

*Wisdom, your grace joins all heaven and earth;
With you we labor, new life to give birth.
Come now, O Wisdom, our Midwife and Friend;
Open our hearts to your world without end.*

Words © 1999 Jann Aldredge-Clanton
From *Inclusive Hymns for Liberating Christians* (Eakin Press, 2006).

Reception of New Members

We rejoice to welcome you as members of Christ's holy Church, and we bid you welcome to St. John's United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

***Dismissal with Blessing**

People of God, be beautiful. Love well and serve all. Speak gently and listen wholly. Let the word of Christ take deep root in your hearts, and the mind of Christ be ever guiding you so that your lives may shine with the light of life everlasting.

And may the God of love fill our imaginations, and the Christ of peace steady our steps, and the Spirit of creation give us much to achieve for the good of all,

Until we gather again in Christ's name.

Until we gather again.

Amen.

Amen.

Rev. Ann Akin

Please be seated for the Postlude

Postlude

Prelude in A minor

Clint Barrick

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wonderful Wednesday: The Greatest

Commandment: Introducing a 6-week series beginning Wednesday, September 19, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Brown bag dinner from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Child care and youth programming provided.

Family Skate Night: Calling all families, youth, and children!

Children's Ministries is hosting a Family Skate Night on Sunday, September 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Roll Arena, located at 7340 19th St. We will provide pizza; families are asked to bring drinks and desserts. \$5 per person covers cost to skate and pizza.

Change: Dr. Frank Goode will lead this new Sunday School class in a review and study of biblical principals of change and the UMC Book of Discipline, and what it says about change and governance. This 6-8 week class is open to any age group and will meet in the Fellowship Classroom. More details to come.

Game Day Volunteers Needed: Get your spirit on while helping your church by working game day parking! St. John's sells every parking spot we own each home game as a fundraiser. We are ALWAYS looking for more helpers. Volunteers are needed to direct fans where to park and to take payment. Sign up for a slot by visiting <https://goo.gl/4ASP8m>. Contact Jay Sedberry at jsedberry@ropesisd.us for more information. For those going to the game, parking is \$10 and opens 4 hours prior to kickoff.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
8:15 - 9:15 Communion Worship Sanctuary	All Day Church Office Closed	9:00 - 10:00 Staff Meeting Conference Room	12:00 - 1:30 Organ Practice Sanctuary	9:30 - 12:00 Quilters T14	10:00 - 11:00 Organ Practice Sanctuary	10:30 - 12:00 Handbells Rehearsal Sanctuary
9:15 - 10:15 Sunday School Hour		9:30 - 10:30 Organ Practice Sanctuary	6:00 - 8:00 Chrismon Beaders Conference Room	6:30 - 8:00 Haven Group 212		
10:30 - 11:30 Worship Service Sanctuary		12:45 - 1:30 Sanctuary time for Food Voucher clients Sanctuary	6:15 - 7:15 Prayer Shawl Ministry T16	6:30 - 8:00 Literacy Lubbock ESL Class T11		
11:30 - 12:30 University Weekly Gathering 212		1:30 - 2:30 Tuesday Food Voucher program Garden Room	7:30 - 9:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal Choir Hall			
5:00 - 6:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal Children's Choir Room		5:00 - 6:00 Voice Class Sanctuary				
5:00 - 6:00 Sunday Group T11		7:00 - 8:00 Worship Committee Meeting Conference Room				
5:30 - 7:30 United Methodist Youth 212						
5:30 - 6:30 SPRC Committee Meeting Conference Room						

Please hold the following people in prayer:

Members:

Family of Trudy Putteet
St. John's Homebound

Friends and Family:

Family of Sydney Oesterich
David Pedroza
Family of Jo Flynn
Food Voucher Clients



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 2, 2018 - 10:30 a.m.**



Welcome to St. John's United Methodist Church.

If you are a first-time attendee or a long-time member; if you are black, brown, white or anything in between; if you are gay, straight, bisexual, lesbian, or transgender; if you are a Native American or an immigrant friend; if you are lay or clergy, male or female, gender neutral or non-binary, young or old, abled or differently-abled, rich or poor; no matter what you believe or what you doubt, no matter what you count on, or what you question, **you are not only welcome here, you are celebrated here!**

In this space we acknowledge that you are a gift of the Creator, and an individual wonder of God's creation. Together, we are family of God, because we are gathered in the name of the One who makes us one.

Thank you for being here. Please make yourself at home. We are so happy to share this time of worship with you.

St. John's has been affiliated with Reconciling Ministries Network since 1998, when we adopted a statement affirming the sacred worth of all God's children, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. We celebrate our diversity, and we welcome all people to join us in our journey together toward greater understanding and mutual respect.



The Worship of God - 10:30 a.m. Service

ENTRANCE

Gathering Rev. Ann Akin

Prelude Clint Barrick
Prayer (Gothic Suite) Leon Boellmann (1862-1897)

*Morning Invocation Ryan Galloway
Loving God and Giver of every new day, to you our hearts are always open. Our desires and even our secrets are ever before you and we do not shrink back, for you know who we are and your are ever welcoming. In this sacred hour, when your presence is especially dear, may the thoughts of our hearts be cleansed by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we might more perfectly love you, and more worthily bear your image and light in your world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

*Processional Hymn, No. 189 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Fairest Lord Jesus ST. ELIZABETH

The Prayers of the Church Rev. Ann Akin
Following each petition:

Lord, in your *graciousness/mercy*,
Hear our prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer with Choral Amen
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever...

(Choir only.) Amen.

Act of Praise Gregory Brookes, baritone
My Lord, What A Morning arr. Mark Hayes

*My Lord, what a mornin'. My Lord, what a mornin'.
Oh, my Lord, what a mornin' when the stars begin to fall.*

*Done quit all my worldly ways, joined the heavenly band.
Oh, my Lord, what a mornin' when the stars begin to fall.*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

New Testament Lesson Betty Dotts
James 1:17-27 N.T. p. 229

A Time for Young Disciples Haleigh Bounds
Hymn, No. 2233 *The Faith We Sing*
Where Children Belong RITCHIE

(Sung as the children gather, and then again, as they depart.)

*This, this is where children belong,
welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:
This is where children belong.*

Sermon Rev. Kevin Young
To Us Through Us

*Hymn of Response, No. 408
The Gift of Love

The United Methodist Hymnal
GIFT OF LOVE

Invitation to Christ's Table Rev. Ann Akin
Christ invites all to his table, calling us to break down walls and to live our lives courageously so that all might know God's welcome. For the times when we have been less than faithful disciples, we offer now our prayer:

Prayer of Confession
Guiding God, we confess that we would like the road map of our life laid out before us. We want to know where we are going. Any unexpected twists and turns disconcert us. When we hear you calling us to tasks we do not want to do, or to roads we do not want to take, we are inclined to construct reasons why we cannot. Forgive the rationalizations we present to you as reasons, the resistance that is most often grounded in fear and unbelief. Forgive us all that is past, and free us for a new and living faith in you, through Christ our Light. Amen.

Assurance of Grace
Our God is a God of love and mercy, who allows us always to begin again. By God's grace, we are forgiven to walk in newness of life.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

*The Peace
As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer to one another signs of God's peace.

Offering Rev. Ann Akin
Prayer of Dedication

Offertory Anthem St. John's Chancel Choir
Credo Jane Marshall (1952-2012)
(The text includes both a quote from Mark 9:24 and an inscription found in a cellar in Cologne, Germany where Jews hid from the Nazis.)

*I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining.
I believe in love, even when not feeling it.*

Lord I believe. Help thou my unbelief.

(When indicated, congregants are invited to recite the following affirmation, individually, and at your own pace, while the choir repeats the phrase "*Lord I believe. Help thou my unbelief.*" When all congregants have finished, the choir will conclude the anthem.)

I believe in God, who brings forth life from death, joy from sorrow, blessing out of disaster; who meets me behind my closed heart and speaks a word of peace; who is known in the simple act of breaking bread, gathering around a table; who never forgets my name, who feels my pain, who renews my life from the inside out.

I believe in the risen Christ who did not hide his wounds so I might not hide from my own; who is present to me in my loneliness, my fear, my doubt; who embraced the hard questions, faced death's door and walked forward into every experience so I might know I have a Companion on the way.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who is as close to me as the air I breathe; who inspires the Church to be a beacon of light, an oasis of peace and a fountain of joy; who blows free as the wind, touching souls, chasing away the blues, setting loose an alleluia. I shall live as a child of God.

(Choir continues:)

*I believe in God, even when God is silent.
I believe in the sun, I believe in love.*

*Doxology and Presentation of Gifts
Hymn, No. 94
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The United Methodist Hymnal
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

Communion: Please approach the altar using the center aisle. You may kneel or stand at the communion rail. Please speak your name to the servers so that you may receive the bread and cup by name. We receive by intinction. (As you receive the bread, hold it until the cup is offered. Dip the bread into the cup and then eat.) When you are ready, you may return to your seat using the side aisles. If you are unable to come to the altar, please tell an usher so that we may serve you in your seat. Our communion bread is free of both gluten and egg.

*All people gathered to worship God are invited
to receive the bread and the cup.*

Taking the Bread and Cup
The Great Thanksgiving, Musical Setting D, p. 23.
Giving the Bread and Cup

Music for Communion

Communion Anthem St. John's Choral Scholars
Kyrie from the Mass in G Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Yue Zhao, soprano soloist

*Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.* Lord have mercy.
*Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.*

Hymn, No. 621 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Be Present at Our Table, Lord OLD 100th

Hymn, No. 636 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Christian People, Raise Your Song AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM

Hymn, No. 630 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
Become to Us the Living Bread GELOBT SEI GOTT

SENDING FORTH

*Acts of Faith Rev. Kevin Young

*Hymn of Faith SLANE
Come Now, O Wisdom

Please come forward as we sing the Hymn of Faith: to renew baptismal vows (please make prior arrangements with the pastor), or to join St. John's by profession of faith, transfer of vows, or by association or affiliation (please fill out beige card and give to pastor), or to receive a parting blessing.

*Come now, O wisdom; we need your clear voice;
Speak and awaken our hearts to rejoice.
Gracious Creator of more than we know,
In your own image may we ever grow.*

*Come now, O wisdom; abide in our souls;
Stir in us visions of life free and whole.
Wisdom, our pathway to justice and peace,
With you our dreams find their fullest release.*

*Wisdom, more precious than rubies or gold,
With you our graces forever unfold.
No fame or fortune with you can compare;
Pour out your blessings, so rich and so rare.*