



Sunday, March 27, 2022

**8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

All Are Welcome

Today's scripture could just as easily be called the Parable of the Prodigal Father—the father who wastes his love, his joy, his hope, his money, even his food on this wayward boy. Many of us know what it is like to feel like we are wasting our love on someone, and the pain it can cause—yet wasting love is precisely what God models for us, and learning to love lavishly is a spiritual practice all on its own.

*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.*

## 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.*

## ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
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# JOURNEYING INWARD

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

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## \*Songs of Praise

*Clap Your Hands*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2028

*Give Thanks*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2036

## \*Call to Worship

Theresa Sandifer

If you have travelled a long and winding road this week  
and fear you've lost your way...

**return to the Lord.**

If you have felt trapped, invisible or alone,

**return to the Lord.**

For God is waiting with open arms

**and will come running.**

God's love is lavished upon you forever.

**We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

Return to the Lord, people of God.

**We are coming home!**

## \*Song of Response

*Glorify Thy Name*

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2016, vs. 1

# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

## Children's Moment

Rhonda Tucker

## Anthem

Alleluia Ringers

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

## Prayer for Illumination

Theresa Sandifer

**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

Theresa Sandifer

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“When It Goes to Waste”

Pastor Lane

## PATH TO HONESTY AND GRATITUDE

\*Hymn of Faith

*What Wondrous Love Is This*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 292, vs. 1, 3, 4

Call to Confession

Pastor Lane

*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

Gracious Lord,  
forgive us when we have been  
wasteful with your blessings,  
careless of ourselves and others,  
finding ourselves far away from you.  
Forgive us when we have been  
too tight-fisted with your love,  
unwilling to share your grace,  
finding ourselves at odds with your extravagance.  
Forgive us when we have been  
quick to anger  
and slow to mercy.  
Open us again to your loving heart,  
that we might feel how you rejoice,  
each time we turn our face to you once more.  
In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace and Forgiveness

*Jesus told us: “The father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’”*

My friends, welcome back home. This fellow Jesus, and his remarkable household, welcomes sinners and even eats with the likes of us!

**Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

*O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

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

## COMMUNING WITH GOD

**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**

Theresa Sandifer

**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 King of Love My Shepherd Is*

The United Methodist Hymnal 138, vs. 1, 2, 6

### **\*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 Brian and Danielle Blackwood.

### **Coffee Time**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Covid-19 Task Force Update**

The COVID-19 Task Force, in its regular meetings, has followed the CDC recommendations along with looking to other experts. According to the CDC, East Baton Rouge Parish is in a “low” risk category. We encourage you to follow whatever mask wearing protocol is appropriate for you. The task force will continue to monitor the local and federal recommendations/guidelines and communicate with the congregation if anything changes. The recommendations at this level are as follows:

- Stay up to date on vaccinations, get tested if you have symptoms.
- No mask wearing is required, whether indoor or outdoor.
- When should a mask be required? If you have had direct known contact to a COVID-19 patient or if you are immuno-compromised and are indoors.

## **Grab a Bag Sunday**

Don't forget to pick up a yellow bag to put your groceries for The Shepherd's Market. Next **Sunday, April 3**, will be Grocery Bag Sunday.

## **Easter Lilies**

We will be ordering Easter Lilies for the sanctuary. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one, call the office (225-766-4594), send an email (office@stjohnsbr.org), or pick up a form in the narthex to place your order. Lilies will be \$15. You may pay by check or online at stjohnsbr.org/give, under Other>Sub Fund. **Deadline is Monday, April 11.**

## **Mission to St. Mark's UMC**

Rev. Larry Norman is planning our bi-annual mission trip to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans to provide a meal to those experiencing hunger and homelessness in and around the French Quarter. Mark your calendar for the weekend after Easter: **Sunday, April 24**. St. Mark's has returned to serving meals so St. John's will be providing a meal that will be prepped on Saturday, April 23. We will be leaving for New Orleans on April 24 at 7 a.m. You may contact Rev. Larry Norman for more information at lducknataol@gmail.com or 225-933-1881. There is no cost to participate in this mission and all ages and abilities are welcome to serve.

## **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, 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.

## **Holy Week at St. John's (in person and online)**

**Palm/Passion Sunday, 8:30 and 11 a.m.** - Celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Children and the young at heart will process with palms.

**Maundy Thursday Worship, 6 p.m.** - Remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Join us for Holy Communion.

**Good Friday Worship, 6 p.m.** - Weaving together traditional Good Friday readings about Jesus' final hours, his crucifixion, and his death.

**Easter Sunday, 8:30 and 11 a.m.** - Celebrate the Glory of Christ's resurrection.