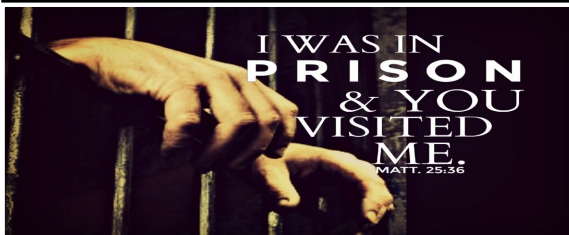


Get Involved



Carole Young Unit Christmas Outreach

We will be doing our Christmas outreach to the inmates at the Carole Young facility over on Attwater Ave.

We invited everyone to participate by donating funds towards this outreach. To ensure we got everything we needed in time to complete this project and to honor people's time during this busy season we have already purchased the items in bulk that were needed to complete the bags:

400 shampoos / 400 bars of soap / 400 pairs of socks
/ 400 wash cloths / 400 toothbrushes

The total cost of the supplies ordered is \$1,400.00.

Here's how you can help:

- Donate funds to help cover the cost of the supplies purchased in bulk.
- Come on **Thursday, December 16th at 1:00pm** to assemble the bags.



Sermon Notes

1. What feelings connect you to home? What kind of memories do you have of home? Good? Indifferent? Painful?

2. Where do you see the work of God in the world? And where do you see brokenness and the need for God's kingdom to come?

3. How can you stay connected to Jesus when the world seems disconnected to God's reign?

Lord hear our prayers...

- 11-14 Linda Johnson Adams, Debbie Collins, family and friends of Les Oleson, family and friends of Emily Gray, Gena McGinty, Gina Rosales, April and Reagan Hitt, Terry Fry, Beth Stinson and family, Gary and Pam Scoggin and family
- 11-21 Kylie Ferrell
- 11-28 Dorothy Blankenship, Jessica Potter, Aaron White, Michael Cooper, Finn Carmichael
- 12-5 Randy Thomas, Joyce Vyvial, Calvin Treybig, Cheryl Scott, Barbara Williams, Dan Koster, Lane Bailey, Lane Bailey, Sonja Johnson and family, Paul Bala, Mary Gammell, Joy Holder

Those in Care Facilities: Richard Alvarado (Bayou Pines), Mary Jinkins (Sodalis), Pam Syers (Lillian's Love), Walter Wilson (The Crossings)

Those Who are Homebound: J.T. Agregard, Grace Boyd, Joy Holder, Mozelle Lubojasky, Mildred McLemore, Louise Ovesny, Tommye Pitman

For all those affected by Hurricane Ida and Nicholas, for Afghanistan, for students, teachers and staff, for caregivers, for those who are recovering from the aftermath of natural disasters, marriages that are struggling, our nation, for those affected by the pandemic, our church, those in the military.



ST. JOHN'S

A United Methodist Congregation

Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2021



Welcome to worship at St. John's! May your worship experience be one of blessing and encouragement! While you are here, CDC guidelines are encouraged. Masks are recommended, but not required. And please silence your phone, so that you won't be distracted to hear God's call! Now, take a few slow breaths and relax. You've made it through the hardest part – you walked through the door and found your seat. Make yourself at home. Worship will start in a few minutes.

Got kids? There will be a children's moment early on in the service and then they will go to the treehouse for their own worship time. There are activity bags for your children at the Welcome Center to help you keep them engaged while in worship. Simply return the bag and supplies after worship. Nursery is also provided for children 5 and under. The ushers & greeters are friendly and will be happy to show you around or answer your questions.

Guest Wi-Fi password is: **walnut89**



Address: 8200 25th Ave N, Texas City 77591
(409) 655-5348 · Fax (409) 655-5810
<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsUmcTexasCity>
Website: <https://stjohnsumctc.org/>

Church office hours: Monday 10 AM - 2 PM / Tuesdays-Thursdays 9 AM - 4 PM

Pastor - Rev. Stephanie Hughes
Minister of Discipleship & Connections - Rev. Cindy Riddick
Director of Missions and Administration - Ingrid Clark
Youth Director - Mae Diaz de Leon
Director of Traditional Worship - Dr. James Heffel
Praise Band Leader - Azzi Jerice

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship

Welcome Praise Band

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle Susan Carpenter with Carissa and Kaclyn
It's a reunion, every time we go home, every time we embrace those we love, no matter how long it has been. It feels like sunrise, like the clouds are parting and the rain has ended. It is joy, nothing less than pure joy to grab hold of those who are home for us, who make home for us. Whether we wake up to them every day, or travel many miles to see them again, it is joy to go home. The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then to live like that was our truth even now, even here.

It is joy to go home.

John the Baptist reminds us, however, that it takes choices to live in this joy. It doesn't just happen; we choose to make life a joy by how we love others, by how we serve and give and care for others, by how we do the job we do and how we impact the world around us.

We build joy as we build a home in this world and the next.

We light these candles, the candle of hope, and of peace, and of joy, as a sign that we are on our way home, and we walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy.

It is time to go home.

*Worship Songs: *O Come All Ye Faithful / Sing To The King* Praise Band
O Come O Come Emmanuel

Children's Moment

Prayer Rev. Cindy Riddick

Scripture John 15:1-11

Sermon Staying Connected to Home Rev. Stephanie Hughes

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Reflection Song: *Go Tell It On The Mountain* Praise Band

*Benediction
****please stand as you are able***

11:00 AM Traditional Worship

Prelude: *The Holly and the Ivy* arr Smith Sophie Chapman, piano

Welcome & Greeting

Choral Introit *Advent Introit* Page Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle Allana McClellan, Kimber Schwamb and Kaylie and Kellen
It's a reunion, every time we go home, every time we embrace those we love, no matter how long it has been. It feels like sunrise, like the clouds are parting and the rain has ended. It is joy, nothing less than pure joy to grab hold of those who are home for us, who make home for us. Whether we wake up to them every day, or travel many miles to see them again, it is joy to go home. The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then to live like that was our truth even now, even here.

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*Hymn of Praise *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* UMH # 211

Pastoral Prayer/ The Lord's Prayer Rev. Cindy Riddick

Choral Amen

Anthem *Christmas Is Comin'* Raney Chancel Choir, Suzi Mitchell, Percussion

Preparation Hymn *Joy to the World* UMH # 246

Scripture John 15:1-11

Sermon Staying Connected to Home Rev. Stephanie Hughes

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Closing Hymn *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH # 206

*Benediction

*Benediction Response *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* UMH # 664 v1

Postlude *Creator of the Stars of Night* arr Jones Sophie Chapman, piano

****please stand as you are able***



Church Conference TODAY BETWEEN SERVICES

Save the date and plan to attend the Church Conference on December 12 between the two worship services. The purpose of this called Church Conference is to vote on a single board model of leadership for the church and to create a permanent endowment for legacy giving to the church. Both proposals require the vote of the church body. If you attend the second service, plan to be at the church by 10:30am, so you can come to the church conference. If you attend the first service, plan to stay a little later.

STAFF LOVE OFFERING

As we move into our busy Christmas holiday season we would like to take a moment to recognize and thank our staff. They have been very busy working hard as it has been an exciting year for St. John's. Our staff has shown their love and support to our church by their dedication and outstanding performance during the year. As an expression of our appreciation we would like to take up a special offering for our staff. The St. John's SPR Committee invites you to show amazing love to our church staff members. You may put your offering in the offering plate on Sunday, mail it or drop it by the church office and please mark it "Staff Love Offering." **Offerings will be accepted until Monday, December 20th.** Also, please take the time to send a thank you note or card to our staff for all they do during the year for our St. John's Family.

Thank You,
Rachel Champagne, SPRC Chair

We invite you to drop off your offering and prayer requests in the baskets at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Other convenient ways to give are:

Give online on our website at

<https://stjohnsumctc.org/giving/>

OR

◆ **NEW Text Giving...**Text "GIVE" to (409) 226-0450 and then follow prompts

Thank you for your generosity and blessing!



Angel Tree

Grab a tag

Sign out your tag on sheet on the table

Take your tag and shop for your Angel

Bring back the gift,

wrapped with the tag attached

All gifts need to be returned by **December 19th!**