

Come, Celebrate the Call of God

Please turn off all electronic devices

PRELUDE J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

***PRAYER OF SUBMISSION**

***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.

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

ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM Rev. Martha D. Kearse, DMin

**Mattie Stillerman, Scarlett Goodson, Aluel Nyuon
Nora Frances Benton, Sophie Ann Sweet**

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 calling us into the world to be the Bread of Life and nourishment.

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

We Are Awakened and Renewed

***HYMN OF PRAISE** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Chalice Hymnal No. 5 AZMON
Verse 1 – Children, Verse 2 – Choir, Verses 3 & 4 - All

LITANY OF COMMUNITY AND MINISTRY Rev. Allison Benfield

LEADER: United with saints below and saints above, you are the body of Christ and individually members of Christ's Church. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of Christian minds is like to that above.

PEOPLE: We are messengers of God's transforming, reconciling and healing grace. Through our mutual commitments to God, we are bound together in baptism, discipleship, memory and purpose.

LEADER: As bread was taken up in the hands of Jesus, we live as the body of Christ in the hands of God.

PEOPLE: Whether we are Christ's gathered Church or scattered Church, we are part of one another because God unites us in the life of Jesus.

ALL: As deacons take up our tithes and offerings, we renew our commitments to God who is Lord of every aspect of our lives. And, we renew ourselves to be God's servant people in today's world. God calls us and sends us into the world as ministers in daily life, for we are the body of Christ and individually members of Christ's Church.

OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Benfield

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Chancel Choir
And the Father Will Dance Mark Hayes

***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.

***HYMN OF CALLING** Come, Celebrate the Call of God
Chalice Hymnal No. 454 ALIDA'S TUNE

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER Rev. Lee Gray

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

Camille Green – CMC Pineville Rehab; Betty Crenshaw, Carmen Howard,
Chuck Jones, Janie Kendrick, Brad Sifford & Jane Winn - home

The Spirit's Blessing, All Ordains

TAKEN AND TRANSFORMED

Chancel Choir sings while bread is passed

Seed scattered and sown, wheat gathered and grown.
Bread broken and shared as one the Living Bread of God.
Christ, Bread of our souls, teach us how to live.
Teach us to be bread like You, the Living Bread, the Living Bread of God.

READINGS Dr. Foust

Mark 14:22

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

I Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

SONG OF SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

Congregation joins on repeat

Create in me a clean heart, O God, let me be like You in all my ways. Give me Your strength, teach me Your song; shelter me in the shadow of Your wings. For we are Your righteousness. If we die to ourselves and live through Your death, then we shall be born again to be blessed in Your love.

MESSAGE Taken Dr. Foust & Dr. Kearse

Our Deepest Gladness Meets the World's Hunger

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT** Take My Life
HENDON

Take our lives, and let them be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take our moments and our days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take our hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take our feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee,
swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take our love; our Lord, we pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take us now, and we will be ever, only, all for Thee,
ever, only, all for Thee.

**COMMISSIONING THE REVEREND DR. MARTHA KEARSE TO
PASTORATE OF PEAKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH**

PRESENTATION OF LOVE GIFTS

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** Chancel & Youth Choirs, Congregation

May the road rise to meet you the wind be at your back, may the sun shine warm-ly on your
face. May the rain fall soft - ly soft - ly on your fields and may God
hold you in the palm of his hand, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

**CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY
& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE** Dr. Foust

***POSTLUDE** J. Noel Lance

Everyone is invited to a reception in honor of Reverend Kearse and her family in Broach Hall following worship.

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

Flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Rev. Dr. Martha Kearse by the Personnel Resource Team.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Living in the World as the Body of Christ

Experiencing the Season of Lent in St. John's - This year, on each of the six Sundays during Lent, we will experience the symbolism of bread as 'the body of Christ.' We will explore how we live in the world as the body of Christ using worship themes of 'Kneaded and Needed,' 'Transformed,' 'Taken,' 'Blessed,' 'Broken' and 'Given.' On Wednesdays at noon during Lent, we will serve as the host site for the Elizabeth Communities of Faith ecumenical worship services.

Celebrating the Ministry of Rev. Dr. Martha Kearse

After worship, you are invited to a reception in Broach Hall. Love gifts will still be received through next week and cards/mementos can be placed in The Memory Box in Broach Hall. Contributions to The Love Gift for Martha should be made out to St. John's Baptist Church with "Martha Kearse Love Gift" on memo line. (Please note that Love Gifts are NOT tax-deductible contributions.) Gifts can be presented through the offering plate or mailed to the church.

Loaves & Fishes

Please join us as we restock the Loaves & Fishes pantry at Galilee Center (formerly St. Andrews Episcopal Church) on Central Avenue. We are dedicating the month of February to collecting non-perishable grocery items and monetary donations for the perishable items the pantry offers. The Big Blue Barrels can be found in Broach Hall and Main Entrance lobbies. Thanks for your support!

Family Outing: Ice Skating Edition

Meet up at the Extreme Ice Center in Indian Trail from 2-4 pm on Saturday, March 10, for some fun. You don't have to RSVP, just show up ready to have fun together. Come when you can and stay for as long as you can. (Although, if you are planning on coming, let Allison know.)

Easter Outfits for "A Child's Place"

Needed: Sizes 5-14 Boys & Girls (new or gently used) with sock and underwear. Place on rack outside sanctuary or at main entrance by March 18.

Easter Flowers

Easter Lilies are a long-standing tradition and are loved by many — except those who are allergic to them and always miss Easter Sunday at church or sit uncomfortably in church while breathing the pollen-laden air. This year, we would like to offer an alternative, Calla Lilies, to reduce the pollen and help everyone enjoy this glorious Sunday at St. John's. Purchase a lily in honor or memory of a loved one. Your lily purchase helps provide funds for our Christmas poinsettias/décor. Cost is \$18 each. Order forms available the church office and in next week's Family News.

Elizabeth 8K

The 32nd Annual Elizabeth 8K Road Race is Saturday, March 24. Once again, St. John's is a sponsor for Charlotte's oldest road race. As a sponsor, we can offer 10 free registrations and a 10% discount to all who choose to participate. Please contact the church office for more information.

A Year in the Church: St. John's/St. Martins VBS 2018

June 11-15 from 9 am-12 noon each day - For children aged 4 - rising 6th Graders - \$15/Child - We'll be learning about the life of Jesus as we walk through the seasons of the church year together with stories and art. We do have a maximum number of children we can care for at VBS, so don't wait to sign up!

Xavier University's Alternative Spring Break

From March 3-10, St. John's will be hosting a group of 10-15 Xavier students and staff focused on elderly living, who will be partnering with Avante at Charlotte and Aldersgate Retirement Community. The group will be out of the building during the day but will prepare dinner here every evening and conduct reflections. Be sure to welcome them to St. John's and Charlotte if you see them!

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

Copies of worship bulletins are available on the St. John's website at 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

March 11 - Fourth Sunday in Lent
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Sermon Series: Living in the World as the Body of Christ
Sermon: *Blessed*
Scripture: John 6:1-14, 28-35; Mark 14:22

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, March 4	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship/Baptism (Sanctuary)
	11:45 am	Reception (Broach Hall)
Monday, March 5	11:45 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
	6:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Tuesday, March 6	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
	9:00 am	HeadStart (Lounge)
	10:00 am	Staff meeting (Conference Room)
	11:00 am	Bible Workbench (Room 209)
	4:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
	6:00 pm	Handbells (Handbell Room)
Wed., March 7	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	12:00 pm	ECOF Lenten service (Sanctuary)
	12:30 pm	ECOF Soup lunch (Broach Hall)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Mission Resource Team (Room 209)
	6:00 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thurs., March 8	10:00 am	Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)
Friday, March 9	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, March 10	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	2:00 pm	Ice Skating/Family Outing

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 D. 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
Graded Choirs Director.....Anna Ball
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted
Organist.....J. Noel Lance
Custodians.....Chris Mullis, Debora Thon

The Worship of God



Third Sunday in Lent

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

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