

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Please turn off all electronic devices

PRELUDE J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Lee Gray

*EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP Congregation

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP J. Kevin Gray

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In a world where many voices seek authority in our lives, we gather to worship The Living God, to whom we have committed our lives. God alone is the supreme authority over all other authorities in our lives.

ALL: **We have heard The Living God calling us to follow Jesus and “do what he says.”**

ONE: Jesus calls to us, “*come unto me and learn of me.*” When we commit to relate with God by learning and following the teachings of Jesus, we become disciples of Jesus.

ALL: **As disciples of Jesus, we submit our lives under the authority and power of Jesus. As God's Christ, Jesus is God's anointed one; the savior and redeemer who brings salvation to all people.**

ONE: Under the authority of Jesus, we are sent into the world, as People of God, to teach everything we are learning from Jesus in order that other persons may also choose to become disciples (learners) of the Jesus way of life.

ALL: **Let us proclaim the power of Jesus' name as God's scattered Church through ministry and as God's gathered Church through worship. Amen!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!
Chalice Hymnal No. 92 DIADEM

We Hear Your Call

READING OF THE GOSPEL Matthew 28:18-20 Donna Scott



And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ONE: This is the written word of God for the people of God.

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE We Are Walking
Chalice Hymnal No. 442 SIYAHAMBA

Verse 1 – We are walking in the light of God
Verse 2 – We are singing ...
Verse 3 – We are dancing ...

REFLECTION J. Kevin Gray

Person _____

Attributes _____

SONG OF SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION Chancel Choir & Youth

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER Chuck Jones, Deacon

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY J. Noel Lance

*DOXOLOGY Chalice Hymnal No. 606 NETTLETON

God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store, nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Let Us Go Forth and Make Disciples

LITANY OF DISCIPLESHIP Lia Benton

LEADER: Which commandment is the first of all?

STUDENTS: Jesus said, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.”

LEADER: Which is the second?

STUDENTS: Jesus said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.

LEADER: It is the Spirit of God that enables us to love God and our neighbor. And what are the Fruits of the Spirit?

STUDENTS: Love, Joy, Peace, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. Against such things there is no law.

STUDENTS AND SPONSORS:

As we journey, we are learning the Way of Jesus. We choose to be His disciples by walking with Jesus as our spiritual authority.

STUDENTS: May we commit our lives to following the Way of Jesus.

PEOPLE: **May we be faithful followers of Christ who invest ourselves in our children and youth.**

ALL: **May we all respond to the love of God with gratitude, and may that gratitude shape the way we live our lives.**

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER Rev. Gray & Lia Benton

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

Joe Ehrenberger - Asbury; Camille Green, Polly Hull, Elizabeth Laney,
Laura McGuire, Brad Sifford & Carole Ann Simpson - home
Dale Johnson & Johnnie Morcock – upcoming surgery

SPECIAL MUSIC Brittany Harrington and Chancel Choir
Sunday Best, from I Dream Douglas Tappins

Sunday morning, raise your head. Lay your work down, lift your eyes. Weary souls refresh, arise. Sunday, our Sunday. It's the good Lord gave you rest. Gave you strength, and filled your cup. Woke those tired eyes up. I like Sunday best, my Sunday best, for Sunday is our day.

Sunday, our Sunday, Sunday, our Sunday, I thank God it's Sunday, our Sunday. We know Sunday is our day.

Gentle sun, a cloudless sky. Soothing stress and calming strife. All of nature springs to life Sunday, our Sunday. Birds declare their morning songs. Trees begin their morning dances. Heaven calls, earth answers...I like Sunday best, Sunday is our day.

I lay my cares down as the week turns around, again. It's time to sweep those work blues away, we know Sunday is our day. When Sunday comes, the working week is forgotten, its sameness transformed into glorious magic I can feel. On my face blows a wind that's refreshing. Each moment a blessing. I pinch myself to make sure it is real. Feel the strain of work undo, feels its precedents reversed. Sunday morning, rest comes first. I like Sunday best, for Sunday is our day.

It's our day when we forget what we don't have. It's our day when we forget what we are not. It's our day for singing, praying things won't always be like this. Our Sunday, precious Sunday, Sunday is our day.

SERMON *Why Church, Why?* Dr. Foust

*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP Lord, You Give the Great Commission
BEACH SPRING

Lord, You give the great commission: “Heal the sick and preach the Word.” Lest the Church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness to Your purpose with renewed integrity. With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, You call us to Your service: “In My name baptize and teach.” That the world may trust Your promise, life abundant meant for each, give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community. With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, You bless with words assuring: “I am with you to the end.” Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as You intend and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity. With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

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

*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

*CHORAL BENEDICTION Grace Notes
Go Now in Peace Natalie Sleeth

***POSTLUDE**

J. Noel Lance

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

Copies of worship bulletins are available on the St. John’s website: stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Best

This morning, we welcome Brittany Harrington, a soloist from Opera Carolina, who will be joining our chancel choir as we present “Sunday Best” in worship. This song is from the recently composed opera *I Dream* which is about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We are one of eight churches who will have performed this song “Sunday Best” as part of the Singing Sundays project coordinated by Kevin Gray in conjunction with Opera Carolina. See this week’s Family News for more information on the opera and its local performances later this month.

2018 Community & State Mission Offering

Received \$2,804 - This year, our gifts are set aside to impact lives locally in three ways: our efforts of peacebuilding through Habitat for Humanity; our partnership with Loaves and Fishes to feed our neighbors; and our partnership with North Carolina Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to expand efforts of ministry among college and university students in metro Charlotte.

Church Conference and Luncheon

Our Church Council has scheduled a Church Conference for Sunday, May 20, following worship. A report from our Investing in the Future Task Force will be on the agenda. Lunch menu will be fried chicken, green beans, macaroni & cheese, and dessert. The cost will be \$10/adult and \$6/children under 12. Please email or call Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office to make your reservation by Wednesday, May 16 (jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org or 704.333.5428, ext. 11).

Open Table: Intergenerational Evenings with Purposeful Play

Our next dinner will be on Wednesday, May 23. Please email or call Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office to make your reservation (jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org or 704.333.5428, ext. 11). Meal costs will be \$10/adults and \$6/child under 12 with a maximum of \$30 per household. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:50 and will continue to be served until 6:30. We will gather in Broach Hall and dismiss by 7:00 pm. All generations will be together for this time as we enjoy intergenerational table games, storytelling, conversations, etc.



VBS Volunteers – Register or Volunteer Today!

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

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. To volunteer, contact Allison Benfield. VBS can't happen without you!

Men’s Softball

The season will begin in early June. All games are played on weeknights at Providence Baptist Church. Please let Lee Gray know if you are interested in playing. We are looking for a few new players as several of our regulars have moved out of town.

Youth

- **May 6** – Youth Banquet 5:00-8:00 pm - Come dressed as any villain of your choice - pirate, Viking, rogue, or get creative in who you consider to be a villain. We will have blow-up sumo suits and wrestling mat, as well as an inflatable pedestal joust. Dinner from Mert’s Heart and Soul.
- **May 13** – No youth activities (Mother’s Day)
- **May 20** – Paintball after church until 4:00 pm

St. John’s Baptist Church
300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 - www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John’s Pulpit

May 6 – Seventh Sunday in Eastertide
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Sermon Series: *Adapting to God’s Light: New Ways of Seeing*
Sermon: *Home Making?*
Scripture: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; John 6:66-69

This Week at St. John’s

Sunday, May 6	8:00 am	Stewardship Resource Team (Conference Room)	
	9:00 am	5 th /6 th Grade Discipleship (Room 305)	
	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)	
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)	
	1:00 pm	South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)	
Monday, May 7	5:00 pm	Youth Banquet (Broach Hall)	
	11:45 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)	
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men’s Basketball (Gym)	
	6:00 pm	Safety & Security Task Force (Conference Room)	
	6:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)	
Tuesday, May 8	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)	
	6:30 am	Primary Election (Broach Hall)	
	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men’s Group (Lounge)	
	10:00 am	Staff meeting (Conference Room)	
	11:00 am	Bible Workbench (Room 209)	
	1:00 pm	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)	
	6:00 pm	NAMI Support Groups (Room 114 & 116)	
	Wed., May 9	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
		9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
		12:00 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
Thurs., May 10	6:00 pm	Handbells (Handbell Room)	
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)	
	6:00 pm	Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)	
	6:00 pm	Women of the Church Board (Lounge)	
	6:30 pm	Charlotte Nets AAU (Gym)	
Friday, May 11	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	
	10:00 am	Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)	
Saturday, May 12	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)	
	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)	
	9:30 am	Kids Basketball (Gym)	

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

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

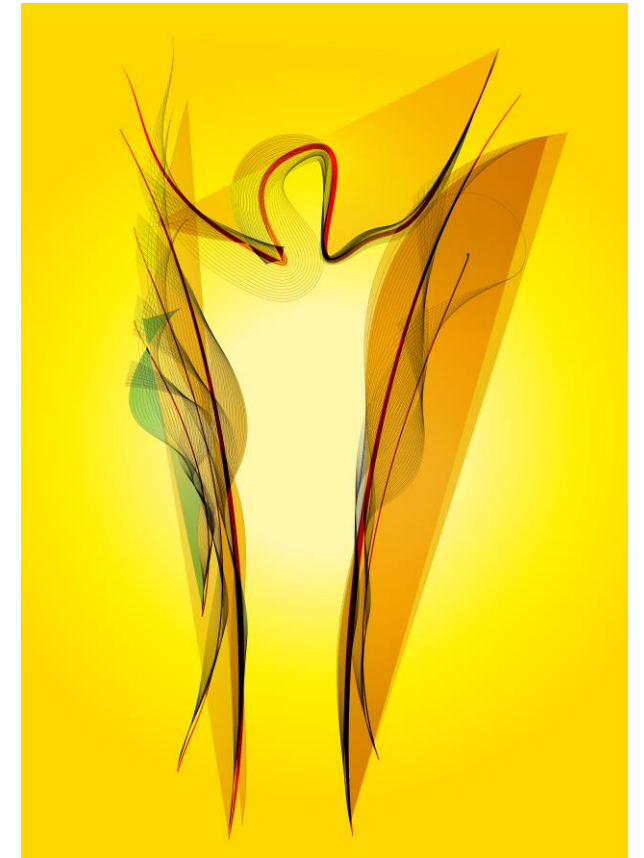
Equipping Ministers

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

Church Staff

Administrative Assistant.....	Jacquelyn McAbee
Church Accountant.....	Elaine Johnson
Church Administrator.....	Sandra Rogers
Custodians.....	Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon
Graded Choirs Director.....	Anna Ball
Organist.....	J. Noel Lance
Weekday School Director.....	Lydia Olmsted

The Worship of God



Sixth Sunday in Eastertide

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

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