



Sunday, January 9, 2022

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

All Are Welcome

After all the people were baptized, Jesus was baptized. As he was praying the sky opened up and the Holy Spirit, like a dove descending, came down on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."

Luke 3:21-22

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 | 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.*

# GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

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

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## \*Song of Praise

*As the Deer*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2025

## \*Call to Worship

Paul Ivey

God's voice speaks to our chaos, echoing in our troubled hearts,  
**gathering us together that we might remember whose we are.**

God's voice flows like the living waters of grace,  
**our new name, "Beloved," resounding in our souls.**

God's voice stirs the waters of baptism,  
**calling us to be bearers of peace to a world of brokenness.**

Come, for the Spirit of God is calling us to worship.  
**We come with all our joys and sorrows.**

Come, too, with all our hopes, dreams, and worries.  
**We come with open ears and an open heart,  
listening for God's voice, which calls us to love. Amen.**

## \*Song of Praise

*Spirit of the Living God*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 393

# LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

## Children's Moment

Sarah Prevot

## Prayer for Illumination

Paul Ivey

**As water splashed across our face awakens us in the morn,  
may your Word awaken us  
to your presence.**

**Wash us in your wisdom,  
bathe us in your goodness,  
refresh us with your grace,  
by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## \*Scripture

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Paul Ivey

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

## \*Hymn of Faith

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 252, vs. 1, 3

## \*Reaffirming Our Profession of Faith

## \*Affirming Our Faith

*The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he arose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## \*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.

## Thanksgiving Over the Water

## Reaffirming Our Baptismal Covenant

*Using an evergreen branch, the pastors will sprinkle  
small amounts of water toward the congregation.*

*This parallels sprinkling with hyssop for purification (Exodus 12:22 ;  
Psalm 51:7) and sprinkling as a sign of renewal (Ezekiel 36:25 –26).*

*Those worshipping online are invited to dip your finger into a bowl of water  
and make a sign of the cross on your hand or forehead. Feel the tangible  
reminder that we are forgiven and cleansed. Feel the water from which creation  
was birthed, from which Jesus rose and was called Son,  
from which we all rose and were adopted into God's family.*

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in your eternal care, as we strive to live out our baptismal covenant each day.**

**As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work.**

**We ask this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

## Response Song

*Welcome to the Family*

**Welcome to the family, we're glad that you have come  
to share your life with us, as we grow in love,  
and may we always be to you what God would have us be,  
a family always there, to be strong and to lean on.**

# RESPONDING TO GOD

## 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](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!**

## 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.*

## The Lord's Prayer

## Giving of the Bread and Cup

**Gracious God,**

**You come to us in water, grain and grape.**

**You call us “Beloved,” and call us by name.**

**Grant that we may carry your love into the world.**

**In Jesus’ name we pray. 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**

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

The United Methodist Hymnal 420, vs. 1, 3, 4

### **\*Benediction**

### **\*Postlude**

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

### **Flowers on the Altar**

The flowers on the altar are given by Richard and Marilyn Damberg in celebration of their 37th wedding anniversary on January 12.

### **Worship Stewards**

Ushers in today’s service are Maureen Robertson, Jackie Creed.

### **Coffee Time**

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Music Rehearsals

**The Bell Choir** rehearses on **Sundays at 6 p.m.** Anyone who is interested in joining the bell choir are encouraged to come try it out.

**The Chancel Choir** rehearses on **Wednesdays at 7 p.m.** We are a volunteer group and no audition is required. In order to social distance, rehearsals will be held in the Sanctuary for the time being. Steve Rushing conducts both of these choirs and invites you to join in making music to the glory of God.

## Kitchen Renovation

The first stage of the kitchen renovation has begun and will be unavailable until construction is complete. We will still have coffee time and we encourage you to bring your own coffee mug to limit the use of disposable cups. Thank you for your support and patience as we start this major milestone in our Lagniappe Kitchen Renovation.

## New Adult Sunday School

Due to the current COVID-19 surge, we are postponing the start of the new Sunday School class to the first Sunday in February. It will begin on **February 6 at 9:45 a.m.** and is open to adults of all ages. Join us in the Parlor on Sunday mornings as we use scripture and thought-provoking questions to guide our conversation around important matters of faith raised by the news of the week. This new class, which will be coordinated by Jami Prince and Bobbi Marino, will meet in the Parlor (first floor of Admin/Education building) and welcomes everyone to join in the conversation of bringing Christ into the 21st century. If you want to know more about this exciting new opportunity or want to get on the email list for the class, please contact Jami Prince (thecastle2018@gmail.com) or Bobbi Marino (bobbimarino@hotmail.com).

## Writers' Group

St. John's Writers' Group is meeting **this afternoon at 4 p.m.** on Zoom. They are working on a devotion booklet for St. John's for Lent. If you would like to join this group contact Mari Walker (silvermari@gmail.com) for Zoom information.

## Youth Zoom Tonight

The Youth will have a Zoom Check-In **tonight at 8 p.m.** The link was sent directly to families. If you'd like to participate, please email Pastor Lane. Everyone who shows up will receive their 2022 Star Word plus some fun mail later in the week. Zoom into the New Year on a Star!

## New Sermon Series - #RelationshipGoals

Siblings. Parents. Grandparents. Children. Best Friends. Partners. Neighbors. Coworkers... No matter who you are, how old you are, or what kind of personality you have, relationships create the fabric of our lives. We all want relationships that are healthy and life-giving, but that's not always easy. Join us on **Sunday, January 16** as we begin a new worship series called #RelationshipGoals. Throughout this five-week series, we will look to scripture for ways we can make our relationships healthier and more meaningful in 2022.

## Star Words

Last Sunday each person was offered a special word for the year printed on a star. These words are a symbol of the star the magi followed on their way to baby Jesus. Following in the footsteps of the magi, we are invited to follow our individual star and open our hearts and minds to see where it takes us in 2022. Pick up a Star Word in the Narthex today or contact the church office to get one.

## Pictorial Directory Update

If you have not yet picked up your free 8x10 photo, it will be available for pick up in the Narthex prior to both worship services. Next week they can be picked up in the church office during regular office hours. **Please note: If you ordered poses in addition to the free 8x10, those photographs are being mailed to your home.**