

# Hanging of the Green



---

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Ten Thirty in the Morning

---

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ~ Isaiah 61 :1-4

Nora Frances Benton

## INTROIT

J. Noel Lance

## WORDS OF GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

*Please turn off all electronic devices*

## A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Dr. Foust

We live in a time when competing authorities and conflicting loyalties elevate fear and diminish vision. Yet, we gather as a people empowered to live through God's gift of hope.

---

---

## PRAYER OF SUBMISSION

Dr. Foust

## EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Bret Marshall & Keith Towerly

Advent Song

*Music Makers Choir*

Advent is a time to wait, not quite time to celebrate.

Count the candles one by one until Advent time is done.

Day by day we work and play, to prepare for Christmas day.

*Congregation is invited to sing with the children on the repeat*

## PROCESSIONAL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Youth Choir

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



Congregation

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

## THE ADVENT CANDLES

Andrew Adair

LEADER: This is the time of year when the days are short and the nights are long.

PEOPLE: **It makes it easier to notice the darkness in the world. It makes it easier to feel despair.**

LEADER: The prophet Isaiah reminds us:

PEOPLE: **“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.”**

LEADER: As we light this first Advent candle, the candle representing God's gift of hope,

ALL: **We remember that Jesus is the Light of the World and we do not need to despair!**

## MUSICAL OFFERING

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Bell Choir*

arr. Hal H. Hopson

## THE CHRISMON TREES

Ruth Jackson

### \*CAROL

O Christmas Tree

Traditional German Carol

O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!  
thy leaves are so unchanging;  
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!  
thy leaves are so unchanging;  
not only green when summer's here,  
but also when 'tis cold and drear.  
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!  
thy leaves are so unchanging!

O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!  
how richly God has decked thee!  
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!  
how richly God has decked thee!  
thou bidst us true and faithful be,  
and trust in God unchangingly.  
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!  
how richly God has decked thee!



# THE GREEN

Selina Swofford

## \*CAROL

The Holly and the Ivy  
Traditional English Carol



1. The hol - ly and the i - vy, When  
2. The hol - ly bears a blos - som, as

they are both well grown. Of all the tress that are  
white as li - ly flow'r, And Ma - ry bore sweet

in the wood, The hol - ly bears a crown. O the  
Je - sus Christ, To be our dear Sav - ior.

ris - ing of the sun, And the run - ning of the deer. The

play - ing of the mer - ry or - gan, Sweet sing - ing in the choir.



## THE HOLY FAMILY

Monty Kears

Away in a Manger

*Young Musicians Choir*  
William J. Kirkpatrick

## THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. Martha Kears, DMin

**O**ur 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### Prayer Concerns

Libby Collier –Peak Resources  
Marie Coble - White Oak of Waxhaw  
Emily Batts, Betty Crenshaw, Carmen Howard,  
Chuck Jones, Jan Kerley & Lewis LeVie – home  
Sympathy to Betty Hastings in the death of her brother, Herbert Hoover  
and to the family of Frederick Miller

## READING OF THE GOSPEL

John 1:6-9

Savannah Heasley

**T**here was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**LEADER:** This is the written word of God for the people of God.

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God!

## THE BELLS

Eric McCombs

Carol of the Bells



*Bell Choir and Chancel Choir*  
Arr. Steve Kupferschmidt  
Arr. for bells J.K. Gray

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Lee Gray

## WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

*Chancel Choir*

Joel Hoelscher

## \*PRESENTATION

O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
Christ the Lord.

*While we sing, all musicians are invited to come to the front for the Song of Parting*

## \*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

Dr. Foust

## SONG OF PARTING

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.  
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.  
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

## \*POSTLUDE

J. Noel Lance

*\* Invites the congregation to stand*

— Our Leaders —

Music Makers Choir (Grades Pre-K - K)

Becky Benton, Director

Young Musicians Choir (Grades 1 - 5)

Sandy Holland, Director

Bell Choir

Jacquelyn McAbee, Director

Youth Choir (Grades 6 - 12)

J. Kevin Gray, Director

J. Noel Lance, Accompanist

Chancel Choir

J. Kevin Gray, Director

J. Noel Lance, Accompanist

*A special thank you to all those who assisted in decorating the sanctuary for this special service and the Advent/ Christmas season, including: Bryan McRae with Botanica (who created the amaryllis arrangements), Don and Selina Swafford, Linda and Leonard Balentine, Ruth Jackson, Beth Jones, Tricia Miller, Becky Skidmore, Jane Starnes, Suzanne Taylor, Sally Young, Allison Benfield, Kevin Gray and Martha Kears.*

## Announcements

### Financial Stewardship Commitment Campaign 2018

#### *Offering Ourselves for God's Work in the World*

Budget Pledge Report: Amount Received: \$778,236 - Commitments Received: 157

If you have not turned in your Pledge Card to the church office, please do so as soon as possible.

### Children and Families Team News

On Saturday, December 9, from 2:30-4:30, we will work at Crisis Assistance Ministries at 500-A Spratt St. We will be sorting through donations and stocking the Free Store so people can come in to shop for Christmas! Interested in joining us? Let Kimberly Follis ([kimberly\\_follis@outlook.com](mailto:kimberly_follis@outlook.com)) know!

### Annual Senior Adult Christmas Gathering

Thursday, December 7, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm in Broach Hall

### Charlotte Lessons & Carols from St. John's

WDAV's live holiday broadcast returns on Tuesday, December 5, at 7 pm with a program of beloved carols and holiday music illuminated by scripture readings. A reception will follow in Lasater Hall.

### Christmas Cards for Our Neighbors

Our Advent Mailbox is up! Between now and December 17<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to write a note to one of our members who can no longer attend services. We also have slots available this year for our Church Staff and our Partner Organizations, if you would like to use them to send greetings. Happy writing!

### Advent Booklet

Our Advent Booklet, "Living While Waiting," will be available this Sunday at the entrance to the sanctuary. If you will not be here but would like one, please call the church office!

### Advent Yoga

Tuesday, December 12, at 7 pm - Sara Vavra, yoga instructor . Go calmly in the Advent season with breathing techniques and warm thoughts. Any ability of yoga is welcome to come. Chairs will be provided if you need a chair. Or bring a mat if you prefer. Please call the church office and make a reservation for this class. SPACE IS LIMITED. Class will run about an hour and light refreshments will be served.

### Pictorial Directory Update

To update your St. John's pictorial directory, a page of photos of our recent new members and a new address/ phone directory are now available on the table in the church office.

# St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

704-333-5428 - [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

## This Week's Events

### Sunday, December 3

9:00 ..... Craft & Bake Sale (Lasater Hall)  
9:15 ..... Sunday School (Classrooms)  
10:30 ..... Worship (Sanctuary)  
11:30 ..... Youth Poinsettia Deliveries (Lounge)

### Monday, December 4

11:45 ..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)  
6:00 ..... WDAV Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
6:30 ..... Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)  
8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

### Tuesday, December 5

7:00 ..... Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)  
10:00 ..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)  
11:00 ..... Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)  
5:15 ..... SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)  
7:00 ..... WDAV Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)  
8:00 ..... WDAV Reception (Lasater Hall)

### Wednesday, December 6

6:30 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
9:30 ..... Yoga (Room 114)  
6:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)  
6:00 ..... Mission Resource Team (Lounge)  
6:00 ..... Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)  
7:15 ..... Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, December 7

9:00 ..... Unity Coalition (Lounge)  
11:30 ..... Senior Adult Christmas Gathering (Broach Hall)

### Friday, December 8

5:00 ..... Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)  
8:00 ..... AA (Lasater Hall)

### Saturday, December 9

7:00 ..... Benton Basketball (Gym)  
10:00 ..... Basketball games (Gym)

Complete calendar online:  
[www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org](http://www.StJohnsBaptistChurch.org)

## **THE ST. JOHN'S PULPIT**

December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Worship Theme: God's Gift of Peace:

empowering living amidst dread

Sermon: *At War with Peace:*

*Living Beyond Dread*

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

## **MEMBERSHIP AND MINISTRY**

If you would like information on how you can become a member of St. John's, please call the church office (704.333.5428) or fill out one of the "For Our Guests" cards found on the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate. One of our ministers will be happy to reach out to you and answer any questions you may have. Visit our website to find out more information regarding the many ministry opportunities available in the life of St. John's.

## **Ministers**

*Every participant in God's Servant Church*

## **Equipping Ministers**

Senior Minister ..... Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Associate Minister ..... Rev. Martha Kearse, DMin

Minister for Children & Families .... Rev. Allison Benfield

Minister for Worship & Music ..... J. Kevin Gray

Minister for Youth & Young Adults ..... Rev. Lee Gray

## **Church Staff**

Administrative Assistant ..... Jacquelyn McAbee

Church Accountant ..... Elaine Johnson

Church Administrator ..... Sandra Rogers

Organist ..... J. Noel Lance

Graded Choirs Director ..... Sandy Holland

Custodians ..... Chris Mullis, James Cowan, James Ford

Weekday School Director ..... Lydia Olmsted

**Have you included St. John's  
in your estate planning?**