



# 22<sup>ND</sup> RECONCILING ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>  
10:30 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**ST. JOHN'S**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# WELCOME

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!**

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.



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.

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CONVERSATION!**  
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 **ST. JOHN'S**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In October of 1998, after years of dedicated study, dialogue and prayer, the members of St. John's voted to join the Reconciling Movement in the United Methodist Church. Today marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of our affiliation with Reconciling Ministries Network. It is a day to recall our history, learn more about what it means to be reconciling, celebrate this important anniversary, and move into the future with a renewed commitment to justice for persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) is the national grassroots organization leading the United Methodist Church (UMC) in creating space at the table for all God's children. Its mission is to mobilize United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love. Why is this important? It is important because the UMC continues its sanctioned discrimination against gay and lesbian persons as official policy in our United Methodist Book of Discipline. Though the UMC has officially corrected previous positions of prejudice that once supported other injustices such as slavery, segregation, and the inequality of women, it continues to single out and exclude gay and lesbian persons by denying ordination and marriage equality. Because this exclusion does harm, and has tarnished the reputation of the Church in society, we must love more boldly, reach out more intentionally, work to build relationships, help to educate, provide safe space for conversation, and create change in the Church and in the world. We give thanks for the leadership and members of the St. John's family of October 1998, along with all those who prepared the way and all those who have joined since that day. We are grateful for St. John's spirit of welcome, commitment to advocacy, and Christ-like example of loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.



# THE WORSHIP OF GOD 10:30 A.M.

## ENTRANCE

Gathering

Rev. Kevin Young

Prelude  
*Bread of Angels*

Clint Barrick  
César Franck (1822-1890)

Call to Worship

Alec Cattell

Welcome, one and all, to this time and place of worship.

**And let us welcome God's Spirit who joins us here, who has made for us this time and space, where we know that we are welcome as we are, for who we are.**

It is God who has brought us to this day, where we can celebrate all of God's children, in all of our diversity - glorious and wondrous, because we all bear the image of God.

**It is God who has brought us to this day, where we can bring our whole selves to worship God, who loves us as God's own.**

So let us center our spirits, our minds, and our hearts, for this day is truly a gift. Let gratitude rise from our souls.

**Let our hearts overflow.**

For God is so good.

**God is so good.**

Hymn of Praise, No. 2001  
*We Sing to you, O God*

*The Faith We Sing*  
DARWALL'S 148th

*1. We sing to You O God,  
the Rock who gave us birth,  
let our rejoicing sing your name  
in all the earth.*

*To you, O God, let songs be raised,  
in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.*

*2. We wandered far from home  
out in a desert land,  
you shielded with your love  
our fearful pilgrim band.  
You kept us safe within  
your arms and sheltered us  
against the storm.*

*3. You bear us through the world,  
an eagle to her young,  
who rises on her wings and  
bears us toward the sun  
We ride the vaults of light  
and air and trust in your unfailing care*

*4. O God, eternal God,  
we hide within your wings,  
the everlasting arms to whom  
our praises ring.  
Your Word is true,  
your way is just,  
you are the God in whom we trust*

The Prayers of God's Children

Rev. Ann Akin

...Teach us to see and celebrate the stunning beauty in all you have made.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

..Make us bold in our proclamation that the lives, loves, and gifts of LGBTQIA people are blessed by you.

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

...Show us all that is ours to share, so that we might generously offer ourselves as agents of your healing, peace, provision, and power. We pray in your holy Name.

**Amen.**

- adapted from the Reconciling in Christ Sunday 2020: Faith & Advocacy Service

Act of Praise  
His Eye is on the Sparrow

Victoria Pitre, soprano  
arr. Luigi Zaninelli

*Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*He watches me.*

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

New Testament Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

Ben Finlayson

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to God's own self through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to God's own self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making God's appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

The word of God for the children of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

A Time for Young Disciples  
Hymn No. 191  
*Jesus Loves Me*

Avery Hendrickson  
*The United Methodist Hymnal*  
JESUS LOVES ME

Prior to Children's Sermon:  
**Jesus loves me! this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak, but He is strong.**

After Children's Sermon:  
**Yes, Jesus loves me  
Yes, Jesus loves me  
Yes, Jesus loves me  
The Bible tells me so**

22nd Reconciling Anniversary Speaker

Jody Randall  
Director, Office of LGBTQIA  
Engagement and Education, TTU

*Changed For Good*

Hymn of Response, No. 700  
*Abide with Me*

*The United Methodist Hymnal*  
EVENTIDE

*1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*3. I need thy presence every passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

*4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.*

*5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows  
flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

"We are St. John's" Moment

Bobby McMillan

## THANKSGIVING

Offering

Rev. Kevin Young

Prayer of Dedication

Reconciling Anniversary Anthem  
*I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus*

arr. Barlow Bradford

*I'm trying to be like Jesus;  
I'm following in his ways.  
I'm trying to love as he did, in all that I do and say.  
At times I am tempted to make a wrong choice,  
But I try to listen as the still small voice whispers,*

*"Love one another as Jesus loves you.  
Try to show kindness in all that you do.  
Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought,  
For these are the things Jesus taught."*

*I'm trying to love my neighbor;  
I'm learning to serve my friends.  
I watch for the day of gladness when Jesus will  
come again.  
I try to remember the lessons he taught.  
Then the Holy Spirit enters into my thoughts, saying:*

*"Love one another as Jesus loves you.  
Try to show kindness in all that you do.  
Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought,  
For these are the things Jesus taught."*

*Love one another as Jesus loves you.  
Try to show kindness in all that you do.  
Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought,  
For these are the things Jesus taught.*

*For these are the things Jesus taught.*

Doxology and Presentation of Gifts

**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!**

## SENDING FORTH

Hymn of Faith, 2172  
*We Are Called*

*The Faith We Sing*  
WE ARE CALLED

*1. Come! Live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
to live in the freedom of the city of God!*

*Refrain:  
We are called to act with justice,  
We are called to love tenderly,  
We are called to serve one another,  
To walk humbly with God!*

*2. Come! Open your heart!  
Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
so all hatred and blindness will be no more!*

*We are called to act with justice,  
We are called to love tenderly,  
We are called to serve one another,  
To walk humbly with God!*

*3. Sing! Sing a new song!  
Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other  
as sisters and brothers united in love!*

*We are called to act with justice,  
We are called to love tenderly,  
We are called to serve one another,  
To walk humbly with God!*

Benediction

Shiloh Morris

Let us go from this time of worship renewed in our determination to be the people for whom future generations will give thanks; the people who are bringing to extinction the unjust norms of culture and religion, and bringing to life the kin-dom of God. Let us go to be the people who open wide all the doors that Christ has opened to all the places and spaces where God welcomes us like a beaming host. May we be living signs of reconciliation and love as we go in the grace and peace of God. **Amen.**

*Please remain online for the Postlude.*

Postlude

*Improvisation on "Holy, Holy, Holy"*

Clint Barrick

Dan Miller

Jody C. Randall (she/her/hers) serves as the Director for the Office of LGBTQIA Education & Engagement at Texas Tech University and reigns as Miss Trans Texas USA 2020. She is a scholar-practitioner in the development of cultural competencies within higher education and non-profit sectors. Jody is a member of the Gender and Sexuality Leadership Team for Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA). Jody serves as Director of Administration on the Board for the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrations (TACUSPA). She serves as the Board President of the Jim Collins Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports trans health through providing financial assistance towards gender affirming surgeries for transgender people who need them, and member of the Advisory Board for the Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Scholars. Previously, Jody served as Board Chair of the Equality Federation Education Fund, Heartland CARES, Inc., and Kentucky Fairness Alliance. She is the recipient of a Master of Science in Human Development and Leadership from Murray State University. Jody is pursuing a Doctor of Education in Leadership and Learning in Organizations through the Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.







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JOIN US!

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ST. JOHN'S

# TRUNK OR TREAT

SAFE FOR  
EVERYONE



PARKING LOT

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OCTOBER 25  
4PM TO 7PM

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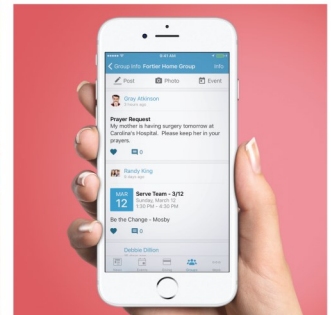
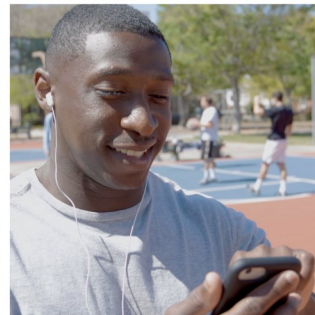
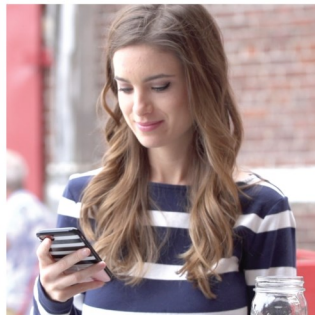
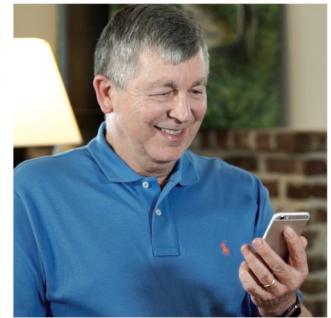
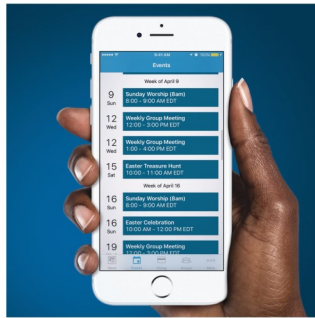
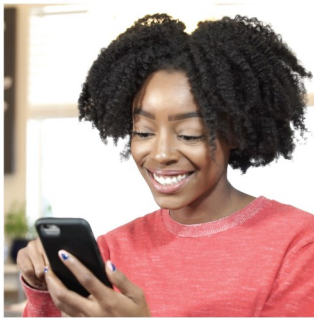


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# WAYS TO GIVE



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**ST. JOHN'S**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We affirm that through God's redeeming love for all we are one in Christ and we value the immeasurable contributions each member makes to the Body of Christ. We recognize that both the church and society have contributed to the segregation and prioritization of humanity based on things such as age, country of origin, economic status, education, ethnicity, family construct, gender, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, neurodivergence, physical ability, race, sexual orientation, and social status. We honor the inherent equality, sacred worth, and dignity of all persons. We celebrate our rich diversity and commit to the work of eliminating misinformation, judgmentalism, and harm. As both St. John's and the United Methodist Church journey toward true reconciliation, we proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination, especially within the Church.



**We welcome all persons to full participation in the life and leadership of St. John's United Methodist Church and advocate for changes in our denominational policy that lead to a fully just and fully inclusive global connection.**