



Embracing the
“Good Enough”
of life & faith

Sunday, March 24, 2024
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration
All Are Welcome

Today, Palm Sunday, is a day of celebration and praise, but also a day we begin to turn our attention to the dark and dangerous days of Holy Week. Jesus was not immune from this roller-coaster we call life. In the face of the turmoil of this story and the stories of our lives, it is easy to want to retreat into ourselves, but Jesus is offering us an invitation to experience life with him and others in community. Welcome to Worship! Welcome to the St. John's community of faith.

Whether you are a guest or member, we invite you to scan the QR code to register your attendance 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

Connor Dean
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Dr. Terry Byars
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Bill Putzig
Custodian
billputzig@stjohnsbr.org

Brooklyn Hays
Nursery Worker

Welcome to the Celebration of the Gospel

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



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Prayer

God of Goodness,

We call out “Hosanna! Save Us!” in times of isolation,
isolation, loneliness, and despair.

We know that you are with us,
and yet still the journey is difficult.

Remind us in these moments of the people
you have placed along our way.

Open us to your love in and through
the webs of our relationships – and in the
simple and “good enough” moments
that fill our days.

Amen.

Fanfare for the King

Alleluia Ringers

*Palm Processional Hymn

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
The United Methodist Hymnal 278, vs. 1 - 3

*Sharing Signs of Love and Peace

Children’s Message

Marilyn Damberg

Prayer

Gabe Guillory

**May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable in thy sight, thou who art our strength and our
redeemer. Amen.**

*Scripture

Mark 11:1-11

A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus
The United Methodist Hymnal 277, vs. 1 - 3

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Offertory: *Hosanna!*
By Jason W. Krug
Alleluia Ringers

*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;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor Lane

*Holy Communion

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.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*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.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

By your Spirit open us to each other. Open us to the world, making us one in you, through Christ, in the power of your amazing grace!

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 a person with limited mobility, please let the usher know and someone will bring communion to you.

Prayer

Gabe Guillory

Loving Lord,

**You have looked upon us with love and said,
"You are welcome at my table."**

**Thank you for creating a place where
we need not be perfect,**

**we need not be sure of ourselves or our faith, and
we need not feel whole and right with the world.**

**Send us out to share that same grace and compassion
with others.**

In the name of the One who accepts us and transforms us.

Amen.

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

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

The United Methodist Hymnal 280, vs. 1 & 5

*Blessing

"A Blessing for When You Feel Lonely"

"Blessed are we who cry out,

'God, I need a friend to share the simple

unaffected joys that come,

the troubles unbidden,

those too heavy to sustain...'

Blessed are we, opening our hands in readiness,

to risk intimacy, to receive the gift of friendship,

and give it in return."

*Benediction

*Postlude

Worship Notes

USHERS

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Sandra Kuykendall and Rhonda Tucker.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Most Liturgy written by Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/goodenough; used and adapted with permission.

“A Blessing for When You Feel Lonely” from *Good Enough: 40-ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Used with permission.

Announcements

EASTER LILIES

We will be ordering lilies to adorn the sanctuary and narthex on Easter Sunday, March 31. If you would like to dedicate a lily in honor of someone, in memory of someone, or dedicate it to the glory of God, there are several ways you can place your order: online at stjohnsbr.org/lilies-2024, complete a form found in the church office or narthex, call the office (225-766-4594), or send an email (office@stjohnsbr.org). The cost of lilies is rising so this year they will be \$25. You may pay by check noting Lily in the memo line, or online at stjohnsbr.org/give, under Other>Sub Fund.

Deadline is Monday, March 25.

SEEKING SUMMER INTERN APPLICANTS

Applications are now being accepted for our Summer Internships! There are two different positions available: one youth ministry intern and one children's ministry intern. Youth ministry involves working closely with students in 6th - 12th grades while children's ministry involves working closely with students in 5th grade and younger. Each internship spans 13-weeks throughout the summer, with the expectation of working at least 20 hrs each week -- including Sunday mornings from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. These positions are designed for young adults who have a passion for ministry with youth and/or may be exploring a call to ministry by providing an opportunity to lead young believers in their spiritual formation through dynamic programming. It is a great opportunity to gain valuable ministry and leadership experience!

We are looking for people who have 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.

Each intern will receive \$2,000, to be paid semi-monthly (15th & 30th of each month) during the 13-week internship. For more information, visit: stjohnsbr.org/summer-interns-2024/

Anyone who is interested should send a cover letter, resume, and the contact information of at least two references to jobs@stjohnsbr.org by **April 15, 2024**.

EASTER CLOSURES

The church office will be closed **Good Friday, March 29** and **Easter Monday, April 1**. The office will reopen Tuesday, April 2 at 9 a.m.

The Shepherd's Market will be closed **Easter Monday, April 1** and will reopen Tuesday, April 2 at 8 a.m. for regular shopping.

RESURRECTION STORIES AND SONGS

On **Sunday, April 7**, we will share in a Service of Resurrection Stories and Songs at both 8:30 and 11 a.m. It will be in the style of "Lessons and Carols," which is popular around Advent and Christmas. We will read together the varied post-Easter resurrection stories of Jesus visiting his disciples and sing some of the most beloved Easter hymns of our faith. These stories in scripture will continue to inspire, as will the joyful music and the other aspects of our worship.

COMMUNION COMPANIONS

Our Communion Companions will have a meeting on **Sunday, April 14 at 4:30 p.m.** to offer support and encouragement to one another in this caring ministry role. Our Communion Companions make monthly visits to our church members who are home-centered or facility-centered to offer Holy Communion and fellowship. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact Pastor Lane (pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org).

PICKLE BALL AT ST. JOHN'S!

Join us for a friendly pickle ball match on **Sunday, April 14 from 3 - 4:30 p.m.** in the Family Life Center. Paddles and balls will be provided, but feel free to bring your own gear if you prefer. We will also have some light snacks and finger foods. Even if you aren't comfortable playing, we invite you to join us for this opportunity for food, fun, and fellowship!

TODAY - Palm Sunday

UWF CRAFT & BAKE SALE

The United Women in Faith of St. John's is sponsoring a Craft and Bake Sale TODAY **Palm Sunday, March 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** or until we sell out of merchandise. There will be wonderful crafts and delicious Easter goodies to bring home or share with others. Proceeds from the sale go to UWF missions and projects.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

This year we are celebrating **Palm Sunday** in an extra special way. From **4 - 5:30 p.m.**, we will be hosting our annual children's Easter event. We are so excited to welcome the children and families at St. John's and in our community -- we hope you will be able to serve in this wonderful, fun ministry.

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday Worship, March 28, 6:30 p.m.

In this special service of worship, we will commemorate the last night Jesus spent in community with his disciples. We get a seat at the table, to the meal in which Jesus showed his beloved friends, and shows us, what "blessing" really means, as we share in prayer, reflection, and Holy Communion.

Good (Enough) Friday Worship, March 29, 5 p.m.

Our Good (Enough) Friday worship service will be a Service of Tenebrae. "Tenebrae" is the Latin word meaning "darkness." This service, based on a 12th century tradition, invites us to reflect on the passion of Christ through scripture readings, prayers, and music. During the service, we will hear the story of the trial, sentencing, execution, death, and burial of Jesus, and depart in silence.

NOTE: Childcare will be available **UPON REQUEST** for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org).

Youth & Children's Ministries

CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONALS

Palm Sunday, March 24, 8:30 & 11 a.m. Children and the young at heart are invited to arrive early to line up for the Palm Processional which will happen at the beginning of both services. Families should arrive about 10 minutes before the service begins and gather in the Narthex to prepare for the procession.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 8:30 & 11 a.m. The children and young at heart will process with flowers to decorate the cross at the altar. Families should arrive about 10 minutes before the service begins and gather in the Narthex to prepare for the procession.

YOUTH GROUP SPRING SEMESTER

First Sundays: The St. John's youth group will gather on the first Sunday of each month from 4 - 5:30 p.m. Throughout the spring semester, they will meet at the homes of different church members for small group Bible Study, games, crafts, or other activities.

Third Wednesdays: Youth will also meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room for *Wednesday Night Live*. Monthly activity calendars are being mailed to households with youth. Contact Connor Dean (connordean@stjohnsbr.org) if you did not receive one.

C.H.A.O.S. - CHRIST HERE AND OTHER SPACES

Save these dates for our upcoming events for children and their families!

TODAY - March 24, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. - St. John's UMC is hosting our annual Eggstravaganza celebration - complete with crafts, games, and an egg hunt. You won't want to miss out on this!

April 28, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. We hope to have a park playdate at Highland Road Community Park on Sunday, April 28 -- pending good weather!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are so excited to host VBS this year from June 17 - 21! We will be using the Just Like Me VBS curriculum from Reconciling Ministry Network. The cost to attend is \$20, which covers the cost of snacks, crafts, and t-shirts for each student. If registering multiple children, we will charge \$20 for the first child and \$10 for each subsequent child. Need-based scholarships will be available upon request.

VBS is for any student completing the 5th grade and younger. (Since it takes place in the summer, please use grade levels from the 2023-24 school year.) **Registration opens March 25 at stjohnsbr.org/vbs-2024.**

CAMP ISTROUMA SUMMER 2024

Summer overnight camp dates have been announced for Camp Istrouma, 25975 Greenwell Springs Rd. There is a Day Camp option for 1st - 5th grades each week.

- Discovering God (3rd - 5th grades): May 27-May 31, June 10 - June 14, June 24 - June 28, July 15 - July 19.
- Pathfinders (6th - 8th grades): June 3 - June 7, June 17 - June 21, July 8 - July 12, July 22 - July 26.
- Senior Sunrise (9th - 12th grades): July 1 - July 5.

For general and registration information, please call 225-261-2089 or go to campistrouma.com.

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, March 24

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:20 a.m. Line-up for Palm Processional
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. UWF Craft & Bake Sale, FLC
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC*
- 9:30 a.m. Upstairs Cafe, Rm 202
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide
- 10:50 a.m. Line-up for Palm Processional
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Easter Egg-stravaganza, FLC

Monday, March 25

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, Founders' Parlor
- 10:00 a.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 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, Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Tuesday, March 26

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market
- 6:00 p.m. Immersion Bible Study, Library
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

Wednesday, March 27

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies' AA Meeting, FLC-C

Thursday, March 28

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market, FLC
- 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary

Friday, March 29

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group, Founders' Parlor
- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 5:00 p.m. Good (Enough) Friday Service, Sanctuary

Saturday, March 30

- 12:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-C
- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC

*Family Life Center