



Sunday August 8, 2021

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and the Prophets: Jesus, Joseph's son, from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael responded, "Can anything from Nazareth be good?" Philip said, "Come and see."

—John 1:45-46 CEB

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.

STJOHNSBR.ORG | @STJOHNSBR

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 | www.stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - noon

60TH ANNIVERSARY

St. John's was founded in 1961 by 60 charter members. Ground was broken for the present sanctuary in August 1962, and it was dedicated Easter Sunday 1963. We are celebrating our 60th anniversary throughout 2021. Give God the Glory!

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Do No Harm, our first Wesleyan rule continues to be our benchmark for all recommendations. In light of the Governor's statewide mask mandate, St. John's has returned to requiring all persons, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks while in worship and in small group gatherings.

We look forward to the day when we can return to maskless gatherings, until then, let us pray for our world, country, state, parish, and each other.

Grace & Peace
The Covid 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 Playground** 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 Playground for everyone ages 2 and older. If you or your child needs a mask, some are available in the Narthex. More details about the Playground may be found in the pew insert and 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

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Songs of Praise

Make Us One

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2224

Bind Us Together

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2226

*Call to Worship

Jane Walker

We are from north and south.

We are from tiny apartments and expansive homes.

We are from this city and from others far away.

We are from big families and dinners made for one.

We are from stages of grief and stages of love.

We are from hot summers and cold winters.

We are from kitchens with passed down recipes,
and front porches with old, familiar swings.

We are from the dust of the earth and the stars of the sky.

We are from a lot of places, but today we are here.

Today we are together.

Holy God, gather us in.

LISTENING

Children's Moment

Blessing of Bags, Presentation of Bibles,
and Playground Blessing

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God,

I don't always know how to pray, but you find me anyway.

**I don't always know how to listen, but you are in my ears
all the same.**

**I don't always know how to believe, but you surround me
with beauty and I find myself held together in love.**

Where I come from there are so many distractions.

Where I come from there is so much noise.

Find me. Hold me.

Be in these words.

Help me hear.

Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message

Pastor Lane

"I've Been Meaning to Ask...Where Are You From?"

SHARING

*Hymn of Faith

What Good Can Come From Nazareth?
Lyrics on screen; written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Prayer of Confession

When people heard that Jesus was from Nazareth,
they asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

**We confess, God of beginnings, that we have asked
the same question.**

Can anything good come from that side of town?

From a school with poor test scores?

From a criminal history?

From the opposite political party?

From a history of addiction?

From a faith with doubt?

From a church with faults?

**Holy God, forgive us for doubting that you are in all
things at all times.**

**Open our eyes to see your goodness, not as something
that resides here or there, but as the expansive grace
that it is.**

Can anything good come from there?

Yes. Always yes. Amen.

Words of Assurance and Pardon

"Can anything good come from this messy and
human life of mine?"

Remember this: God is always whispering, "Yes."

You were created in the image of God.

Your origin story is one of goodness and love
from the very beginning.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God is here. God is at work among us.

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

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.

*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

Our sung communion responses are from The Faith We Sing 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:

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 the Bread and Cup

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

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, To give ourselves for others, In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

The Servant Song

The Faith We Sing Songbook 2222, vs. 1, 2, 5

*Benediction

*Postlude

The flowers on the altar are given by Jerry and Dianne Stilley to the Glory of God and in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary!

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

To join a livestream of worship, share today's service or watch previous worship services, visit stjohnsbr.org/live.

Most of our liturgy and prayers were written by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Permission to stream music covered by OneLicense A-732159 and CCLI 20233858.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

60th Anniversary Picture Directory

St. John's is doing a new pictorial directory! We want everyone to get a new picture in the directory to celebrate our 60th Anniversary. Make your appointment now online at <http://bit.ly/stjohns60photo> or by calling Rhonda Tucker at 225-270-2193 or sign up today in the Narthex. Check out our *Inside St. John's* newsletter for more information.

Sunday Funday Today

Children entering K through 5th grades are invited to join us THIS AFTERNOON at 2 p.m. in the Family Life Center for Sunday Funday! Parents are encouraged to park and bring their children inside the FLC for sign-in at 2 p.m. and then return at 3:15 p.m. for sign-out and pick-up. Participants of all ages must wear masks.

Join St. John's Bell Choir

If you are wanting to join a close-knit, friendly, welcoming group then the Bell Choir is just what you are looking for. Join us on Sundays at 6 p.m. in our new practice room in the Admin Building (last door on the left). You don't have to have any prior musical knowledge. And you will be glad you came! For more information contact Gay Grimes 225-766-6434.

Now Seeking Coffee Time Treats

We are asking two people each Sunday to bring two dozen individually wrapped snacks for coffee time. Please sign up on the clipboard in the FLC during coffee time or contact Lynn in the church office.

Days for Girls

Volunteers will meet in the FLC on Saturday August 14 and 21 from 9 a.m. to noon working on reusable feminine hygiene kits for this international ministry. We need many non-sewing workers to assemble the kits. All participants will be wearing a mask. Contact Joyce Perry at joyce.perry@cox.net or 225-763-6613 for details.

60th Anniversary Ornaments

We are taking pre-orders for handmade ceramic ornaments created by local artist Kai. Each ornament is \$15, and they will be ready for this Advent. The hard deadline to order is August 31. Visit stjohnsbr.org/order-ornaments to order or call the church office if you need assistance.

60th Anniversary Cookbooks

Pre-ordered cookbooks are available for pickup in the church office, and we have additional copies available for \$20 each. Give God the Glory!

Meetings This Week

Writers' Group - Sunday, August 8, 4 p.m., Zoom

UMW Mary Martha Circle - Tuesday, August 10, 6:30 p.m., Parlor.

Board of Trustees - Thursday, August 12 (for more information contact Donnie Lambert (dlambert15@cox.net)).



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.