in the Prayground. 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.*

# GATHERING

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

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Natalie Cooper,  
Certified Lay Servant

## \*Song of Praise

*O Worship the King*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 73, vs. 1, 4, 5

## \*Call to Worship

Natalie Cooper

Lord, you have called us to the mountaintop.

**Help us to look forward to where you would have us go.**

Help us to listen carefully to the words of your healing love.

**Open our hearts and spirits to receive your glorious directions.**

Place your trust in the Lord in all your ways.

**Lord, we have come here to give our lives to you. Amen.**

## \*Song of Response

*Majesty, Worship His Majesty*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 176

# LISTENING

## Introduction of Guest Preacher

Paul Ivey, Co-Lay Leader

## Children's Moment

Sarah Prevot

## Prayer for Illumination

Natalie Cooper

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts  
be acceptable in thy sight, thou who art our strength and our  
redeemer. Amen.**

based on Psalm 19:14

## \*Scripture

Luke 9:28-36

Natalie Cooper

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

"I Can See Clearly Now"

Rev. Greg Toney

# RESPONDING

## \*Hymn of Faith

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 103, vs. 1, 3, 4

## \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Toney

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### **Merciful God,**

**We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors, and  
we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## \*Words of Assurance and Pardon

Rev. Toney

Hear the good news:  
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that proves God's love toward us.  
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](http://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!**

## **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

Rev. Toney

*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 institution  
of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

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 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.*

**O God,**  
by the bread of heaven and the cup of life,  
you make us one body.  
Bind us together by your Spirit that we might live  
into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ  
and rich in compassion, kindness, courage, and care.  
In all our relationships, may it be so. Amen.

## DEPARTING TO SERVE

### 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

*Be Thou My Vision*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 451, vs. 1-3

### \*Benediction

Rev. Toney

### \*Postlude

## WORSHIP NOTES

### Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Chris and Darren Stubbs.

### Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God.

### Coffee Time

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Mardi Gras Closures**

The church office and The Shepherd's Market will be closed **Tuesday, March 1**. The office will reopen Wed., March 2 at 9 a.m., the pantry will resume on Thursday, March 3 at 8 a.m.

## **Ash Wednesday Observances**

The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 2**, and we have three opportunities for you to mark the beginning of Lent. On Ash Wednesday morning, we will offer Drive Thru Ashes from 7:30 to 9 a.m. near the bell tower. You will be greeted at your car with a prayer and imposition of ashes. During that same time period (7:30 - 9 a.m.) the Sanctuary will be open for personal prayer and meditation. Ash Wednesday evening we will worship at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary and online for our Ash Wednesday Service, which will include imposition of ashes. Rev. Bernadine "Bernie" Johnson will lead this service.

## **Grocery Bag Sunday!**

Next Sunday, March 6 is Grocery Bag Sunday. Please pick up a yellow bag as you leave worship and bring it back with items for the pantry. They are really in need of canned corn and (as always) peanut butter and jelly. Other items include diced tomatoes, canned soups, canned beans, cereal, and pasta.

## **Spring Play Informational Meeting**

We invite you to an information meeting to learn more about the spring play coming in May, written and directed by Guy Johnson. The meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 6 at 3 p.m.** in the Library. Whether you want to perform or be part of the backstage team, everyone is encouraged to attend the information meeting. Contact Guy Johnson to let him know of your interest and availability at 225-766-7931 or storyteller1750@att.net.

## **Lent 6-week Anti-Racism Study Beginning Thursday March 10**

Interested in a lunchtime Zoom small group opportunity? Join Pastor Lane and others in a 6-week Zoom study on Thursdays at noon called "Faithful Lent: Connecting the Practices of Lent and Anti-Racism." If you have questions or would like to sign up, email Pastor Lane at [pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

## **Park Playdate**

Join us at the park, **Saturday, March 12 from 10 - 11:30 a.m.**, for some play time for the kids, plus fellowship with other grown-ups. We'll meet at the playground at Highland Road Park on Saturday, March 12 starting at 10 a.m. Kids Devo starts at 10:45 a.m. Come catch up with your St. John's family. We look forward to seeing you!

## **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. Beginning on **Sunday, March 6**, you are invited to join us for a new Lent worship series entitled, "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 will look 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.

## **Lent 2022 Daily Devotional**

To accompany our shared and personal journey during Lent, the St. John's Writers' Group has produced a Daily Devotional for Lent. The readings begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through Easter. On Sundays, there is a Reflection Guide for small group and personal use, which coincides with the readings and themes shared during our Sunday morning worship services. Take home a copy today or pick one up the next time you are at the church. Thank you to all who contributed to the devotional.

## **Days for Girls**

Thanks to all who helped with Days for Girls at our two workdays. We were able to assemble 105 Reusable Feminine Hygiene kits that will be sent to girls in Nigeria and Uganda. Your assistance will help enable these girls to better themselves through regular attendance in school.