

The Celebration of the Gospel

May 2, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Youth Sunday

If you are a guest, we welcome you to worship and ask that you consider filling out a contact form at www.stjohnsbr.org/guest so we can be in touch with you this week.



ST. JOHN'S

United Methodist Church

Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.

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.

Dancing Toward God

Prelude Seth Robertson, acolyte

Words of Welcome Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Songs of Praise

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no, I'm gonna let it shine
hide it under a bushel, no, I'm gonna let it shine
hide it under a bushel, no, I'm gonna let it shine
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Call to Worship Eric Threadgill

This is our call!

To join the many generations before us,
worshiping a God whose love transcends
time and age.

Telling the stories of God's mighty acts in our midst,
let us praise God together! All of us - Together!

Look around and see that you do not dance alone.
We fortify our hearts with compassion
and action.

If rain still lingers, open the umbrellas of praise and set out anyway.

For we are called to dance again! All of us - Together!

Response Song

Bind Us Together

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.**

**Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together, Lord,
bind us together in love.**

**There is only one God, there is only one King;
There is only one body, that is why we sing.**

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.**

**Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together, Lord,
bind us together in love.**

Stretching Our Spirits

Children's Moment

Betsy Adams, David Idikwu,
Faith Robertson

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:42-47

David Idikwu

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Gracious God, who values the wisdom of age,
the energy of youth, and the steadiness in
between, make Your presence known to us
in our worship today.

Make plain to us the gifts you've planted in
the lives of our sisters and brothers
of different generations.

May your Holy Spirit dance among us,
so that we draw closer to each other
and closer to you.

Thank you for your invitation to dance together
as a community of disciples. Amen.

Scripture Jam

Betsy Adams, Ana de la Fuente,
David Idikwu, Carissa Murray,
Haleigh Schwartz, Rev. Deirdre Halliburton

Reflections from Our Seniors

Betsy Adams, Eric Threadgill,
David Idikwu, with Haleigh Schwartz

Stepping Out In Response

Generations of Faith Litany

Carissa Murray

From those older than us, we learn many things – how to pray, how to love Jesus, how to make communion bread, and how to take care of one another.

Teaching God, generation after generation stands in awe of your work; each one tells stories of your mighty acts.

From those younger than us, we are reminded of many things – the need for laughter, the importance of play, insatiable curiosity, and almost boundless energy.

Creating God, generation after generation stands in awe of your work; each one tells stories of your mighty acts.

From those who are wise beyond their years and younger than they seem, we begin to understand more about faith - theirs and our own.

Ever-present God, generation after generation stands in awe of your work; each one tells stories of your mighty acts.

Senior Recognition

United Methodist Women

Hymn of Faith

Shine, Jesus, Shine

REFRAIN:

**Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory,
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.**

**Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

REFRAIN

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

REFRAIN

United Methodist Social Creed

Naysia Mallard

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 deplors 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.

Stewardship Moment

Lynn Evans

Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

Youth Ushers:
Grace Idikwu, Paul Idikwu

*We appreciate your generosity.
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.
You may give online here: <http://www.stjohnsbr.org/give>*

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

A Time to Confess and Receive Grace

Pastor Deirdré

To make our steps lighter and our dance smoother, let us confess all that keeps us from dancing with a sure step:

Holy One,

**We confess that we have been slow to join the
dance that brings life to all, brings love to all,
brings sustenance to all.
Instead of stepping in, we have stood around the
edge of the dance floor, watching as others join
in acts of service and compassion.
We have failed to respond to your invitation
to join you in the Dance of Love.
In silence, we lift our own prayers of confession...**

Personal prayers and confession are lifted.

Hear this good news and respond aloud with me now:
When our steps falter and we lose our rhythm,
May we trust Jesus to lead and guide us.
When we make the same mistakes we've made before,
May we trust that God is patient and kind.

When our feet are stuck in the muck of shame,
May we trust the Holy Spirit to play the joyful
drumbeat of redemption and grace.

Friends, receive and believe the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and free.
Glory to God!
Alleluia! Amen!

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastors

Jesus is with us!
With us now and forever!
So lift up your hearts and voices!
We lift them up to God!
Let's join in thanks and praise!
How right it is to do this together!

The pastors tell of God's acts of love at creation.

And so we join with the glorious chorus of saints past and
present, sharing in a never-ending hymn of praise:

**Holy are you,
God of power and might,
everywhere we see your glory!
Blessed are those who come in your name.
Hosanna! Alleluia! Amen!**

The pastors tell of Jesus' ministries and recall the Last Supper.

And so, my friends, we remember. And we believe:

**Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again!**

The pastors invoke the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing Holy Communion

*If you live in the Baton Rouge area and
would like someone to bring Communion to your home,
please contact us in the church office.*

One Bread, One Body

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

**Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all.**

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

Prayer After Receiving

Ana de la Fuente

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for
this holy mystery in which you have
given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world,
dancing with your Spirit in unity and love,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Leaping Into Action

Call to Action

Hymn of Discipleship

I Come With Joy

**I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me,
his life laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

**Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways,
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak his praise,
we'll live and speak his praise.**

Benediction

Carissa Murray

Postlude

Seth Robertson, acolyte

Thank you for worshipping with us!

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*Some of our liturgy and prayers were used with permission
of Dr. Marcia McFee | Worship Design Studio.*

St. John's Youth Sunday Participants

Betsy Adams, class of 2021

Ana de la Fuente

David Idikwu, class of 2021

Grace Idikwu

Paul Idikwu

Naysia Mallard

Carissa Murray

Faith Robertson

Seth Robertson

Eric Threadgill, class of 2021.

*Thank you for all the ways you support
the Youth ministries of St. John's.*