

**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

Rev. Josh Stueve

Senior Pastor

Rev. Ann Akin

Associate Pastor

Clint Barrick

Organist

Tim Algate

Choral Conductor

David Cranford

Facilities Manager

John Dotts

Assistant Facilities Manager

Rachel Shipley

Director of Youth Ministries

Kyle Collins

Director of

Communications

Trish Hernandez

Director of Childcare Ministries

The Chrismon Tree

Written by Sally Abbe

The St. John's Chrismon tree is displayed during Advent. Chrismons, meaning "Christ monograms" are white and gold designs that represent Jesus. Symbols such as stars, crosses, fish, crowns, and the alpha and omega remind us of Christ's identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity.

The St. John's Chrismon group has met since 2008, beginning our efforts with the repair of the 1970s Chrismons, which were built on Styrofoam that deteriorated after years of use. Building on the legacy and memory of the earlier group, our new group created the current ornaments, which are made with wool felt and glass beads so that they will last for many years. We are grateful for the women who started this tradition and for those who continue to join in the effort.



Dozens of the gleaming gold and sparkling white ornaments decorate the sanctuary tree each Advent season, along with the beautiful blue velvet advent banner graced by a beaded Natal Star. In addition, the group creates stars for high school graduates and baptismal shells for christenings as remembrances of St. John's.

Fifteen years is a long time for a group that assembled for a specific project to exist, but Chrismons mean more to this group of women than just making ornaments. Our group is united in love—love for each other, love for the congregation that enjoys our creations, and love for God.

Please Remember in Prayer:

St. John's Pastors, Staff, Small Council, and Ministries

St. John's Members who are homebound or in assisted care

Angus Scott-Fleming

(brother of Ian Scott-Fleming)

The Family of Red (Alan) Hersom

(brother of Norma Rutherford)

Dale Bradley

(brother of Craig Bradley)

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ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30, 2025

10:30 a.m.



ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Address: 1501 University Ave. Lubbock, TX 79401

Phone: 806-762-0123 **Web:** stjohnslubbock.org

Email: openminds@stjohnslubbock.org

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

ENTRANCE

**Gathering

Revs. Josh Stueve & Ann Akin

Prelude

Clint Barrick

Now Come, Savior of the Gentiles

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Call to Worship

VelvetLee Elder

The grace of God be with you.

And also with you.

Eager for the coming of Christ,

let us enter into the mystery of God's dawning presence among us.

Loving God, we open our hearts to you,

and await your gracious coming.

In the winter darkness we long for your light.

We confess our need for your grace,

for the sin of our lives and the brokenness of this world.

Come, O Lord! May your peace dawn on our world.

Come, O Savior! May your grace be born in our hearts.

Bless the darkness, that we may wait with hope.

Bless the silence, that we may listen for your coming.

Grant us stillness, that with patience and courage

we may prepare room in our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

Come, O Savior, Come!

*Hymn No. 196

The United Methodist Hymnal

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Invitation into Advent

Revs. Josh Stueve & Ann Akin

Lighting a Candle for Hope

Old Testament Lesson - Isaiah 2: 3-5

This candle represents our longing.

We long for deeper faith. We long for God to come close. We long to live more fully in harmony with God's delight.

Awaken your hearts. Let your longing be God's song in you.

God of life, what new birth arises by your grace within us? What new life unfolds by your mercy among us?

We come to listen, and to see.

We open our hearts to the coming of Christ in us and among us in new ways. Awaken us, God, that by your Spirit we may be ready for the coming of Christ.

A Time for Young Disciples

Frank Goode

Hymn No. 230

The United Methodist Hymnal

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

As the children come forward:

O little town of Bethlehem,

how still we see thee lie;

above thy deep and dreamless sleep

the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth

the everlasting light;

the hopes and fears of all the years

are met in thee tonight.

As the children depart:

O holy Child of Bethlehem,

descend to us, we pray;

cast out our sin, and enter in,

be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels

the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us,

our Lord Emmanuel!

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

**Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices.

<i>Following the message, children Pre-K through 2nd grade are invited to Sunday school for storytelling, arts & crafts & a snack. We will meet at the church nursery.</i>		
Prayers of the People	Rev. Josh Stueve	
God in your graciousness/mercy		
Hear our prayers		
The Lord's Prayer		
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	Sara Yancey, soprano	
<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>		
*Gospel Lesson - Matthew 24:36-44, p. 27-28, N.T.	VelvetLee Elder	
The word of God for the people of God.		
Thanks be to God.		
Sermon	Rev. Ann Akin	
Prayer of Response	Rev. Josh Stueve	
Gentle God, the darkness draws in around us. In our hearts, in our communities, in the nation and the world there is mistrust and fear and despair; there is hurt and injustice. Yet you promise your light. You promise you are coming.		
Ready our hearts, God, for your coming. Help us to see signs of hope. Help us to see the coming of Christ. Amen.		
THANKSGIVING		
Invitation to an Offering	Rev. Josh Stueve	
*Hymn, No. 206	<i>The United Methodist Hymnal</i>	
<i>I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light</i>		HOUSTON
Anthem	St. John's Chancel Choir	
<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>		Gustave Holst
<i>In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.</i>	<i>Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, Nor earth sustain; Heav'n and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign; In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.</i>	<i>What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; What I can I give Him; Give my heart</i>

*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. 202 *The United Methodist Hymnal*
People, Look East BESANCON

Benediction Rev. Josh Stueve

Postlude Clint Barrick
Swiss Noel Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)



*Altar flowers this morning are given
by Jennifer Shirey in memory of her mother, Julie Shirey.*

Advent At St. John's

Advent begins today and there are many ways to experience the beauty of the season at St. John's!

Sunday, 12/7 at 10:30 a.m. —Lessons & Carols Worship Service

Sunday, 12/14 at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.—Last Day to Purchase Poinsettias, Last Day to Drop-Off Winter Essentials for Open Door and Common Table, St. John's Provides an Evening Meal to Common Table

Wednesday, 12/17 at 6:00 p.m.—Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, 12/20 at 9:00 a.m.—Service Project at the South Plains Food Bank

Wednesday, 12/24 at 5:30 & 10:45 p.m.—Christmas Eve Services

Advent Fair

Join St. John's on Sunday, December 7 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. for our Journey to Bethlehem Advent Fair! Come and go among a variety of craft stations for all ages—Enjoy time singing or listening to Christmas carols, then gather for hot chocolate, cookies, and a telling of the Christmas story.