

SCENES OF THE SEASON



Sunday, November 27, 2022

8:30 & 11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the season of preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas. This special time is full of familiar stories - from the family anecdotes that get told over and over again, to the holiday movie classics we watch year after year, to the well-known stories of scripture repeated each Advent. The four main characters in the Advent story, Mary, Joseph, Zechariah and Elizabeth, each had their own unique way of preparing for the first Christmas. This Advent, we will focus on the scenes in scripture that tell their story, revealing to us how we, too are invited into the narrative and become a part of the Christmas scene. Today we take a look at Joseph's scene.

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

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
pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org

Lynn Cooper
Administrative Assistant
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Bill Putzig
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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

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
The United Methodist Hymnal 203, vs. 1 & 2

What we do in this Season is blessed in a very special way.

**The carols we sing,
the prayers we pray,
the words we say
are not our songs,
or our prayers,
or our words.**

**They are a Gift, inspired by the Giver Of All Words,
even that Word made flesh that dwells among us.
For in this Season we proclaim, again, the birth of Christ,
who comes to show us everything we will ever need to know
about God.**

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
The United Methodist Hymnal 203, 3 & 4

Advent Candlelighting

John Harpole

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

(Lighting of the Candle of Hope)

We place our hope in God. We place our lives in God's care:
both in times of thanksgiving and in times of challenge,
when everything is just as it should be,
as well as when it feels like the bottom is falling out.

**This season we set the scene for Hope, trusting that once again,
God will draw near.**

Let us pray:

**Gracious God,
You are the source of our hope and the One for whom we long.
May the hope we find in the stories of this season
surround us and lift us,
and may this lively hope lead us into new birth
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***We Sing a Song of Response**

In This Time of Waiting, vs. 1

**In this time of waiting we will sing of hope,
Hope in Jesus who alone make whole.
In our expectation we will sing of hope—
Hearts of longing, we will sing of hope.**

SCENE TWO: *Feeding Our Spirits*

Children's Message

Molly Means

We Pray for Insight

**Light of Christ, Shine on our path.
Chase away all darkness,
and lead us to the heart of God.
Amen.**

Sandra Kuykendall

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

Matthew 1:18-25

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sandra Kuykendall

We Receive the Spoken Word

"Hope...Even When..."

Pastor Lane

SCENE THREE: *Responding As Disciples*

***We Sing a Hymn of Faith**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The United Methodist Hymnal 211, vs. 1 & 4

***Call to Reconciliation**

Rev. Bernie Johnson

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**

Rev. Bernie

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 Hope into our lives and let us be bearers of Your Hope 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

Rev. Bernie

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**

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.

***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 III

The United Methodist Hymnal 15

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.

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:

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest. (3x)**

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

Sandra Kuykendall

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

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 196, vs.1 & 2

*We Receive a Blessing

*Postlude

WORSHIP NOTES

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar are given by Richard and Marilyn Damberg in honor of Grace Idikwu on her birthday. Happy birthday, Grace!

USHERS

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Jackie Creed and Sandra Kuykendall.

COFFEE TIME

After the 8:30 service, everyone is invited to the FLC for coffee and refreshments.

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

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to the St. John's "well" for 2023. To date, we have received 87 pledges totaling \$416,024. 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 (<https://www.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.

HELP MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER

Opening Doors is offering us a chance to help brighten Christmas for children from two of our neighborhood schools, Wildwood Elementary School and Gardere Community Christian School, through their new mission: **Neighborhood Friends. WE HAVE 13 CHILDREN LEFT TO BE CHOSEN.** You have an opportunity to choose a student or students and purchase gifts for them. You will receive instructions when you pick your student(s). **Gifts are due back by Sunday, December 4.** For more information, please contact Buffie Grayson or Beth Forester.

SNACKS FOR COFFEE TIME

We need snacks for Coffee Time. Many thanks to those of you who have answered the calls that we sent out. If you have a new recipe you would like to try out, Coffee Time is the place to do it! If you have a favorite recipe you haven't made in a while, Coffee Time is the place to bring it. We will always welcome individually wrapped sweet or salty snacks. You may drop off any snacks in the kitchen. Again, thanks for your help.

OUR ADVENT THEME: SCENES OF THE SEASON

The Advent season is upon us, a time when we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas. This special season is full of familiar stories - from the family anecdotes that get told over and over again, to the holiday movie classics we watch year after year, to the well-known stories of scripture repeated each Advent. The four main characters in the Advent story, Mary, Joseph, Zechariah and Elizabeth, each had their own unique way of preparing for the first Christmas. This Advent, we will focus on the scenes in scripture that tell their story, revealing to us how we, too are invited into the narrative and become a part of the Christmas scene. Invite a friend to join us for worship as we experience the joy and excitement that Christ brings to us through the Scenes of the Season.

To accompany our Advent journey, we have created a **Daily Calendar** with simple reflections and activities as well as a **Weekly Devotional Booklet**. The booklet includes weekly candle lightings if you are setting up an Advent wreath at home, as well as devotions written by St. John's member, Darlene Dickson, which connect our scenes from scripture with some of the Christmas movies we all love to watch this time of year. Copies are available at the church.

SHOPPING AT AMAZON SMILE

Did you know that while shopping on Amazon you can be earning money for St. John's for free!? So far in this year we have received \$130. If you shop anytime on Amazon you can also shop on AmazonSmile and help St. John's! To join AmazonSmile, go to smile.amazon.com and sign in with the same login and password you use for your Amazon shopping. You will be asked to select your charity, *St. John's United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge, LA* or, if you have a problem use our EIN#72-0634506 and start shopping. Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com to generate the donations for St. John's. That's all there is to it. There is no additional cost to you for shopping on AmazonSmile.

ELF NIGHT

Our United Women in Faith will be hosting Elf Night on **Friday, December 2, 6-8:30 p.m.** On this night the children (ages 2 years through 5th grade) of St. John's families can be dropped off in the Admin/Education Building, at no charge, in order to provide parents with a night out to shop for Christmas! Please sign up today in the FLC during coffee time! If you are interested in helping, please contact Sherri Artecona (iama225secfan@yahoo.com or 985-320-3018).

JOY FEST

Save the date of **Sunday, December 11** for our Advent celebration this year. 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!

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 7:30 a.m. For more information, contact Theresa Sandifer (225-337-1306 or tsandifer0829@gmail.com). If you prefer to make a monetary donation, \$20 will provide a turkey and everything for a Christmas dinner.

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.

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 (CALL FOR DONATIONS)

The United Women of Faith are asking bakers and crafters to consider donating items 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. The twelve days of Christmas are the twelve days between Christmas Day, December 25, the birth of Jesus, and the Epiphany, January 6, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world. **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.