

# The Celebration of the Gospel

February 7, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

## Welcome to All

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.*

## Gathering

### Prelude

### Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

### Song of Praise

*Spirit of the Living God*

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

*Something Beautiful*

**Something beautiful, something good;**

**all my confusion he understood;**

**all I had to offer him was brokenness and strife,**

**but he made something beautiful of my life.**

### Opening Prayer

Rev. Latrice Mallard

God of love and healing,

we gather today to hear the words of your love  
as you touch our hearts with holy balm.

Be with us as we hear the stories of Jesus and his  
compassion.

Remind us again that we also need to be people  
of hope and compassion.

Open our hearts and spirits, and let your merciful spirit  
dwell within us that, having heard the good news,  
we may bring that hope to others.

We offer this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Listening

### Children's Moment

Darlene Dickson,  
Rev. Deirdré Halliburton

### Prayer of Preparation

Rev. Latrice

You who formed us, named us, and gathered us,  
open our ears to hear your message.

You who give power to the faint,  
help us understand your message.

You who uplift, strengthen, and heal,  
inspire us to proclaim your message.

We pray in the name of Christ, who is the Message.  
Amen.

### Scripture

Mark 1:29-39

Rev. Latrice

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

"A Second Chance"

Pastor Lane

## Responding

### Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lane

As God's beloved children, we are invited to come  
to God with the fullness of our lives,  
to admit our love and our hate,  
to admit our faith and our fear,  
for God offers us a new possibility for living -  
again and again and again.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us make our confession,  
first in silent prayer.

*(Silent prayers of confession are offered)*

Together, let us pray.

**Holy and gracious God,**

**At times we feel so frail and fragile,  
getting blown about by the latest crisis,  
by bad news, by our own short tempers  
and failings.**

**You call us to hold fast to what is good,  
but so often we flounder,  
unable to find that solid thing that will  
center us again.**

**Help us, we pray.**

**Help us to see you as our center,  
and to cling to the good that you create  
in the world.**

**Help us to set aside all our jealousies  
and prejudices,  
all of our betrayals and lies,  
all that adds to the world's hurt.**

**Help us to grow even more into Christ's likeness,  
that we will bear his love and truth to the world.**

**We pray in his name. Amen.**

## Words of Assurance and Pardon

In Jesus Christ, God takes us by the hand, forgives our sins and lifts us up to new life.

Siblings in Christ, be at peace, your sins are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, all is forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

## Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

### Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*There Is a Balm In Gilead*

*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 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

The Holy One be with you.

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

**We open our hearts to you, O God.**

Let us give God the Glory and Praise!

**For your presence within us and around us,  
we give you thanks and praise!**

God, we give you thanks for dwelling, not at a distance,  
but intimately in our lives - as intimately  
as our own flesh. You created us in your own image,  
gifting us with bodies, and through them  
we come to know you:

through touch.

through taste.

through struggle.

through rest.

And so, with those longing for a second chance,  
with those revived by your grace and hope,  
together, let us lift our praises to God, now and forever.

**Holy are you, God of all life.**

**Creation sings glory and praise to you.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who came for our sake.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

*The congregation is seated as the service continues.*

Out of great love for us, God came in the form of Jesus Christ, that we may receive abundant life.

He fed people.

He ate with people.

He met their physical and spiritual needs.

And when his own life was threatened by political and religious execution, he turned to the Table.

He sought, first, in his hour of need, to share in a meal with his friends.

*The institution of the Last Supper is shared  
and a prayer of consecration is offered.*

## The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Lane

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

*If you live in the Baton Rouge area and would like to partake in Holy Communion, you are invited to our drive-thru from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. to receive the elements that were consecrated during worship.*

## Prayer After Receiving

Pastor Deirdré

**Holy God, we give you thanks for this meal that  
nourishes us, body and soul.**

**Empowered by your Spirit, may we go into the world,  
proclaiming your gifts of healing and grace, as we  
give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.**

# Departing to Serve

## Invitation to Christian Discipleship

## Hymn of Discipleship

*He Touched Me*

**Shackled by a heavy burden,  
neath a load of guilt and shame,  
then the hand of Jesus touched me,  
and now I am no longer the same.  
He touched me, O he touched me,  
and O the joy that floods my soul!  
Something happened, and now I know,  
he touched me and made me whole.**

**Since I met this blessed Savior,  
since he cleansed and made me whole,  
I will never cease to praise him;  
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.  
He touched me, O he touched me,  
and O the joy that floods my soul!  
Something happened, and now I know,  
he touched me and made me whole.**

## Blessing and Sending Forth

## 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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