

Praise to the Lord Who Hears Our Cry

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 Rev. Allison Benfield
- PRAYER OF LAMENT J. Kevin Gray

ONE: God, these days feel so heavy sometimes.
ALL: It seems like every time we turn on the news, there is another story that makes our hearts break. And every time we look at our newsfeeds, there's word of some new crisis.
 ONE: People are suffering from poverty and hunger, people are having to leave their homes to find safety, people are abusing their power and wealth, people refuse to listen and talk with one another when they have different opinions, people decide that it is okay to kill one another for any number of reasons, people are ruining the world that You created.
ALL: The world seems filled with anger, violence, and hatred. Sometimes it's hard to recognize the good world You created because we see so much brokenness.
 ONE: We feel lost and helpless to do anything about all of the hurt and brokenness we see. Sometimes we feel like we are living in exile—unable to return to the good world You gave to us. We wonder if the world will ever become good and whole again.
ALL: But we know that You are with us in every place and in every situation and that gives us hope, even when things seem very bad. Help us to see You in the midst of all things. Amen.

*HYMN O God, Our Help in Ages Past
 Chalice Hymnal No. 67, verses 1, 2 & 6 ST. ANNE

READING OF THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Jane Winn
 Psalm 137:1-4

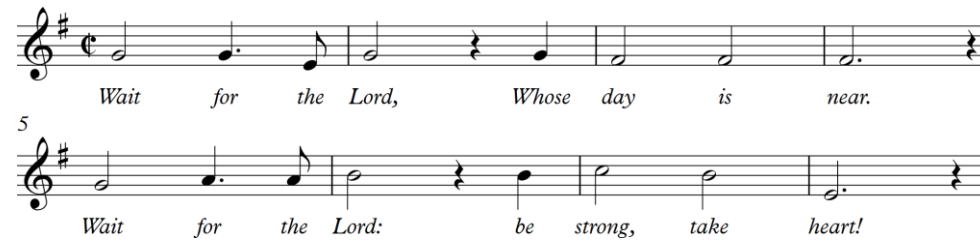


By the rivers of Babylon there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!' How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?

ONE: This is the written word of God for the people of God.
ALL: Thanks be to God!

SONG OF RESPONSE Wait for the Lord

Congregation sings when cued



THE CHURCH AT PRAYER Rev. 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

Joe Ehrenberger – Asbury; Martha Brown, Nancy Burgess, Genice Harper, Johnnie Morcock, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson & Dee Turner - home

SONG OF RESPONSE Congregation



God Is With Us Wherever We Go

THE STORY God Was There, Too Rev. Benfield



*HYMN I've Got Peace Like a River

Chalice Hymnal No. 530 PEACE LIKE A RIVER

OFFERTORY PRAYER Russell Norris, Deacon

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY Chancel Choir

If Ye Love Me Thomas Tallis

*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.

*CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE Rev. Benfield

*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH Rev. Benfield

*POSTLUDE J. Noel Lance

*Invites the congregation to stand.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Naturalization Workshop Ministry Opportunities!

Todd Stillerman has been working through the Bank of America Legal Department with the Latin America Coalition to staff naturalization workshops in Mecklenburg County. These workshops provide free legal advice to immigrants with permanent resident status on how to fill out their N-400 forms to apply for naturalized U.S. citizenship. One of these workshops will be held in Broach Hall on Saturday, July 14, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please consider being involved in this important ministry to members of our community who are seeking to become naturalized citizens! Contact Beverly Hester (beverlyrhester@earthlink.net) or Todd Stillerman (todd.stillerman@bankofamerica.com) to volunteer.

Stories to Help Us Grow: *For the Bible Tells Us So*

From June 10-August 19, we will have an Intergenerational Summer Sunday School in Lasater Hall. We'll gather together and learn about some of the most important stories of our faith. During these weeks, this will be the only option for families with children during the Sunday School hour. (We will offer worship care for the Nursery/2s Class and the PreK/K Class from 10:15-11:30 each week of Summer Sunday School.) Come join the circle as we wonder together about the stories of faith! These stories will continue in worship each week.

Global Missions Offering

Goal - \$15,000—Received \$6,895

During this year's offering, we are hoping to raise \$15,000 (send checks to St. John's and write "The Nyarweng School" on the memo line) AND we want to send a backpack to Nyarweng full of goodwill in the form of letters and art. Members of all ages are asked to address the letters to a young or older child or to a teacher or parent. Share a piece of yourselves in your letter, perhaps even a picture of your family. Remember that these people have heard of you and St. John's, and they pray for you when they worship on Sundays in the school.

Summer Reading List

The Farside Sunday School class has put together their annual summer reading list. Pick up a copy in the church office or library and enjoy a good book this summer!

2018 Charlotte Pride

Save the dates! This year's Festival is Saturday-Sunday, August 18-19, with the 2018 Bank of America Charlotte Pride Parade starting at 1 pm on Sunday, August 19. St. John's will host the Pride Interfaith Service on Sunday, August 12, at 4 pm. If you would like to volunteer to do more than march in the parade, e-mail Todd Stillerman at stillerman@gmail.com or text Mattie Stillerman at 704-362-6743.

Heritage Resource Team

It is hard to believe that in less than 4 years, St. John's will be 100 years old. If you are interested in helping plan our celebration by being a member of the Heritage Resource Team, please contact Fredda Kimball or Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office.

Men's Softball

This week's games are Monday, 7/9 at 7:15 pm vs PBC White and Thursday, 7/12 at 7:15 pm vs PBC Blue. All games are played at Providence Baptist Church (4921 Randolph Road).

St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 - www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

Sunday, July 15 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon Series: Stories to Help Us Grow: *For the Bible Tells Us So*

Homily: *Where Good Originates*

Scripture: Luke 1:26-35; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:43-46

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, July 8	9:15 am	Summer Sunday School (Lasater Hall/Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Monday, July 9	6:00 pm	Freedom School Family Night (Lasater Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lounge)
Tuesday, July 10	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
	10:00 am	Staff meeting (Conference Room)
	1:00 pm	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
	6:00 pm	NAMI Support Groups Room 114 & 116)
	6:30 pm	Elizabeth Community Association (Broach Hall)
	6:30 pm	Youth Resource Team (Lounge)
Wed., July 11	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Women of the Church Board meeting (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	6:00 pm	Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)
	6:30 pm	Leadership Task Force (Broach Hall)
Friday, July 13	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, July 14	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Kids Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Naturalization Workshop (Broach Hall)

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

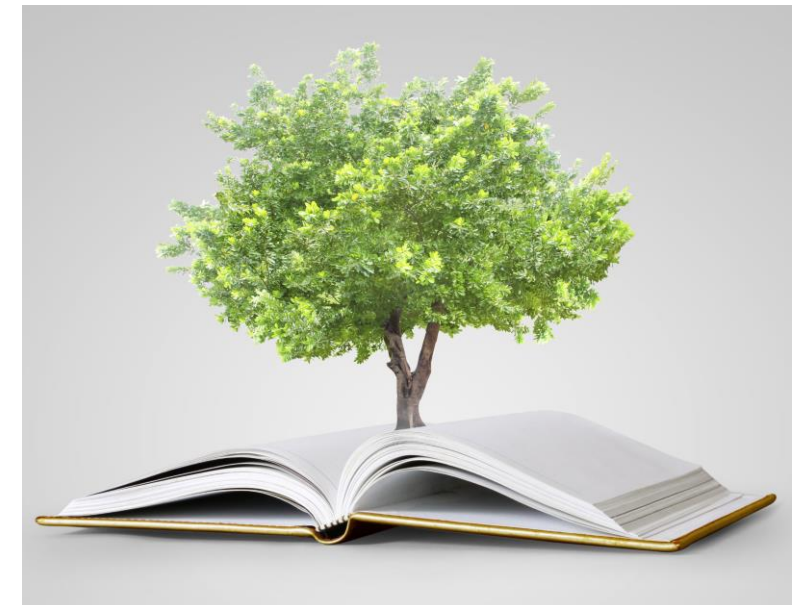
Equipping Ministers

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

Church Administrator Jacquelyn McAbee
Custodians Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon
Graded Choir Director..... Anna Ball
Organist..... J. Noel Lance
Weekday School Director..... Lydia Olmsted

The Worship of God



Stories to Help Us Grow:
For the Bible Tells Us So

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA