

We Rejoice in God's Faithfulness

Please turn off all electronic devices

As you enter the Sanctuary, please notice the basin of water and hand towel marked 'Servant' on the Communion Table. Please reflect on your baptism; you may even come forward to touch the water as a sign of remembrance.

INTROIT J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Allison Benfield

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP Rev. Lee Gray

EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP Congregation

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Rev. Benfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Today, we gather as the baptized people of God. We are committed to obeying God, as we follow Jesus' teaching, lifestyle practices and example of sacrificial service.

PEOPLE: We have died with Christ. We no longer pursue our self-centered ambitions. For we no longer belong to ourselves; we belong to God.

LEADER: We open our lives to the Truth of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. We listen for God's Spirit flowing free, high surging as it will – the Spirit speaking in prophets of old and speaking still.

ALL: Praise to the Living God, who is faithful and full of compassion.

*HYMN OF PRAISE Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Chalice Hymnal No. 86 FAITHFULNESS

We Listen, O God, for Your Voice

*READING OF THE GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-17 Vanessa Boling



In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore

clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and

will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Leader: This is the written word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God!

MEDITATING ON YOUR BAPTISM J. Noel Lance

*Your baptism is a permanent watermark on your life as a disciple of Jesus.
Your baptism symbolizes your commitment to follow Jesus through a full immersion into his life of sacrificial ministry through service and reconciliation.
You are baptized into a community of active faithfulness.*



We Proclaim Our Commitment to Follow Jesus

*HYMN OF PROCLAMATION Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters
Chalice Hymnal No. 365, verse 1 BEACH SPRING

Wash, O God, Your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of Your womb. Number them among Your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

HOMILY Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Opening the Heavens

ANTHEM OF BAPTISM Chancel Choir
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing James Mulholland

ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM
Congregation will sing verse as each baptismal candidate is presented.

You come to be baptized today to die with Christ and rise again.
You choose through Christ to walk God's way and seek a new life without end.
Matthew Collins

You join with those who went before the family of God on earth.
You stand before the open door. Receive, O God, and give new birth.
Matthew Comer

The waters clear shall soon enfold your body and your old life too.
Through Spirit's gift you will behold to start to live your life anew.
James Mason Gray

You seek release from former ways and grace, forgiveness through this rite.
You come to walk your future days with Christ along the path of light.

Mia McGuire

As you now walk this path of light, God's mission is your destiny.
May you know fully you are God's as you now serve in ministry.

Elizabeth Rodden

We Stand Before You, Water-Washed and Spirit-Born

*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters
Chalice Hymnal No. 365, verse 2 & 3 BEACH SPRING

Every day we need Your nurture; by Your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us; guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying, by Your spirit, children, heirs.

O how deep Your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all Your ways!
To Your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!
We Your people stand before You, water-washed and spirit-born.
By Your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER Rev. Martha Kearse, DMin

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 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 – Presbyterian
Joe Ehrenberger - Asbury
Betty Crenshaw – Pineville Rehab & Living Center
Emily Batts, Joyce Ehrenberger, Phillip Fries, Cathy Hartsell,
Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones, Jan Kerley & Betty Taylor – home
Sympathy to the families of Maryanne Carnes and Marie Coble

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY J. Noel Lance

*DOXOLOGY Chalice Hymnal No. 46 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

*POSTLUDE J. Noel Lance

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Financial Stewardship Commitment Campaign 2018

Offering Ourselves for God's Work in the World

Budget Pledge Report: Amount Received: \$851,306 - Commitments Received: 178

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

Concert – Saturday, January 13, at 7 pm

Leslie Lee and Steve Gretz join us again this winter as they swing through the South, sharing their beautiful gifts for music and lyrics, as well as words both thoughtful and entertaining! Join us in Lasater Hall for great music, lovely desserts, and a great, mid-winter evening! Donations will be accepted for hurricane relief in Zulueta, Cuba.

Art • Poetry • Music: Celebrating Charlotte's Black Culture

January 15, at 7:00 pm at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Art • Poetry • Music: Celebrating Charlotte's Black Culture and the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a powerful, collaborative concert by Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Firebird Arts Alliance's Power of Song Project, Quentin Talley's OnQ Productions and Opera Carolina. Three-time Emmy Award winner Bluz, of Slam Charlotte, will perform along with the incredible Ocie Davis Quartet and the combined choirs of Opera Carolina Chorus, Winthrop University Chamber Singers, semi-professional choir VOX, the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble and Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Choir. APM fuses music, spoken word and visual art with readings of Dr. King's iconic speeches. Join us for this community celebration of Dr. King's legacy, and Charlotte's African-American community.

Note to Sunday School Classes:

Please remember to take your used Sunday School literature and devotional materials to the Collection Room (corner room near Lasater Hall). These materials will be picked up by Tom and Martha Bryson to be re-used by one or more congregations who cannot afford to purchase new literature each quarter.

To All College Age Members of St. John's:

The Martha Miller and J.P. Hackney Trust Fund was created through the will of Mildred Hackney Smith, and provides grant money for St. John's members (or children of St. John's members) who plan to attend Furman University, Wake Forest University, or Wingate University. If your plans for college next year include one of these three schools, you may wish to apply for one of the Hackney Grants. The deadline for application is March 1. For more information, contact the Chair of the Hackney Committee, Ken Raynor, at Ken@Raynorlawfirm.com.

Youth

- Sunday, January 7 & 14 - Sunday Night Live - Youth are on regular evening schedule from 5:00-7:30 pm. During choir, they will work on songs they will sing on Youth Sunday worship service on February 4. During our program time, we will watch and reflect upon the PBS documentary "A Class Divided."
- Monday, January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Service Project - We will meet at the church at 10 am to go over to Hope Chapel and do a service project and serve hot dogs. If the weather is agreeable, we will finish putting the pavers down beside the outdoor walkway. If we have inclement weather, we will fix a closet door and do some painting inside Hope Chapel. We will return to the church at 1 pm.
- January 19-21 - Youth ski trip to Winterplace

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

Copies of worship bulletins and sermon manuscripts are available on the St. John's website: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

704.333.5428 - www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

January 14 - Second Sunday after Epiphany

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon: *Can Our Kind of Church Serve Our Kind of World?*

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-6; 2 Corinthians 3:17-4:10

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, January 7	8:00 am	Garrison Road Property meeting (Conference Room)
	9:00 am	5 th /6 th Grade Discipleship (Room 305)
	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship/Baptism (Sanctuary)
	5:00 pm	Youth Sunday Night Live (Lounge, Gym, Chapel, 3 rd Floor)
Monday, Jan. 8	11:45 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
	6:30 pm	Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
	6:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
Tuesday, Jan. 9	10:00 am	Staff meeting (Conference Room)
	1:00 pm	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
	4:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	5:15 pm	Men's Basketball (Gym)
	6:00 pm	Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Groups (Room 114 & 116)
Wed., Jan. 10	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga Class (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	Women of the Church Board meeting (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Thursday, Jan. 11	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	10:00 am	Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)
	2:30 pm	King's College (Broach Hall)
Friday, Jan. 12	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Jan. 13	7:00 am	Benton Basketball
	10:00 am	Basketball games (Gym)
	7:00 pm	Concert (Lasater Hall)

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 and Their Families.....	Rev. Allison Benfield
Minister for Worship and Music.....	J. Kevin Gray
Minister for Youth and Young Adults.....	Rev. Lee Gray

Church Staff

Administrative Assistant.....	Jacquelyn McAbee
Church Accountant.....	Elaine Johnson
Church Administrator.....	Sandra Rogers
Weekday School Director.....	Lydia Olmsted
Organist.....	J. Noel Lance
Custodians.....	James Ford, Chris Mullis, Debora Thon

The Worship of God



BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 7, 2018

10:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary

**ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**