

# The Celebration of the Gospel

February 28, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

## Second 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](http://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

### Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

### Songs 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.

*Give Me a Clean Heart*

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee.

Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee.

For I'm not worthy of all those blessings.

Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow thee.

### Call to Worship

Rev. Larry Norman

### Prayer Response

*Open Our Eyes*

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,

to reach out and touch him,

and say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

## Again We Proclaim

### Children's Moment

Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

### Scripture

Mark 8:31-9:8

Pastor Lane

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Prayer for Illumination

Pastor Lane

Creator God,

We cannot hear the trees growing—seeds pushing up through the dirt into the sun.

And we cannot hear a single drop of rain, missing one in the many.

We cannot hear the weight of people's grief, a burden that so often is silent.

And we cannot hear when hearts are changed, but you can.

You hear it all.

So once again, we come to you with bowed heads and hopeful hearts,

Asking that you would lend us your ears.

Help us to hear as you hear so that we can live

as you lived.

We are listening.

Amen.

### Sermon

Pastor Lane

"Again & Again, We Are Called to Listen"

## Again We Respond

### Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

Listening God,

Take what is closed in us and open it.

Take what is distracted in us and settle it.

Take what is hurting in us and hold it.

Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you.

For we are like Peter, O God.

We argue what we don't know. We fear what we cannot see.

And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.

So open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.

We long to hear you more clearly.

We long to know you more fully.

With hope we pray,

and with gratitude we confess.

Amen.

### Words of Forgiveness

Pastor Lane

Siblings in Christ,

we confess with gratitude because we know

that God already has heard and forgiven us.

No matter what we have done or left undone,

we are held in God's hand.

So rest in this good news:

**God invites us in.**

**God meets us where we are.**

**God hears our prayers.**

**God forgives us.**

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

### Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*Give Me Jesus*

*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. Larry

O God,  
Again and again,  
You meet us where we are and invite us to take  
another step closer,  
another step deeper,  
another step further,  
in this journey of faith.  
Again and again,  
we are fed by your love, grace, and forgiveness.  
As we leave this space, may we share those same  
gifts with others.  
Show us the way that leads to wholeness.  
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

## Call to Action

## Hymn of Discipleship

*The Summons*

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?  
Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

## Benediction

Pastors

As you leave this space,  
may your mouth speak of God's goodness.  
May your arms hold those in need.  
May your feet walk toward justice.  
May your heart trust its worth.  
May your soul dance in God's grace.  
And may this be your rhythm—  
again and again and again,  
until God's promised day.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved,  
and Love itself, go with courage, go with heart,  
go in peace.  
Amen.

## 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*

