



# SCENES OF THE SEASON

Sunday, December 11, 2022

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

All Are Welcome

In our scripture reading for today, Mary sings a song to usher in Christ's birth. It's a joyous song that sees God's coming into the world as exciting and reassuring. Mary's song invites us to be a part of transforming the world, to be the best version of ourselves, caring for others, working for justice, and living with joy.

*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

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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.*

# GUEST INFORMATION

Welcome to worship! We are glad you've joined us and hope you feel at home here. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome. Our ushers are happy to assist you in anyway. Restrooms are in the Narthex.

You are invited to participate in any of our activities, and to become a part of this community of faith and love.

*Thank you for being here.*

## 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. More details about the Playground 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 in 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 18 months through 12th grade from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

*Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.*

## ST JOHN'S CLERGY AND STAFF

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
*Lead Pastor*  
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Lynn Cooper  
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Dr. Terry Byars  
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Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
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Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez  
*Nursery Worker*  
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# SCENE ONE: *Glorifying God*

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

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## \*Advent Hymn and Proclamation

*The King Shall Come*

vs 1 & 3

*Sung to the tune of Joy to the World.*

The king shall come  
when morning dawns  
and light triumphant breaks,  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills  
and life to joy awakes,  
and life to joy awakes,  
and life, and life to joy awakes.

O brighter than the rising moon  
when he, victorious rose,  
and left the lonesome place  
of death,  
despite the rage of foes,  
despite the rage of foes,  
despite, despite the rage of foes

## Advent Proclamation

Something new and important is about to happen.  
I can feel it in the tinsel and the excitement of Advent.  
Even through the noise and confusion of people in a rush,  
I can feel it coming and I know what it is.  
It is love, bringing peace to our chaotic world and  
our crowded lives.  
Everything is falling into place:  
Sing the carols!  
Light the candles!  
See the star!  
Here comes Hope!  
Here comes Love!  
Here comes Joy!  
Here comes Peace,  
turning Advent into an adventure  
and Christmas into a new birth for us all!

*The King Shall Come*

vs 4 & 5

O brighter than that glorious morn  
shall this fair morning be,  
When Christ our king  
in beauty comes,  
And we his face shall see,  
and we his face shall see  
And we, and we his face shall see.

The king shall come when  
morning dawns  
and light and beauty brings;  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your  
people pray, Come quickly King  
of Kings, Come quickly King of  
Kings, come quickly, quickly  
King of Kings!

## **Advent Candlelighting**

Susan Teddlie

As we focus on the meaning and scenes of the Advent season,  
today we light the Candle of Joy.

*(Lighting of the Candles of Joy, Hope, and Love.)*

Like Mary our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice  
for the Lord has heard our cries and draws near.

God's mercy flows in wave after wave.

Today, we receive with joy God's liberating message.

**This season we set the scene for joy, confident that with Christ,  
ours can be a wonderful life.**

Let us pray:

**Heavenly Savior,**

**In your coming, you lead our lives out of languish and  
into laughter.**

**You turn our sorrow into joy.**

**As a covenant people, we seek to live into the joy  
of Christ's birth.**

**Give us hearts and minds ready to celebrate your arrival.**

**Amen.**

## **\*We Sing a Song of Response**

*In This Time of Waiting*

**In this time of waiting we will sing with joy,  
joy in Jesus, darkness won't destroy.**

**In our expectation we will sing with joy--  
hearts of longing, we will sing with joy.**

# SCENE TWO: *Feeding Our Spirits*

## **We Pray for Insight**

**Light of Christ, Shine on our path.**

**Chase away all darkness,  
and lead us to the heart of God.**

**Amen.**

Jim Sandifer

## **\*We Celebrate the Witness of Holy Scripture**

Luke 1:26-45

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Jim Sandifer

## **Children's Message**

Evan Gager

*From Luke 1:46b-55*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 199

SUNG RESPONSE

**The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;  
all flesh shall see it together.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
who has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant.**

From this day all generations shall call me blessed:  
**the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is the name of the Lord,  
whose mercy is on those who fear God  
from generation to generation.**

The arm of the Lord is strong,  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
**God has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly.**

God has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich empty away.

**God has come to the aid of Israel, the chosen servant,  
remembering the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

SUNG RESPONSE

**We Receive the Spoken Word**

Pastor Lane

“Living With Joy”

## SCENE THREE: *Responding As Disciples*

**\*We Sing a Hymn of Faith**

*He Came Down*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2085

**\*Call to Reconciliation**

Because it is so hard to wait, it's not easy to live through Advent's days.  
But watch what God does during this time.  
God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find the right paths;  
God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do,  
so we might be forgiven and graced with new life.  
Let us approach the One who waits - for us!

**\*Prayer of Reconciliation**

**Holy Lord,**

**In this time of Advent, we confess we often are distracted by the season's busyness, by the stress of commitment, and even by putting our own traditions ahead of the true meaning of Christmas.**

**We confess we also often prefer being sentimental to being sacrificial.**

**Forgive us for all the times we have missed seeing You in our midst, for all the times we have doubted Your presence, and for all the times we have failed to hold the holidays as holy days.**

**Pour Joy into our lives and let us be bearers of Your Joy to others.**

**Remind us that this is a season of waiting and preparation for the greatest Gift of all.**

**In the holy Name of our Savior, Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**\*We Receive Forgiveness and Grace**

Friends in Christ, hear this Good News!

God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment.

You are that beloved.

So know that wrapped in that love is grace and forgiveness, and a call to go out into the world to love.

**We are loved, we are forgiven.**

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*We Offer Signs of God's Peace and Grace**

**Ministry Moment: Financial Peace University**

Jill Brant

**We Offer Ourselves and Resources**

*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!**

# SCENE FOUR:

## *Celebrating At God's Table*

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

*A Service of Word and Table*

*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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. You loved the world so much you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. Therefore, with the angels who sang on the night of his birth, we sing glory to you in the highest and peace on earth to all humankind:

**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)**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. In him, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. In him we witnessed the height and depth and breadth of your unfailing love for all the world. In him, from the cradle to the cross, was revealed to us the matchless wonder of your amazing grace.

*The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled.*

And so, in remembrance of Jesus and his life given for us, we offer ourselves to you and to one another as together we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

Send your spirit upon us, let your love be born within us, so that in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup we may know the living presence of Jesus Christ who was, and is, and ever shall be,

**King of Kings, Lord of lords, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel -  
God With Us.**

**We Say The Lord's Prayer**



## **We Share In 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 a person with limited mobility, please let the usher know and someone will bring communion to you.*

## **Our Communion Response**

As we give each other gifts in this season,  
let us remember that this Bread is a gift.

**“Given by the one who gave us the sun and the moon and the stars and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans and all that lives and moves upon them and within them.”**

As we give each other gifts in this season,  
let us remember that this Cup is a gift.

**“Given by the one who has given us all that grows and blossoms and bears fruit; and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused; and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, God comes and dwells among us.”**

# SCENE FIVE: *Departing To Serve*

## **Call to Action**

Pastor Lane

*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.*

## **\*We Sing a Hymn of Discipleship**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 206, vs. 1 & 3

## **\*We Receive a Blessing**

## **\*Postlude**

# WORSHIP NOTES

## FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Pat Cobb in memory of her husband, Earl.

## USHERS

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Donnie and Susan Lambert.

## COFFEE TIME

After the 8:30 service, everyone is invited to the FLC for coffee and refreshments. We will be saying good-bye to Evan Gager, our fall youth intern, with a cake during coffee time.

## COMMUNION RESPONSE

Our quoted responses are attributed to Sigrid Undset, novelist, 1882-1949, born in Denmark, who lived mostly in Norway. In 1928 she was the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. In 1924 she converted to Roman Catholicism and became a lay Dominican.

## ADVENT PROCLAMATION

Our Advent Proclamation was written by Rev. John Winn, published in his book of prayers, *For All Seasons*.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## COME SAY GOOD BYE TO EVAN

Sunday, December 18 is Evan's final day with us as our fall Youth Intern. Join us next Sunday in the FLC during coffee time to say good bye and have a piece of cake.

## FREEZER SPACE NEEDED

Duane Craig has begun baking 500+ loaves of homemade bread for the Turkey Giveaway. If you have room in your freezer, please consider taking some home and keep it until Friday, December 16 when they will be brought to the FLC where we will be taking count of loaves out and loaves in.

## POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will decorate our church this Advent and Christmas season, beginning December 18. Join in the adornment by dedicating a plant *In Honor Of, In Memory Of, or To the Glory of God*. The cost is \$12 per plant and the last day to sign up is December 15. Dedications will appear on December 18, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. You may place your order by using the form in the Narthex or online at [stjohnsbr.org/poinsettia-2022](http://stjohnsbr.org/poinsettia-2022).

## STAFF APPRECIATION LOVE OFFERING

An annual Christmas tradition at St. John's has always been saying thank you to our staff for all the work they do to make events and programs at St. John's possible through a love offering. If you would like to participate in thanking them, please put "Staff Appreciation" in the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope, if cash. You may also make your gift online at [www.stjohnsbr.org/give](http://www.stjohnsbr.org/give). Deadline for staff appreciation gifts is **Tuesday, December 20**.

## JOY FEST

Join us this evening for our Advent celebration. We will gather for festive fellowship from 5 - 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We will have fun for all ages with a potluck dinner, word games, Name that Tune, crafts for the kids, and caroling. And don't forget! Expected attire for the upcoming Joy Fest will be, of course, Ugly Christmas Sweaters! Get yours aired out and ready to go! A couple of special activities will test your Christmas carol knowledge, but don't worry - we won't test your singing (even though we're going to do plenty of it!)! And a special guest might show up during the festivities.

## **GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY**

The twelfth annual Great Turkey Giveaway will be held on **Saturday, December 17**. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are needed. Please plan to arrive by 7 a.m. For more information, contact Theresa Sandifer (225-337-1306 or [tsandifer0829@gmail.com](mailto:tsandifer0829@gmail.com)). If you would like to make a monetary donation, \$20 will provide a turkey and everything for a Christmas dinner for one household.

## **SOUNDS OF THE SEASON**

Join us on **Sunday, December 18** for Sounds of the Season, a celebratory service filled with seasonal music and original writings from congregants. These identical services will feature the Praise Team, Chancel Choir, handbells and chimes!

## **UWF BAKE AND CRAFT SALE**

The United Women of Faith are inviting everyone to their Holiday Bake and Craft Sale on **Sunday, December 18 from 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** All proceeds from the sale will benefit local missions. Contact Liz McDonald (318-542-9272) for more information.

## **LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP**

**Wednesday, December 21 at 6 p.m.** The Longest Night Worship Service is a quiet meditative service for those experiencing grief and loss of all kinds. It is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amid the holiday hustle and bustle.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING**

**Saturday, December 24 at 5 p.m.** we will hold our Christmas Eve service as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Our service will include singing of Christmas carols, reading the Christmas story from the Gospel, an inspiring message, a special time for children and Holy Communion. Our service will conclude by candlelight. Children, guests, family, and friends are all invited.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY - CAROLS, COMMUNION, AND COOKIES!**

**Sunday, December 25 at 10 a.m.** We invite you to come comfortable to our one worship service. We will sing tons of Christmas carols, share in Holy Communion, and following the service enjoy loads of cookies plus coffee and hot cocoa. Children are invited to bring one toy they received for Christmas for a Blessing of the Toys during worship - in person and virtually. Feel free to bring some cookies to share!

## **LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

Many of us know the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," but did you know that each verse refers to a different teaching of church doctrine? The "Partridge" refers to Jesus Christ, who died on a tree, and the "True Love" is God, our Creator, the giver of life and every good gift. **Join us for a single service at 10:00 a.m. on January 1** for a lively service of *Lessons and Carols for the Twelve Days of Christmas*. Don't worry, we'll only sing the song once, but once you've heard the meaning behind this familiar carol, it will bring a whole new appreciation to the song.

## **FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY**

There has been a price reduction to participate in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. The 9 week course on **Tuesday evenings 6 - 8 p.m. beginning January 17** is being offered by Opening Doors at a cost of \$40, scholarships are available. For more information contact Jill Brant, Class Coordinator, at [jbrant9651@gmail.com](mailto:jbrant9651@gmail.com) or 985-503-4246. Registration forms are in the Narthex or you may register online at [stjohnsbr.org/financial-peace-university-2023](http://stjohnsbr.org/financial-peace-university-2023).

## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to the St. John's "well" for 2023. To date, we have received 88 pledges totaling \$416,624. If you have not had a chance to turn in a pledge for 2023, we hope you will do so soon. You can pledge online at [stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2023](http://stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2023) or turn in a pledge card at church, which are available in the office and the Narthex. Your 2022 pledge will NOT automatically renew for 2023 - you must turn in a new pledge card every year. Your pledge enables our Finance Committee to plan and budget for supporting and furthering our mission in the new year.

# THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## Sunday, December 11

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, *Sanctuary*
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*
- 8:30 a.m. UWF Craft and Bake Sale, *FLC\**
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, *FLC*
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, *Campus Wide*
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, *Sanctuary*
- 3:00 p.m. No Youth Group Today
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, *Choir Room*
- 5:00 p.m. JOY FEST & POT LUCK, *FLC*
- 7:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers Practice, *Bell Room*

## Monday, December 12

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, *FLC*
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Covenant Group, *Library*
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies Covenant Group, *Parlor*
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, *Library*
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

## Tuesday, December 13

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*
- 2:00 p.m. GriefShare, *Parlor*
- 6:30 p.m. UWF Mary Martha Christmas Party,  
*Sherri Artecona's House*
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-E*

## Wednesday, December 14

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, *FLC*
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, *Choir Room*

## Thursday, December 15

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, *FLC*  
(Last shopping day until Tuesday, Jan. 3)

## Friday, December 16

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, *Parlor*
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, *FLC*

## Saturday, December 17

- 7:00 a.m. Great Turkey Giveaway, *FLC Parking Lot*
- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC-C*
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, *FLC*

*\*Family Life Center*