



Sunday, July 17, 2022

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Today we continue in our worship series “Upside Down Living,” where we look back at some of the familiar parables Jesus told by looking at them from a slightly different perspective than perhaps we’re used to. In today’s Parable of the Wheat and Weeds, we’ll consider God’s love for us, even though there is a mixture of wheat and weeds within us.

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

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 3 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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Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez
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GLORIFYING GOD

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

*Song of Praise

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
The United Methodist Hymnal 384, vs. 1, 2, 4

*Call to Worship

Rev. Larry Norman

In a world so quick to point out our faults and failures,

we worship a God of grace.

Even when we are too hard on ourselves,

always pressing towards perfection,

we worship a God of grace.

Though many see the world as either/or, black and white,
without a shade of gray in between,

we worship a God of grace.

God is in the midst of all of life and all that we experience,
so gather in, my friends.

You are welcomed.

You are accepted.

For we worship a God of grace.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*Song of Response

O How He Loves You and Me
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2108, vs. 1

STORYTIME WITH JESUS

Children's Moment

Evan Gager

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Larry

Storytelling Jesus,

**Guide me as I keep learning how to live into the life you offer,
to stretch myself and grow in the atmosphere of your grace.**

**Keep my heart open to let the truths you taught hit home
to the places where I need them.**

Keep shaping and forming me into your likeness. Amen.

*Scripture

Rev. Larry

Matthew 13:24-30

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Parable of the Weeds and Wheat:
"The Wheat and Weeds Inside Us"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*Hymn of Faith

Grace Greater Than Our Sin
The United Methodist Hymnal 365, vs. 1, 4

Ministry Moment

10th Anniversary The Shepherd's Market

Theresa Sandifer

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Feed My Sheep
Composed by Don Francisco
Vocalist: Marie Leleaux
Guitarist: Joseph H. Poliquin
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!**

*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

BEING FED BY THE SPIRIT

Sharing in Holy Communion

God Calls Us

Beloveds of God,
we are invited to come and gather at the table of love and grace,
to feast on God's dream that all may be fed,
to be nourished by but a taste of what God desires to do among us.

God calls us from institutional halls of power,
from shelters and the streets;
God calls us from classrooms and courtrooms,
from bars and prison cells.

God calls us as we are, from wherever we are,
to come and be in solidarity with Christ,
who lives and loves on the margins.
God whispers “come” and live abundantly, turning from all the claims
that blessings flow from money, power, or control.

Come, and love relentlessly;
following Christ on paths of uncertainty, taking risks for one another,
calling down unjust power from its throne and lifting up the lowly,
the impoverished, the hungry, the burdened.

To answer the call of Christ is to find ourselves, no matter our social
location, choosing to align ourselves with the causes of
the marginalized, the oppressed, the outcast, and the isolated,
with the faith that together, we might en flesh new possibilities
of healing, of connection, of freedom from all that destroys.

When these are the desires of our hearts, we open ourselves to God.
Blessed are those, Jesus said, who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled. And so let us come to the table,
expectant, eager, open to tasting the rich blessings of heaven born
from unexpected places, and people, and experiences.

In this meal, we remember the life, death, and resurrection of
the One who still takes on flesh among us today.

At the table, we remember the story of the Last Supper.

Come Holy Spirit,
Breath of God,
Renewer of life,
settle on these gifts and all who gather here,
that we might be transformed in our remembrance
of your radical love,
your eternal embrace,
and your grace that makes all things news.
For the sake of our shared lives,
the life of this land on which we live,
and the lives of those yet to come,
nourish us and renew our hope
that soon Christ may rise again among us.
And until that day, may we be ever-mindful of our calling to
Feed Your Sheep. Amen.

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.*

Companion Litany

Since the beginning of the Methodist movement, people called Methodists have spoken to the issues of the day as an expression of the Wesleyan commitment to social holiness.

Continuing the Wesleyan tradition of social holiness today, let us recite this our companion litany to our social creed:

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ, calls us by grace
**to be renewed in the image of our Creator,
that we may be one in divine love for the world.**

Today is the day God cares for the integrity of creation, wills the healing and wholeness of all life, weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God embraces all hues of humanity, delights in diversity and difference, favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God cries with the masses of starving people, despises growing disparity between rich and poor, demands justice for workers in the marketplace.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God deploras violence in our homes and streets, rebukes the world's warring madness, humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.
And so shall we.

Today is the day God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace, celebrates where justice and mercy embrace, exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.
And so shall we.

**Today is the day God brings good news to the poor,
proclaims release to the captives, gives sight to the blind, and
sets the oppressed free.
And so shall we.**

SENT OUT TO SHARE THE STORY

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 Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2241, vs. 1, 3, 4

*Blessing and Sending Forth

Pastor Lane

*Postlude

Terry Byars

WORSHIP NOTES

Worship Stewards

Ushers in today's service are Paul Ivey, Donnie & Susan Lambert, and Joyce Robinson.

Flowers on the Altar

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

Coffee Time

Everyone is invited to the Family Life Center following the service for coffee and birthday cake in honor of The Shepherd's Market.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children & Youth Pool Party Today

Join us for some fun in the sun **this afternoon** from 4-7pm. All children and youth and their families are invited to the home of Sarah and Troy Prevot (242 Shady Lake Place W) for an afternoon around the pool. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Bring a side dish or treat to share and don't forget your towel.

Annual School Supply Drive

Opening Doors is collecting school supplies for schools in our neighborhood through Sunday, August 7. There is a blue tub in the Narthex as well as the hallway in the Admin/Education Building. Schools receiving supplies are Wildwood Elementary, Charlie Thomas Head Start, and Gardere Christian Academy.

Suggested supplies are: loose leaf paper, pencils, pens (black or blue), Elmer's glue, glue sticks, 24-pack of crayons, colored pencils, spiral notebooks (3 subject or more), standard rulers, folders with clasps and pockets, scissors, boxes of Kleenex, rolls of paper towels, Clorox wipes, hand wipes, dry erase markers, kid scissors, construction paper, copy/computer paper.

Bible Presentation

In honor of those heading back to school, students going into Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th and 9th grades will be presented Bibles on Sunday, August 7. If your student is moving up into one of those grades, please email Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org) by July 31 so we can have an age-appropriate Bible ready.

Days for Girls in Supplies and Sewers Needed

We are planning ahead for Days for Girls in September and need help with the following: sewers to complete the bags (contact Joyce Perry at joyce.perry@cox.net or 225-763-6613 if you can help sew bags), colored wash cloths, girls colorful panties/briefs size 10, 12, and 14 (no animals or characters please), monetary donations for other supplies (you may write a check to St. John's UMC with Days for Girls in the memo line). Look for the blue tubs in the Narthex or hallway of Admin/Education Building to drop your donations.

Safe Sanctuaries Training

Pastor Lane will be leading our annual Safe Sanctuaries training is scheduled for **Sunday, July 24 at noon** in the library, immediately following the 11:00 service. All who serve with children or youth are required to take the training. Newcomers are welcome, too. Lunch will be provided. Please confirm your attendance with Lynn (225-766-4594 or office@stjohnsbr.org).

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Coming in August

We are excited to host a 9-week Financial Peace University (FPU) class that will begin on **Tuesday, August 23 from 6-8 p.m.** FPU offers practical steps to help you get rid of debt, manage your money, and save and invest more wisely. The cost of the course is \$60. Registration forms can be found in the Narthex. Contact Jill Brant at 985-503-4246 or jbrant96518@gmail.com for more information. Childcare will be available upon request.

Take your first steps now to change your life and your legacy by attending this class.