



*Sunday, November 24, 2024*  
*8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration*

All Are Welcome

Today the Christian church around the world celebrates this day as the “Reign of Christ” or “Christ the King” Sunday, a liturgical hinge between the long season after the Pentecost and the beginning of the season of Advent. Today we pause to reflect on the meaning of Christ’s reign over the church, the world, and our lives. Welcome to worship!

***Welcome to St. John’s United Methodist Church.***

stjohnsbr.org | @stjohnsbr | 230 Renee Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70810  
office@stjohnsbr.org | 225-766-4594

# Welcome to St. John's United Methodist Church

## GUEST INFORMATION

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, located in the back of the Sanctuary.

Please take home a copy of our Welcome Brochure located in the Narthex or view it online at: [stjohnsbr.org/welcome-brochure](http://stjohnsbr.org/welcome-brochure).

## 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.

## St. John's Clergy and Staff

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn  
*Lead Pastor*  
[pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:pastorlane@stjohnsbr.org)

Connor Dean  
*Director of Youth & Children's Ministries*  
[connordean@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:connordean@stjohnsbr.org)

Dr. Steve Rushing  
*Choir Director*  
[stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:stevenrushing@stjohnsbr.org)

LeAnn Davis  
*Manager of Finance & Facilities*  
[leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:leanndavis@stjohnsbr.org)

Ben Balsler  
*Media Producer*  
[benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:benbalsler@stjohnsbr.org)

Betsy Adams  
*Fall Youth Intern*  
[youth@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:youth@stjohnsbr.org)

Dr. Terry Byars  
*Praise Team Director and Accompanist*  
[terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:terrybyars@stjohnsbr.org)

Lynn Cooper  
*Administrative Assistant*  
[office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org)

Bill Putzig  
*Custodian*  
[billputzig@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:billputzig@stjohnsbr.org)

Cheryl Roubique  
*Nursery Coordinator*

# The Celebration of the Gospel

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

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## \*Songs of Praise

*O, Worship the King*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 73, vs. 1 & 2  
*King of Kings (3x)*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2075

## \*Call to Worship

Kathy King

Children of God, whom do you follow?

**We follow Christ, Ruler of us all.**

Children of God, what kind of Ruler is Christ?

**Christ reigns with love and truth,  
justice and mercy,  
compassion and peace.**

Children of God, how will you live in the reign of Christ?

**We will join Christ in choosing love, truth,  
justice, mercy, compassion, and peace  
even when our world tells us not to.**

Children of God, come, let us worship God  
whose Love reigns over us, exemplified in Jesus Christ!

**We come to worship our true King, Jesus Christ!  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## \*Sung Response

*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 349

## Children's Moment

Darlene Dickson

## \*Scripture

John 18:33-38

For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Witness to the Word

Pastor Lane

“What Is Truth?”

## \*Hymn

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 154, vs. 1, 2, & 6

## \*Prayer of Confession

Kathy King

O God,

Forgive us when we get so caught up  
in our own expectations of who we want your Son to be  
that we miss the truth of who you are.

We get so caught up in our own little world  
that we fail to see the humanity in others.

Reorient our lives, O God.

We seek a new order where there is  
courage to speak truth to power, there is mutual support in  
church and community, there is abundant time for  
healing, and where there is peace and freedom for all.

In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

## \*Words of Grace and Forgiveness

God kept God's promise to raise up a righteous descendant from  
David's line, and he has become our Righteousness.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

**Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us also forgive  
one another.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**May Christ's peace reign in our hearts always.**

*Please extend the peace of Christ to all whom you encounter  
this day - starting now.*

## \*Sharing the Love and Peace of Christ

### Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Worship Medley: *Make Us One*, by Cymbala;  
*I feel Jesus*, by Carmen; *Jesus, Name Above All Names*, by Hearn  
Betty Schroeder, concertina; John Toney, guitar

*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](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!**

## \*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, 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 of Thanksgiving**

Kathy King

**Giver of all good things, we thank you:  
for health and vigour,  
for the air that gives the breath of life,  
the sun that warms us,  
and the good food that makes us strong;  
for happy homes and for the friends we love,  
for all that makes it good to live.  
Make us thankful and eager to repay,  
by cheerfulness and kindness,  
and by a readiness to help others.  
Freely we have received; let us freely give,  
in the name of him who gave his life for us,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

*Majesty*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 176

\*Blessing and Sending Forth

\*Postlude

## *Worship Notes*

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God in praise and thanksgiving for all the gifts He has bestowed upon us. Amen.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving was written by Thomas Ken (1637-1711) more than 300 years ago. Ken is the author of the text for the doxology song we sing weekly: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Ushers for the 8:30 service are Beth Forester and Rhonda Tucker.

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

## *Announcements*

### **HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

The church office will be closed **Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29**. The office will reopen on Monday, December 2 at 9 a.m.

The Shepherd's Market will be closed Thursday, November 28 and will reopen Monday, December 2 at 3:30 p.m. for shopping.

### **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

As of November 22, we have received 96 pledges totaling \$528,795. We celebrate 44 households have increased their pledges and we welcome 12 new first-time pledging households. If you haven't turned in a pledge for 2025, please complete your pledge online ([stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2025](http://stjohnsbr.org/pledge-2025)) or with a printed pledge card (available in the Office and Narthex) as soon as possible. Our aspirational budget for 2025 is \$687,102.

### **MEMBERSHIP ROLLS UPDATE**

In January 2025, when the church reports its annual 2024 statistics to the Louisiana Conference, we are to report the results of a membership audit. We are in the process of going over our membership roll to remove those who might have moved to another church or another city and/or state. The second batch will be published in the November 26 *Inside St. John's* newsletter. If you believe a name is being removed in error, please contact the church office with information by December 3 ([office@stjohnsbr.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbr.org)). The Church Council will vote on the membership update at their December 5 meeting.

### **COFFEE TIME SNACKS**

If your last name begins with **H - K, Sunday, December 1** is "your" day to bring a snack for Coffee Time. Remember, this is just a much appreciated suggestion not an obligation. ***Please bring your items in a disposable container or single-use dish, and take them to the FLC by 9:30 a.m.***

### **HOLIDAY SUPERSTORE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**

This year's shopping day for the Holiday Superstore is tomorrow, **Monday, November 25** at the Target on Siegen Lane; plan to meet at **8 a.m. at the entrance on the far right**.

For those of you who have not been involved before, the Holiday Superstore is an Opening Doors program that targets the children of the Charlie Thomas Head Start Center located in the Gardere area. During the year, parents earn points by following guidelines to get them involved in their children's education, these points are translated into a dollar amount and volunteers from St. John's do the shopping for the gifts. The money is budgeted by Opening Doors so there is no cost to you as the shopper.

### **UPCOMING CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

The Church Council will meet on **Thursday, December 5** in the Library. This is their last meeting for 2024.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS (ST. JOHN'S ANGEL TREE)**

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 mission: Neighborhood Friends.

Choose a child's name from our Christmas tree during Coffee Time **November 24** and **December 1**. You are being asked to purchase two gifts for each student you choose: an item of clothing and a fun item (toy). Each gift should cost between \$20 and \$30. Wrap each gift separately following the directions on the instruction sheet you receive. Please bring the gifts back to the church office on or before Monday, December 9 at noon.

## *Advent With St. John's*

### **PRE-ADVENT HELP NEEDED TODAY**

We will take all our Advent and Christmas decorations out of storage immediately after today's 11:00 a.m. service. Please stick around following the service or return at Noon to help for a few minutes. Many hands will make the work light and joyous.

### **ADVENT: AN INVITATION TO BEGIN AGAIN**

Tucked into the end of the year, when it can often feel like we've run out of time, Advent invites us to begin again. Even in the depths of winter, Advent declares: This is not the end. Christ's birth offers us a new beginning. As we journey through this season in preparation for Christmas, we will find words of encouragement, love, and hope woven throughout scripture and in worship – words we need to begin again. This December, during the season of Advent, we will come to find that God's all-embracing love is with us in our endings and our beginnings. Join us as we experience the season of Advent together – an invitation to begin again.

### **JOY FEST - SAVE THE DATE!**

Join us on **Sunday, December 8, at 3 p.m.** for an afternoon of JOY, and be sure to wear your pajamas or your "best" tacky Christmas attire -- there will be a prize for best-dressed child, youth & adult! The food for our time together will be a snack supper, so bring a finger food item to share. We will host a rollicking game of Bingo (with prizes!), crafts for the kids, a photo booth, prizes for attire, and karaoke-style Christmas carol singing. We may even get a visit from a certain bearded and jolly special guest...We know you won't want to miss THAT!

### **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON HOSTED BY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

On **Wednesday, December 11 at 11 a.m.**, United Women in Faith will host a Christmas luncheon in the FLC. All women of the church are invited to join us for a time of food (provided by UWF members), fellowship, music, and fun. If you would like to come, please RSVP to Pat Lively (call or text: 225-937-7399) by December 6 to be put on the guest list.

### **GREAT TURKEY GIVEAWAY**

The 14th Great Turkey Giveaway will be **Saturday, December 14** and takes place in the church parking lot. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome - you are asked to arrive by 7 a.m.

Volunteers are also needed **Friday, December 13** in the FLC for setup and staging as everything, including turkeys, will be delivered on Friday sometime between 1 and 2 p.m. We will be staging the various areas and bagging items that go along with the turkeys so there will be plenty of work.

### **CRAFT & BAKE SALE**

If you have craft & baked items that you might want to donate to the United Women in Faith's Craft & Bake Sale on **Sunday, December 15**, please contact Deborah Cross-Young at 225-281-9470. This very worthy cause raises funds for local missions supported by UWF Circle of the Heart.

### **YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY AT BROADMOOR UMC**

Broadmoor UMC is hosting a Youth Christmas Party for UMC youth in the Baton Rouge area on **Sunday, December 15 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** Students should bring a gift costing no more than \$10 for the gift exchange activity. REMEMBER: It is a Christmas PJ Party.,

### **THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 22**

We know that many approach this season with mixed emotions. If this resonates with you, we invite you to attend our Longest Night worship service, which is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance. Join us **Sunday, December 22 at 5 p.m.**

# *This Week at St. John's*

## **Sunday, November 24**

- 8:00 a.m. Praise Team Warm Up, Sanctuary
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee Time, FLC\*
- 9:30 a.m. Upstairs Cafe, 202 Admin Bldg.
- 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. Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

## **Monday, November 25**

- 7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC
- 8:00 a.m. Holiday Superstore, Target on Siegen
- 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders Parlor
- 3:30 p.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 4:30 p.m. Ladies' Covenant Group, The Founders' Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Tuesday, November 26**

- 8:00 a.m. The Shepherd's Market Client Choice Food Pantry, FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Pickleball, FLC
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting, FLC-E

## **Wednesday, November 27**

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

## **Thursday, November 28**

**THE SHEPHERD'S MARKET CLOSED**  
**THE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

## **Friday, November 29**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**  
7:00 a.m. Early Risers Exercisers, FLC

## **Saturday, November 30**

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

\*Family Life Center

# *Christmas With St. John's*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TUESDAY DECEMBER 24**

**NATIVITY SERVICE:** This year, our family-oriented Christmas Eve Nativity service will be held at **4 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. During the service, children will process in to make up different parts of the nativity scene. Be looking for more information in Sunday bulletins and our 2 weekly e-newsletters.

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** Our evening service is a traditional Christmas Eve service at **6 p.m.** with carols, Holy Communion, and *Silent Night* by candlelight. Join us for a time of worship, community, and celebration of the birth of Jesus.

## **ONE SERVICE DECEMBER 29**

We will have one worship service **Sunday, December 29 at 10 a.m.** We will still be singing Christmas songs so come wind down with us after your busy Christmas season.