

A sunset scene with a cross and palm trees. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun, with wispy clouds. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of palm trees and other plants. A simple wooden cross stands on the right side of the image. The text "Christ is Risen! Alleluia!" is written in a cursive font across the upper part of the image.

Christ is Risen!
Alleluia!

Sunday, April 23, 2023

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION

All Are Welcome

We celebrate Easter when we embrace the new life that Christ gives. The disciples and Mary could have just decided to hang out in the deathly tomb, but instead went out to live a life of love and witness. Today our Easter celebration continues as we hear the invitation from scripture to walk in the newness of life that Jesus' resurrection offers.

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to register your attendance (scan the QR code in the bulletin) 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. If you are feeling cold, shawls are available in a basket in front of the media desk in the back of the sanctuary. 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 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. 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 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
office@stjohnsbr.org

Dr. Steve Rushing
Choir Director
stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org

Ben Balsler
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Cheryl Roubique
Nursery Coordinator

Connor Dean
*Director of Youth and
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connordean@stjohnsbr.org

LeAnn Davis
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Dr. Terry Byars
Praise Team Director and Accompanist
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Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Sofia Rodriguez-Martinez
Nursery Worker

GATHERING

**Please stand as you are comfortable.
Bold indicates congregational response.
Please scan the QR Code to register your attendance.*



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Natalie Cooper

*Song of Praise

O Worship the King
The United Methodist Hymnal 73 (v. 1, 4 & 5)

*Call to Worship

Natalie Cooper

Christ the Lord is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Never again will death have the last word.

Never again will death have power over us.

Praise be to God who has raised Christ from the dead
and gives us new life yet again.

**Come, Risen Christ, in newness and hope on this
Eastertide day. Amen.**

*Song of Response

My Tribute
The United Methodist Hymnal 99

PROCLAMATION

Children's Moment

Heather Durham

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Ken Irby

God who makes all things new,

Gather us close as we walk your resurrection path.

**Open our hearts and minds to receive your wondrous words of love,
and may our worship be a time to rediscover your newness and
presence – both within and around us.**

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture

Romans 6:3-11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Message

"Walking in Newness"

Rev. Ken Irby

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Hymn

Come, Christians, Join and Sing
The United Methodist Hymnal 158 (v. 1, 2 & 3)

*Prayer of Confession

Natalie Cooper

The act of confessing our sin is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs, but also an opportunity to receive God's mercy and share in that abundant grace.

Confident of God's love for us, let us offer our prayers before God now.
Let us pray...

Revitalizing God,

Your power goes far beyond our own,

and yet we still act as though the pains of this world have final claim upon us.

We give in to the despair and hopelessness of death,

not trusting in your ability to call forth new life from the tombs of our lives.

We confess to sporadic beliefs and inconsistent faithfulness.

We continue in destructive habits and cling to old grudges.

We allow our past to hold us hostage

and are reluctant to walk in newness of life with you.

We fail to live as forgiven people.

In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us and free us from sin.

*Words of Forgiveness & Grace

Friends, let us proclaim the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

And we are not only forgiven, we are also set free from the bondage of sin and death!

Let us walk into the world as people made new in Christ.

Alleluia! Amen.

*Sharing the Love & Peace of Christ

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Natalie Cooper

*We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online by scanning the QR Code
or navigate to 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**

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)

The Lord's Prayer

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. The bread will be dipped in the grape juice and handed to you. Or, if you prefer, you may receive pre-packaged elements.

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 an usher know and someone will gladly bring communion to you.

Prayer After Receiving

Connor Dean

Risen Savior,

Thank you for inviting us to your table of grace
and feeding us spiritually and physically this day.

United by your resurrection and renewed by the Holy Spirit,

may we go out as people of compassion,

committed to living into our baptism,

as we walk in newness

and give our lives in service to you.

Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Call to Action

Connor Dean

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

Christ is the World's Light

The United Methodist Hymnal 188 (v. 1 & 4)

*Blessing and Sending Forth

Rev. Ken Irby

*Postlude

*The end of worship.
The beginning of service.*

WORSHIP NOTES

WELCOME REV. KEN IRBY, OUR GUEST PREACHER

Ken Irby is a native of Dallas, Texas, and came to Louisiana when some friends from Candler School of Theology (the best seminary) recruited him to come give Louisiana a try. He has served appointments in Slidell, Luling, Amite, Lafayette, University Church in Baton Rouge and Broadmoor UMC in Shreveport. Before retirement in 2020, he served as District Superintendent for six years in the Shreveport and Baton Rouge districts. He has been married to his wife Kay for nearly four decades. Kay works as a consultant in the non-profit arena, strengthening organizations to reach their highest capacity for doing good. They have three adult children, with amazing spouses and have given the Irbys the world's most adorable grandchildren (four and counting). Ken is willing to provide photographic evidence to anyone who will stand still. **USHERS**
Ushers for the 8:30 service are Paul Ivey and Joyce Robinson.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Marilyn Damberg in celebration of Richard's birthday. Happy birthday, Richard!

USHERS for 8:30 service are Paul Ivey and Joyce Robinson.

COFFEE TIME

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

Worship

LEGACY OF HOPE SERIES STARTS APRIL 30

Scripture is filled with intriguing characters who left profound legacies. As we look closer, we find that they were not that different from us. They too, experienced challenges, heartaches, successes, and failures. Their lives knew fear, doubt, and worry, and yet their lives bear witness to the everlasting story of God's hope and love for God's people. The Holy Spirit is hoping to do the same thing in our day and age through people just like us. During our "Legacy of Hope" series, we will talk about the importance of leaving a positive spiritual legacy. What will be your legacy?

CELEBRATING CONFIRMATIONS & GRADUATIONS ON YOUTH SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 7th, St. John's will celebrate its graduating seniors as well the Confirmation of seven of our Youth. Our Youth will lead us at both worship services that morning and we will witness the Confirmation of our students during the 11:00am service that morning. Due to the Confirmation of our students, we will not share in Holy Communion at the 11:00a.m. service and instead will celebrate Communion on Sunday, May 14. We will host a luncheon after the 11:00am service in the Family Life Center. Seniors and their families are strongly encouraged to join us for this celebration. Please RSVP with Connor (connnordean@stjohnsbr.org or 225-766-4594).

Missions and Outreach

ST MARK'S MISSION NEXT SUNDAY

St John's will return to St. Mark's UMC in New Orleans to provide a meal on **Sunday, April 30**. We will need about eight volunteers to help prepare and serve the meal after the 10:00 service there. Our team will leave the parking lot of St John's on April 30 at 7:30 a.m. Two vehicles will be needed to provide transportation for the team and for the meal supplies. Please let Larry Norman know if you will be among the volunteers and/or can provide one of the vehicles. You may text or call Larry at 225-933-1881.

MANNA BAGS AVAILABLE

Thank you for your contributions to the Manna Bags mission project. We assembled over 125 Manna Bag care packages, some of which have already been distributed. Extra Manna Bags are located in the blue tubs in the Narthex, so feel free to grab one or several after worship today. Filled with food, water, and socks, Manna Bags are a tangible gift you can offer to someone in need. This mission is just one of the ways we continue to live out our vision of feeding people spiritually and physically within our community.

UMCOR SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE

We will continue to collect donations to support the relief efforts to help those impacted by the severe weather across the country. Please join us in prayer for the affected areas and consider giving to UMCOR's Disaster Response. Through UMCOR, every penny donated goes to helping those in need. To make a financial donation, we have set up a special Disaster Relief Fund on our website at stjohnsbr.org/give. Choose the Missions Fund, and then the Disaster Relief Fund / UMCOR. Checks written to St. John's should have UMCOR in the memo line or on the cash envelope.

Children & Youth Ministry

Music Makers (1st-12th grades) continue to meet at 4:30 on Sunday afternoons as we prepare for worship on May 14, Mother's Day. The Easter Ensemble made such a fun and meaningful contribution to the service and we will once again join voices, flutes, clarinet, violin, tambourine and whatever other young musicians we can add to the mix for praising God through word, rhythm, melody and harmony. Hope to see everyone this coming Sunday.

YOUTH MINISTRIES (6TH - 12TH GRADES)

No Youth Today - Rest is important. God even rested after He marveled at His creation. In the spirit of honoring God through our rest, there will be no youth this Sunday. With so many other events this Spring semester, it's time for a break to let our youth recharge and ground themselves as they prepare to finish out the school year.

Youth will meet again on Sunday, April 30th from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Youth Switching to Wednesday Nights in May - Starting on May 3, our Youth will gather on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. for fellowship.

Summer Tour '23: Wednesdays in June and July, 6 - 8 p.m. Collaborative youth ministry programming with other United Methodist Youth in and around Baton Rouge.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Family Camp - A VBS Alternative: This year, in place of Vacation Bible School, St. John's will be hosting a Family Camp July 13-15. Family Camp will include a dinner Thursday & Friday nights, worship, Bible study, games, music, and service projects to promote community building among the families with children at St. John's. More details will come soon, but mark your calendars now because you do not want to miss out!

Summer Fellowship for Children & Families: Every other Thursday in June and July, starting June 8, 5 - 7 p.m., activities to be announced. More information coming soon.

Job Opportunities

ANNOUNCING 2023 SUMMER YOUTH INTERN

Applications are now being accepted for our Summer Youth Intern position. This 13-week internship spans the summer months and is a great opportunity for young adults with a passion for youth ministry to gain valuable leadership and ministry experience. This is a part time, salaried internship of approximately 20 hours per week.

We are looking for someone who has a desire to learn, serve, and encourage others in a local church setting. This is a great opportunity for those majoring in education and humanities, but all degree programs are welcome. Visit stjohnsbr.org/summer-intern-2023 for more information and application instructions.

HIRING A NURSERY WORKER

We are seeking qualified candidates to staff our church nursery on Sunday mornings, with the possibility of additional hours during the week in the evening for meetings and choir rehearsal. Nursery Workers provide dependable, safe, secure, and nurturing care to the children while at our Church, ages 0-4 years in a clean environment. They work as a team, with at least two nursery workers serving together at all times. Sunday morning hours are 7:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and pay is guaranteed even if they are no children.

Hourly pay is \$13-\$15/hour. We are looking for someone who is available to start immediately. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required. Interested applicants should send their resume to jobs@stjohnsbr.org.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, April 23

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:30 p.m. Music Makers, Choir Room
- 6:00 p.m. Bells Practice, Bells Room

Monday, April 24

- 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 a.m. Ladies Covenant Group, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, April 25

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 2:00 p.m. Grief Program, Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee, Library
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, April 26

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

Thursday, April 27

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC

Friday, April 28

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

Saturday, April 29

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center