



Sunday, December 12, 2021

**8:30 & 11 A.M. WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

All Are Welcome

Today's worship service features "The Song of the Shepherd," an original cantata written by our own Dr. Terry Byars. Open your heart to the Advent and Christmas season through this heart-warming musical memory of those who were present at the first Christmas. A shepherd, now very old, remembers the amazing events on the night of Christ's birth as he experiences angels, Mary, Joseph, and "the little baby sleeping in his mother's arms." Through song and narration, we will also encounter the angel Gabriel... and even old Zachariah and Elizabeth (the father and mother of John the Baptist)!

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.

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# **ST. JOHN'S**

United Methodist Church

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*Glorifying God. Feeding People. Making Disciples.*

## **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

## 60TH ANNIVERSARY

St. John's was founded in 1961 by 60 charter members. Ground was broken for the present sanctuary in August 1962, and it was dedicated Easter Sunday 1963. We are celebrating our 60th anniversary throughout 2021. Give God the Glory!

## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Do No Harm, our first Wesleyan rule continues to be our benchmark for all recommendations. In light of the Governor's recent COVID update, St. John's has returned to not requiring masks while in worship and in small group gatherings. If you feel better wearing a mask, by all means do what you are most comfortable with.

We look forward to the day when COVID will no longer be a part of our daily lives, until then, let us pray for our world, country, state, parish, and each other.

Grace & Peace

*The Covid -19 Task Force*

## 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 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. While we will not partake in communion today at the 8:30 a.m. service, it will resume next Sunday.
- **Sunday School** is offered for children starting at age 3 through 12th grade from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

*Any questions? Ushers are glad to assist you.*

# Coming Home to God

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

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

## \*Song of Praise

*He Came Down*  
The Faith We Sing Songbook 2085

## Advent Candle Lighting

Dr. Steve Rushing

A voice calls out in the wilderness.  
It sings of a home for all, a home of justice and peace,  
a home bursting with joy.

**We could choose to ignore it.**

**Instead, we come into this sacred space.**

**We let the world grow quiet and we hear:**

Joy in the giggles and stretches of a newborn child.

**Joy in a tail-wagging dog sliding to meet you at the door.**

Joy in unabashed laughter freely shared at tables  
of hospitality and warmth.

**Joy in making it home after a long journey, discovering that  
you are found when you thought you were lost.**

Today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for  
us is nothing short of good news of great...seriously great joy!

**Family of faith, we are close to home. Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

*Lighting of the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy*

## Candle Response Song

*As We Light the Candle*

Sung to the tune of "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"

**As we light the candle of joy,  
We await the Christ yet to come,  
Finding joy in our Creator,  
Led by a Spirit that roams.**

**Christ, come to us, upon our earth do dwell.**

**May we carry joy close to home.**

## Children's Moment

Pastor Lane, Natalie Cooper,  
Kristine Isenhower

# *The Song of the Shepherd*

*A Cantata by Dr. Terry Byars*

## **Musical Numbers**

Prelude	Penny Kemler, flute, Terry Byars, keyboard
<i>Long Ago</i>	The Shepherd
<i>Great, Great Day</i>	The Angels
<i>I Remember</i>	Mary
<i>His Name Will Be Called Jesus</i>	Gabriel
<i>Magnificat</i>	Mary
<i>Little Baby Sleeping</i>	The Shepherd
<i>It Was Foretold!</i>	Zachariah
<i>The Morning Star Will Rise</i>	Elizabeth
<i>A Holy Hush Is Falling</i>	Joseph
<i>Long Ago, Reprise</i>	The Shepherd
<i>Great, Great Day, Reprise</i>	The Angels
<i>Choral Narration:</i> <i>A Child Is Born!</i>	Entire Ensemble

## **The Cast**

The Shepherd	Bryan Adams
Gabriel	John Toney
Mary	Carrie Poynot
Zachariah	John McWilliams
Elizabeth	Natalie Cooper
Joseph	Troy Prevot
Narrator/Angel	Rev. Lane Cotton Winn
Angelic Chorus	Gay Grimes, Bob Hoover, Kristine Isenhower, Marie Leleaux

## **The Orchestra**

Violins	Carrie Poynot, Betty Schroeder
Guitar	John Toney
Bass	John McWilliams
Ukulele	Natalie Cooper
Flute	Penny Kemler
Percussion	Joe Poynot
Keyboard	Terry Byars

# Thanksgiving to God

## Offering Our Tithes and Gifts to God

*We appreciate your generosity.  
Each gift enables us to be a blessing in our community.  
You may give online at [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!**

# Sharing God in the World

## 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 of Joy

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*  
The United Methodist Hymnal 89

## \*Benediction

## \*Postlude

# Worship Notes

## Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given by Pat Cobb in memory of her husband, Earl.

## Worship Stewards

We thank all of our worship stewards, musicians, tech team, and ushers for assisting in today's service. Ushers in today's services are: 8:30 - Chris and Darren Stubbs, 11:00 - Tommie Reinhardt and Bill Metcalf.

## Coffee Time

Everyone is invited to the Family Life Center for coffee and refreshments following the 8:30 worship service.

## The Song of the Shepherd

The Song of the Shepherd is a Christmas Cantata written by Dr. Terry Byars in 2020 for our Praise Team. It was first performed while we were still worshipping in the Family Life Center due to COVID.

# Announcements

## **Dr. Terry Byars named as Praise Team Leader**

We are thrilled to announce that Terry Byars is our new Praise Team Director. If you have worshiped with St. John's anytime between 2001 and today, you have experienced Terry's incredible gifts of music, as he has served as our Accompanist for over two decades. Terry will continue to serve in that capacity, accompanying both worship services, and will also be leading our Praise Team at the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Terry has already been fulfilling the duties of the Praise Team Director during the interim, and we welcome him in assuming this new position.

## **Christmas Poinsettias**

Poinsettias will once again add to our already beautiful Narthex and Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas Season. You can order online at [stjohnsbr.org/poinsettias-2021](http://stjohnsbr.org/poinsettias-2021) or use the order form found in the Narthex. The Poinsettias will be \$12. **Deadline to order is Monday, December 13.** The poinsettias will be displayed starting December 19 and will be available for taking home after our 5 p.m. Christmas Eve worship.

## **UMW Craft & Bake Sale Today**

After worship, don't forget to drop by the FLC for a St. John's favorite - the UMW Craft & Bake Sale. The sale will be held 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. UMW members will be there the entire time so you will have time to shop before and after Sunday School and after the 11:00 service. Proceeds from the sale go to local Louisiana missions.

## **Christmas Angels**

Thank you, St. John's! All of our Christmas Angels will receive gifts this Christmas! **REMINDER:** Gifts are due in the Parlor **Monday, December 13.** Please read the back of the instruction sheet for directions on wrapping and labeling with name and coded number (WWE for Wildwood or GCS for Gardere Christian School). Gifts should be brought to the Parlor in a garbage bag with sticker label.

## **Great Turkey Giveaway**

The 11th Great Turkey Giveaway will be **Saturday December 18.** Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome - please arrive by 7 a.m. While much of the food for the giveaway is donated, The Shepherd's Market purchases the turkeys and produce for over 500 meals. A donation of \$20 to the Shepherd's Market will buy a turkey and produce for one family. Gifts can be made to St John's with Shepherd's Market in the memo line, in an offering envelope, or online at [www.stjohnsbr.org/give](http://www.stjohnsbr.org/give).

## **Frozen Bread**

If you have so kindly taken loaves of frozen bread to keep in your freezer, please return them to the Family Life Center anytime on **Friday, December 17.** Thank you for taking part in helping us prepare for the Great Turkey Giveaway.

## **Staff Love Offering**

An annual Christmas tradition at St. John's has always been saying thank you to our staff for all the work they do to make events and programs at St. John's possible. If you would like to participate in thanking them, please put "Staff Appreciation" in the memo line of your check or on the offering envelope, if cash. Donations may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, or dropped in the black box outside the Admin Building. You may also make your gift online at [www.stjohnsbr.org/give](http://www.stjohnsbr.org/give). Please have your gifts in by **Sunday December 19.**

# Advent and Christmas Worship

## **Longest Night Worship Service December 19 at 5 p.m.**

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. We know that many approach this season with mixed emotions. If this resonates with you, we invite you to give yourself the gift of attending our Longest Night worship service on **Sunday, December 19 at 5 p.m.**, which is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. In this pandemic season of life, we imagine that grief and loss will be magnified and nearly universal, and a service like this may be needed now more than ever. We hope that this service offers a space of calm, quiet, and healing.

*The service will be held in the Sanctuary and also livestreamed. During our service you will be invited to write down some brief reflections and light a candle. If you are worshipping online, we encourage you to have something to write with and on, as well as a candle prior to the service beginning.*

## **Christmas Eve Come Home to St. John's December 24 at 5 p.m.**

You are invited home to St. John's for Christmas Eve worship, **December 24, at 5 p.m.** In keeping with our Advent theme of "Close to Home," we will join Mary and Joseph on their journey home, as the only place they can find shelter for giving birth is a stable. Jesus, born without a home, invites us to come home - a place of welcoming and appreciation. This special evening of worship will include beautiful music, featuring several ensembles, a children's message, a meditation by Pastor Lane, Christmas carols, Holy Communion and will conclude with a special candle lighting. *The service will be held in the Sanctuary and also livestreamed.*

## **Carols, Communion, and Cookies December 26 at 10 a.m.**

We invite you to come comfortable on **Sunday, December 26** for Carols, Communion, and Cookies at 10 a.m. We will sing tons of Christmas carols, share in Holy Communion, and enjoy loads of cookies following the service – plus coffee and hot cocoa, too. Children are invited to bring one toy they received for Christmas for a Blessing of the Toys during worship – in person and virtually. You won't want to miss this uplifting morning of worship and fellowship! Feel free to bring some cookies to share. *The service will be held in the Sanctuary and also livestreamed.*



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