

**WE'RE  
SO GLAD  
YOU JOINED  
US TODAY!**

## Welcome to St. John's!

### Welcome to worship at St. John's United Methodist Church.

You are welcome and celebrated in this faith community!  
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 male or female, young or old, abled or differently-abled, rich or poor;  
No matter what you believe or doubt;  
No matter where you are on life's journey;  
You are a gift of the Creator God. 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 welcome all people to join us in our journey together toward greater understanding and mutual respect.

We welcome children and enjoy their participation in all aspects of congregational life. For caregivers of small children, a changing table is available in the front bathroom and the library is open if you need a quiet place to tend to your little one. A nursery with certified workers is available for infants through age 5 at the southeast corner of the building if you need respite. Ushers will be glad to direct you to any of these resources.

## Meet Our Staff.

To contact a member of our staff please call 806-762-0123, visit us online, or send us an email at [openminds@stjohnslubbock.org](mailto:openminds@stjohnslubbock.org)

Rev. Josh Stueve

*Senior Pastor*

Rev. Ann Akin

*Associate Pastor*

Clint Barrick

*Organist*

Tim Algate

*Director of  
Music Ministries  
Facilities Manager*

John Dotts

*Assistant Facilities Manager*

Rachel Shipley

*Director of Youth Ministries*

Kyle Collins

*Director of  
Communications*

Trish Hernandez

*Director of Childcare Ministries*

### From the Lectionary

Flight To Egypt

Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

It takes great courage to consider the ingrained patterns of your history and blaze a new trail.

Joseph must uproot his family from their home to ensure their son will become who he was made to be. In this image, the Holy Family escapes the wrath of Herod in Bethlehem and faithfully travels toward the looming unknown in Egypt. They are flanked by flowers: on the left are Star of Bethlehem flowers and on the right are stylized lotus flowers you might see in Egyptian art. In the background are shadowy figures. On the left, they represent Herod's men seeking to kill Jesus, and on the right, they represent the weight of the past—God's enslaved people and their oppressors. The menacing silhouettes surround the family, personifying the inherent risk in either path they choose to take. The angel of God envelops the Holy Family in an embrace, comforting them from the grief of leaving home and shielding them from the fear of what is to come. In other icons of this pilgrimage, the Nile River often flows below, teeming with fish, but I chose to fill the water with lotus flowers, Egypt's national flower and a symbol of regeneration. God is writing a new story, transforming their destination, which swells with generational trauma and pain, into a haven of refuge and rebirth.



### Please Remember in Prayer:

St. John's Homebound

Jane Haynes

Myrna Shuey

Leslie Cox

Dwight Finckbone

Gary Pate

Abby Reimer

Arthur Cook

(The Brother of Randy Cook)

Roy Peterson

(The Brother of Ken Peterson)

## WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE

GIVE YOUR GIFT ONLINE  
AT  
[STJOHNSLUBBOCK.ORG](http://STJOHNSLUBBOCK.ORG)



MAIL

MAIL YOUR GIFT TO  
1501 UNIVERSITY  
LUBBOCK, TX  
79401



APP

DOWNLOAD THE FREE  
"REALM CONNECT" APP  
TODAY!



TEXT

TEXT STJOHNSLUBBOCK  
PLUS THE AMOUNT  
TO 73256

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

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

**Address:** 1501 University Ave. Lubbock, TX 79401

**Phone:** 806-762-0123 **Web:** [stjohnslubbock.org](http://stjohnslubbock.org)

**Email:** [openminds@stjohnslubbock.org](mailto:openminds@stjohnslubbock.org)

## Epiphany

Sunday, January 5, 2024

10:30 a.m.

# The Worship of God - 10:30 A.M. Service

## ENTRANCE

\*\*Gathering Revs. Josh Stueve & Ann Akin

Prelude Clint Barrick

\*Call to Worship READER

People of faith, look! In our darkness a light shines: the star is love.

**Alleluia! In gratitude we follow the star of love.**

The star moves ahead of us, and leads us faithfully.

**Alleluia! In wonder we follow the star of love.**

The star itself is in each of us: in everyone we meet, in all God's people.

**Alleluia! In devotion we follow the star of love. Alleluia!**

\*Hymn No. 254 *The United Methodist Hymnal*  
*We Three Kings* KINGS OF ORIENT

Prayers of the People | The Lord's Prayer Rev. Josh Stueve  
God in your graciousness/mercy  
**Hear our prayers.**

**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. Amen.**

Act of Praise

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

\*Gospel Lesson - Matthew 2: 1-12, p. 2, N.T. READER

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Poetry - Advent to Epiphany

In the darkest time of year,  
A time of hope, and a time of fear,  
The prophet says that God is coming to you.  
And so we turn from greed and hate,  
Still learning to pray and watch and wait,  
And sing our fragile, hopeful hallelujah.

Young Mary said her "Yes" to him,  
And Jesus was born in Bethlehem,  
And laid him in a manger, that'll do you.  
The light of love shone in the night.  
The shepherds came to see the sight,  
And angels sang a glorious Hallelujah.

Some wise men traveled from afar,  
Just following such a tiny star,  
As if its simple light could shine right through you.  
They gave their treasures to the king,  
Who makes you want to serve and sing,  
Who tells you you can be his Hallelujah.

Sermon

Rev. Ann Akin

Prayer of Response

Rev. Josh Stueve  
Howard Thurman

*The Work of Christmas*

**When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music from the heart.**

Anthem

St. John's Chancel Choir  
Graham Kendrick

*Make Way*

## THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

Please approach the altar using the center aisle.

You may make a financial offering in the basket as you come forward.

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 vegan, free of dairy, egg, and gluten. All people gathered to worship God are invited to receive the bread and the cup.  
Communion Stewards: Bryan & Pam Edwards

Invitation to the Table Rev. Josh Stueve & Rev. Ann Akin

The Great Thanksgiving, Musical Setting E, p. 24

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Invitation to an Offering

Music for Communion

Hymn No. 617 *The United Methodist Hymnal*  
*I Come With Joy* DOVE OF PEACE

\*Doxology No. 94 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

Reception of New Members Rev. Josh Stueve

**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.**

\*Hymn No. 220 *The United Methodist Hymnal*  
*Angels from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

Benediction Rev. Ann Akin

You have come to this Table in faith; go in peace.  
Know the God of peace goes with you.

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

Postlude Clint Barrick

\*You're invited to stand at moments in this service marked with an asterisk.

\*\*Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.

  
United  
Women  
in Faith  
Next Meeting: January 11  
11:30 a.m.



### United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will hold their first meeting of the year on Saturday, January 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room at St. John's. All women are invited to join!