



Sunday, March 6, 2022

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

All Are Welcome

Today we embark on a new series for the season of Lent called “The Long and Winding Road: Following Jesus When the Path is Rough,” where we will examine some of these difficulties we encounter and look to Christ for the grace and wisdom to journey through them. In today’s scripture, Jesus shows us that true faithfulness says “No” to shortcuts and “Yes” to walking in God’s pathway, even when the road is rough.

*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.*

# JOURNEYING INWARD

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

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## \*Song of Praise

*He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 128, vs. 1 - 3

## \*Call to Worship

Susan Lambert

We are on a journey.

**We find ourselves in a wilderness that has become all too familiar.**

Yes, but this is a journey of faith.

**Isolation, pandemic, death, global conflict...**

**Need we go on?**

**This is a wilderness that is trying our very souls.**

This is why I bid you come.

Come with the Spirit's power and remember God's faithfulness.

Come, rest, worship in the presence of the abiding love Jesus  
and be renewed.

**Let us worship the Lord our God in spirit and in truth.**

## \*Song of Response

*He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 128, vs. 4

# REFLECTIONS ALONG THE WAY

## Children's Moment

Pastor Lane

## Prayer for Illumination

Susan Lambert

**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

Susan Lambert

Luke 4:1-13

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Pastor Lane

"When We're Offered Shortcuts"

# PATH TO HONESTY AND GRATITUDE

Anthem

Johnny McWilliams

*The Long and Winding Road*

## \*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

Pastor Lane

**Ever present God,  
we come to you as followers who stray from you.  
We feel a pull to go back instead of looking for your guidance  
in the journey ahead.  
We give into circumstances around us and are anxious  
and stressed.  
We get focused on how we can control our situation instead of  
focusing on your presence. Forgive us and open our fearful  
hearts to remember that you are forever with us.  
Help us to gather around you as our shelter and strength.  
Help to lean upon your faithfulness.  
In Jesus, our Deliverer, we pray. Amen.**

## \*Words of Assurance and Pardon

Pastor Lane

Jesus knows our every weakness and still we are forgiven  
and encourages us to continue on the journey of faith.  
**This is good news! Praise be to God.**

## \*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

Kristine Isenhower

*Jesus, Tempted In the Desert*

*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!**

# 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

Susan Lambert

**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

*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2112, vs. 1 - 3

## \*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 Phil and Jill Slicker

## Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Claudia and Jim Fowler in honor of Mari Walker for her dedication to St. John's and especially for her work in compiling the Lent Devotional.

## Coffee Time

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Announcing 2022 Summer Ministry Intern**

This 13-week (late May – mid August), full-time, salaried internship is for young adults who have a passion for youth ministry and may be exploring 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](mailto:jobs@stjohnsbr.org) by May 8. In the cover letter, please include a favorite place to eat.

## **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](mailto:storyteller1750@att.net).

## **Meetings Tuesday, March 8**

**UMW Ruth Circle**, 9:30 a.m., Parlor. All women are invited to attend.

**UMW Mary Martha Circle**, 6:30 p.m., Parlor. All women are invited to attend.

**Trustees Meeting**, 5 p.m., beginning with a walk through of the campus.

## **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!

## **Prime Timers Buffet Breakfast**

Join the Prime Timers for their second Saturday Dutch Treat buffet breakfast at Drury Inn & Suites, 7939 Essen Park Ave., off of Essen Lane just past OLOL on **Sat., March 12 at 8:30 a.m.**

## **Time Change!**

Don't forget to change your clocks next week - spring forward 1 hour - on **Sunday, March 13.**

## **Writers' Group**

St. John's Writers' Group will meet on Zoom on **Sunday, March 13 at 4 p.m.** Contact Mari Walker at [silvermari@gmail.com](mailto:silvermari@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the group.

## **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 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 began 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.