

# Praise the Lord, Creator of All

Please turn off all electronic devices

INTROIT J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Lee Gray

\*EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP Congregation

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Rev. Gray

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Musical Call to Worship** South Sudanese Worship Community  
*Happy Day*

**Spoken** Rev. Allison Benfield  
ONE: God calls us to a feast!  
**ALL: The table is set, and we come from east and west, from north and south to sit at Christ’s table.**  
ONE: Compassion, love, and grace are poured out like fine wine.  
**ALL: We come to share Your stories and Your story Lord; to share our hope and our pain, to share our wisdom and our laughter. The table is set, so come let us worship God together!**

*-written by Rev. Teri Peterson*

\*HYMN OF PRAISE O God, Our Hope in Ages Past  
Chalice Hymnal No. 67, verses 1, 4-6 ST. ANNE

# Speak to Us, O Lord

READING FROM THE EPISTLE Phil Vavra  
Hebrews 1:1-3a; 2:10-18, The Message

Going through a long line of prophets, God has been addressing our ancestors in different ways for centuries. Recently he spoke to us directly through his Son. By his Son, God created the world in the beginning, and it will all belong to the Son at the end. This Son perfectly mirrors God, and is stamped with God’s nature. He holds everything together by what he says—powerful words!; It makes good sense that the God who got everything started and keeps everything going now completes the work by making the Salvation Pioneer perfect through suffering as he leads all these people to glory. Since the One who saves and those who are saved have a common origin, Jesus doesn’t hesitate to treat them as family, saying, I’ll tell my good friends, my brothers and sisters, all I know about you; I’ll join them in worship and praise to you. Again, he puts himself in the same family circle when he says, Even *I* live by placing my trust in God. And yet again, I’m here with the children God gave me. Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it’s logical that the Savior took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by his death. By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil’s hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death. It’s obvious, of course, that he didn’t go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That’s why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people’s sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed.

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

# Accept Our Gifts and Prayers, O Lord

ANTHEM Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and Youth Choir  
*Bwana Awabariki* arr. Susan T. Nelson, Traditional Swahili

Bwana awabariki, bwana awabariki, bwana awabariki milele.  
*May God grant you a blessing evermore.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER Randy Mahnesmith, Deacon

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.

\*HYMN OF COMMUNITY Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race  
Chalice Hymnal No. 485 ST. ANNE

# Communion

COMMUNION PRAYER Moses Joknhial

ONE: Jesus prayed that we might be one.  
**ALL: One in Spirit, one in mission, in union and communion with each other and with You, Oh, Lord.**

ONE: Today, God, we confess fumbings and failures and in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of this task.

**ALL: On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize Your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere.**

ONE: Give us minds to accept and celebrate our differences.  
**ALL: Give us hearts big enough to love Your children everywhere. We thank You for setting a table with space enough for us all! Amen.**

*-from the Africana Worship Book, Year B*

COMMUNION ANTHEM Chancel Choir  
*O Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* J. Kevin Gray

O Jesus Christ, be present now in these your gifts of wine and bread. Reveal the mystery in part, make right our hearts as we are fed. For now as in the upper room, we gather ‘round the table spread. We pass the cup and eat the bread and celebrate the meal to come. O Lamb of God, who takes our sin, forgives and makes us whole again, we lift our voice in praise of you and sing as choirs of angels do. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty. O Jesus Christ, be present now in these your gifts of wine and bread. Reveal the mystery in part, make right our hearts as we are fed.

*This anthem was inspired by Kevin’s time at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music Worship Conference.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

CHRIST’S CHURCH IS SERVED COMMUNION

SERVING THE BREAD Rev. Gray  
1 Corinthians 11:23-24

SERVING THE CUP Rev. Benfield  
1 Corinthians 11:25-26

MESSAGE *One Father-Many Children* Dr. Foust

PRESENTATION OF GLOBAL MISSION OFFERING Kevin Lynch to James Lubo Majak

\*HYMN OF JOYFUL DISCIPLESHIP There’s Within My Heart a Melody  
Chalice Hymnal No. 550 SWEETEST NAME

# Covenant

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS Todd Stillerman

*Micah “Benji” Furlong, Jane Murray, Joe Trull*

READING OF THE CHURCH COVENANT

United in the faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, revealed in history, disclosed in the Scriptures, and experienced in human life, we do solemnly and joyfully make this Covenant together:

We will be faithful to the public worship of God, gathering with the family of the church to celebrate His glory and remember His grace.

We will take seriously the responsibility and privilege of personal Christian growth, diligently seeking to establish and maintain a Christian atmosphere in our homes.

We will love and encourage each other in the family of the Church, and admonish each other as occasion may require. Our differences will not separate us but rather increase our understanding and strengthen the bonds of Christian love.

We will be faithful stewards, as God has prospered us, contributing our financial support for the Church and its ministries and offering ourselves for God’s work in the world.

We will, with God’s help, so live our lives that others, seeing the joy of Christian living, may seek to know Jesus Christ our Lord.

We will be a servant Church, recognizing the infinite worth of every person and believing that Christ has called us to active involvement in behalf of human brotherhood. In the spirit of this covenant, we pray together:

*Almighty God, Father of us all, witness this Covenant which we make with each other and with Thee. Guide us as we try to do that which pleases Thee, to the glory of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

\*THE LORD’S PRAYER The Lord’s Prayer  
Chalice Hymnal No. 307 Albert Malotte

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.

\*POSTLUDE J. Noel Lance

*As you depart the sanctuary, our deacons will be at the exits to receive your gifts to the Fellowship Fund. These funds are used to assist with crisis ministry needs among our church family. If you know of someone who is experiencing a crisis, please contact a ministry staff member.*

*\*Invites the congregation to stand.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Undie Sundays**

We will be collecting new underwear to be distributed to our Room in the Inn program, Hope Chapel and Charlotte Rescue Mission. Items needed are athletic socks, boxer shorts, and t-shirts. Sizes most needed are medium and large. On each of the Sundays in October, containers will be at both the Main Entrance and Broach Hall entrance.

**CROP Walk**

The 40th Annual Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk is Saturday, October 13 at Independence Park. Registration is at 8:00AM and the walk begins at 9:00AM. You can be a part of helping end hunger in Charlotte by walking with us. Contact Lee Gray at lgray@sjcharlotte.org or Mallory Brown in the office at mbrown@sjcharlotte.org for more information.

**Connection Sunday**

Between Sunday, October 7 and October 14, we will focus on connecting with one another and our community. We are encouraging each St. John's household to contact at least three other St. John's households. Catch up with how they are doing; what is new in their life; what did they do over the summer? Then, on Sunday, October 14, bring one canned good or non-perishable food item to worship with you. As you enter the sanctuary, place your items on or around the Communion Table.

**Open Table**

The next Open Table gathering will be on Wednesday, October 24 in Broach Hall. The menu will be announced later in the month. We hope that you all plan to attend this time around the table for conversation, fun, and, of course, good food.

**Craft & Bake Sale**

Sunday, October 21 - Sponsored by The Craft & Needle Ministry. We need your help to donate handmade crafts and baked goods! All proceeds will be used to reduce hunger in the Charlotte region! Contact Ruth Jackson or the church office to volunteer or for more information.

**Ehrenberger Service**

The service for Joe Ehrenberger was rescheduled to Saturday, October 27 at 11am in Ray Chapel at Aldersgate.

**Women of the Church Retreat**

Join us Saturday, November 3, from 9am-3pm with Rev. Barbara Boyd Mayo for fellowship, learning, meditation and worship. The title of our retreat is: *Come to the Well*. We will retreat at Ramah Creek Farm in Huntersville. The cost is \$30 for all meals, snacks, and materials. Make checks payable to SJBC with "Retreat" in the memo line.

**Children's Sunday**

On November 4, our children will be leading us in worship during the regular worship time. Their regular attendance in October will help us be ready for this special Sunday. Allison will be asking children to volunteer to lead different parts of worship beginning this week. Please plan on attending this special time of worship as we both celebrate and learn from children.

Copies of worship bulletins and sermon manuscripts are available on the St. John's website: [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org).

**St. John's Baptist Church**

300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204  
704.333.5428 - [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

**The St. John's Pulpit**

Sunday, October 14 – Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
Sermon Series: The Love that Christ Revealed  
Message: *Created for Connection*  
Scripture: Hebrews 4:12-16

**This Week at St. John's**

Sunday, Oct. 7	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	9:15 am	Parent Seminar (Chapel)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:30 am	Lunch with Lubo Majak (Broach Hall)
	1:00 pm	South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
	5:00 pm	Sunday Night Live
Monday, Oct. 8	11:30 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
	5:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	6:30 pm	Administrative Deacon Panel (Lounge)
	6:30 pm	Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Oct. 9	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	11:00 am	Bible Work Bench (Room 209)
	12:00 pm	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
	5:30 pm	Right Moves for Youth (Broach Hall)
	5:45 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Lasater Hall)
	6:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
Wed., Oct. 10	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	6:00 pm	Handbells (Handbell Room)
	6:30 pm	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, Oct. 11	10:00 am	Craft and Needles Ministry (Room 209)
	5:30 pm	WDS Board Meeting (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	Memory Center Charlotte (Broach Hall)
	7:30 pm	CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)
Friday, Oct. 12	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Oct. 13	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:00 am	CROP Walk (Independence Park)
	4:00 pm	South Sudanese Gathering (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.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**Church Staff**

Administrative Assistant.....Mallory Brown  
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



World Communion Sunday

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA