

Yea, Lord, We Greet Thee, Born for Our Salvation

INTROIT J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Martha Kearse
& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP Congregation

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Rev. Kearse

***ADVENT PROCESSIONAL** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE** Kaylin Spence

John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:9-10, 16

LEADER: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

PEOPLE: Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

LEADER: God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

PEOPLE: In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

ALL: So we have known and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Thanks be to God!

***HYMN OF PRAISE** O Come, All Ye Faithful
Chalice Hymnal No. 148 ADESTE FIDELES

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Genesis 32:24-30

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."



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

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

SONG OF RESPONSE J. Kevin Gray

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting. God alone fills us.

READING OF THE GOSPEL John 1:10-13 Jim Keesece



He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

***SONG OF RESPONSE** What Child Is This
Chalice Hymnal No. 162 GREENSLEEVES

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

Laura Elam - Mercy; Maggie Bond, James Carnes, Tucker Hicks,
Melissa Nash, Constatin Secere & Jody Thomas - home
Sympathy to Doris Tedder in the death of husband Walt

Word of the Father, Now in Flesh Appearing

CHORAL ANTHEM Chancel Choir
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Michael A. Miller



Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing is His hand Christ our God to earth descending, our full homage to demand.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of Lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood. He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spread its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord Most High!"

*This arrangement was written for St. John's Baptist Church
Chancel Choir in December 2014.*

SERMON Dr. Foust

"The Unfamiliar God"

O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT** Have the Mind That Was in Jesus
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette BEACH SPRING

Have the mind that was in Jesus; let His way be found in you.
For He gave up what was precious—heaven's blessings—glory, too.
He was one with God in heaven yet put heaven's joy aside.
May we, too, give up ambition, letting Jesus be our guide.

Christ our Lord knelt down to save us; then God raised Him high above,
So that at the name of Jesus all should know His wondrous love.
One day all will bow before Him. "He is Lord!" we'll all proclaim.
Till that time, may we all serve Him—serving others in His name.

OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Kearse

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY J. Noel Lance

***PRESENTATION** ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
Christ the Lord.

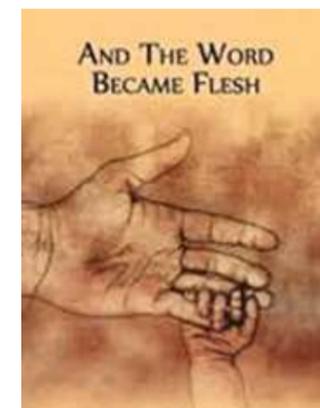
***CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY** Dr. Foust

***COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH**

***POSTLUDE** J. Noel Lance

** Invites the congregation to stand.*

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sowing Seeds for Next Year's Harvest

Budget Pledge Report: Amount Received: \$794,570 - Commitments Received: 178
 If you have not turned in your Pledge Card to the church office, please do so as soon as possible.

Christmas Eve - Adjusted Time for 2016

At 1 pm, on Christmas Eve Saturday, the Panthers host the Atlanta Falcons. Between 4 and 5 o'clock, the post-game traffic will be heavy in our Uptown/Center City area. So, we have moved our Christmas Eve Candlelight, Carols and Communion to 6:00 this year. Pack a pew!

Christmas Day and New Year's Day

On Sundays, December 25 and January 1, we will gather for worship only at 10:30 am; NO Sunday School Ministry groups or worship care. Wear your holiday sweaters!

Charlotte Lessons & Carols from St. John's

If you missed WDAV's live holiday broadcast, or would just like to listen to it again, tune into WDAV 89.9FM on Christmas Day (Sunday) at 11:00 am.

Trim Your Tree!

Christmas ornaments commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Sanctuary are available for purchase for \$10 in the church office. They would make wonderful Christmas gifts!

Cuba Report on January 8th

On Sunday, January 8, we invite you to join us after worship for lunch in Broach Hall and a report from the Cuba Team (Lia Benton, Steven and Kimberly Follis, Jimmy Kimball, Lydia Olmsted and Martha Kears) about our experiences in Cuba, the potential "sister" church in Zulueta, and the work of Baptists going on in Cuba today. Cost for lunch will be \$10/adult and \$5/child with no reservations necessary. Plan on joining us for this chance to hear about the exciting relationship we are building with our brothers and sisters (hermanos y hermanas) in Cuba!

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



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

The St. John's Pulpit

December 25 - Christmas Day
 Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
 Homily: *Seeing the Baby*
 Scripture: John 1:14`

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, Dec. 18	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Monday, Dec. 19	10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Tuesday, Dec. 20	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
	10:00 am	HeadStart parents meeting (Room 114)
	11:00 am	Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)
	5:15 pm	Men's Basketball (Gym)
	6:00 pm	Zumba class (Lasater Hall)
	6:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
Wed., Dec. 21	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga Class (Room 114)
	1:00 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Friday, Dec. 23	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, Dec. 24	10:00 am	Communion Task Force (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

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 Kears
 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
 Custodian.....Chris Mullis
 Graded Choirs Director.....Sandy Holland
 Organist.....J. Noel Lance
 Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted

The Worship of God



Candle of Love

Fourth Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA