

Praise the Lord, Who is Our Refuge

INTROIT	Chip Mays
WORDS OF GREETING	Rev. Allison Benfield
*EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP	Congregation
PRAYER OF SUBMISSION	Rev. Benfield
CALL TO WORSHIP	Rev. Benfield

LEADER: In classrooms, in boardrooms, in homes and in public spaces,
PEOPLE: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
LEADER: Therefore, we fear neither governments, nor corporations; we fear
neither illness, nor death,
PEOPLE: For the Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress.
LEADER: Come and see what the Lord has done,
ALL: For the Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress.

*HYMN OF PRAISE A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Chalice Hymnal No. 65, verses 1, 3 & 4 EIN' FESTE BURG

SACRED PAUSE

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD
BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM
BE STILL AND KNOW
BE STILL
BE

Communion



INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE	Rev. Lee Gray
CHRIST'S CHURCH IS SERVED COMMUNION	
COMMUNION ANTHEM <i>Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now</i>	Chancel Choir William Byrd
SERVING THE BREAD 1 st Corinthians 11:23-24	J. Kevin Gray
SERVING THE CUP 1 st Corinthians 11:25-26	Rev. Martha Kearse, DMin
HYMN OF RESPONSE Chalice Hymnal No. 426	The Voice of Jesus Calls His People THE VOICE OF JESUS

Accept Our Gifts and Prayers, O Lord

OFFERTORY PRAYER	Rev. Benfield
WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD	
OFFERTORY ANTHEM <i>God is Our Strong Salvation</i>	Chancel Choir A.C. Lovelace

God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear?
In peril and temptation my light, my help, is near.
Though hosts encamp around me, firm to the fight I stand;
what terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance; my soul, with courage wait;
God's truth be thine affiance, when faint and desolate.
God's might thy heart shall strengthen, God's love thy joy increase;
mercy thy days shall lengthen; the Lord will give thee peace.

*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.

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER Rev. Gray

Speak to Us, O Lord

READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS Acts 9:1-8 Ryan Crowder

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

LEADER: This is the written word of God for the people of God.
PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!



SERMON	<i>Answer Boldly</i>	Dr. Kearse
*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP Chalice Hymnal No. 337, verses 1, 2 & 4	Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult GALILEE	
*CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY		Dr. Kearse
PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS – Matt Collins		Fredda Kimball

Covenant

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.

*PRAYER AND 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.

*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH Dr. Kearse
As you depart the sanctuary today, 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.

*POSTLUDE Chip Mays

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pentecost/High School Senior Recognition

During worship on Sunday, June 4, we will celebrate Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of Jesus, and also recognize 2 high school seniors.

Road Construction

From May 17 to June 30, Hawthorne Lane between 5th Street and 7th Street will be closed to all thru traffic (local access only). Also, be advised that the intersection of Hawthorne Lane and East 7th Street will be closed from May 24 to June 19. You should use the entrances on 5th Street and Lamar Avenue to get to the church parking lots. Please remember to be extra cautious in the parking lot!

St. John's 101

The Membership Resource Team is pleased to offer the St John's 101 course to guests, prospective members, and current members who just want a refresher. Classes will continue on June 4 and 11 in the church lounge at 9:15 am.

2017 State & Community Offering

Received \$2820 - Goal: \$5000

To meet the MT 25 challenge our 2017 State and Community Offering will be given to the Galilee Refugee Support Center, Sewing Seeds, and Center for Community Transitions.

Discerning Our Call: Identity and Purpose Through a Life of Faith

Our Summer Sunday School Series begins June 11 in Lasater Hall. Any Sunday School class is welcome to invite their members to come directly to Lasater each Sunday between June 11 and August 20. Each week, we will explore one story from scripture or from church history and hear from one of our partner organizations about the work that they do, offering each of us a chance to discern, for ourselves, what call we hear God making on our own lives. Every lesson will be a "stand-alone" topic, so come any week you wish! Our coffee shop will be open this summer with pastries and other goodies available, along with our good Enderly Coffee. Join us this summer as we listen for the call of God!

Vacation Bible School

Have you registered for VBS yet? Do your children have friends who would enjoy the most awesome week of VBS Charlotte has to offer? Help us spread the word! Invite your friends and post about it on social media! This year, VBS is June 12-16 from 9am-noon each day, and we'll be exploring the story of Joseph from the Old Testament through art. VBS is for children aged 4 (by June 1) - rising 6th Graders. To register, visit: <https://stjohns-stmartins vbs2017.eventbrite.com>.

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

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

Prayer Concerns

Jim Austin - Westminster Towers Rehab; Byron Bullard, Libby Collier, Ethel Harris, Carmen Howard, Deacon Jones, Dana Packman, Tish Philemon, Carl Phillips, and Elma Thomas - home
 Sympathy to Debbie Pittman on the death of her father, Richard Creed
 Sympathy to the family of James Carnes - memorial service to celebrate his life and ministry is scheduled for Friday, June 4, at 2 pm

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
 300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
 704.333.5428 - www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

THE ST. JOHN'S PULPIT

June 4 – Pentecost Sunday
 Proclaimer: Rev. Lee Gray
 Sermon: *Renewal and New Beginnings*
 Scripture: Acts 2:1-8; John 20:19-22

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, May 28	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
Monday, May 29		Church offices closed – Memorial Day
	5:15 pm	Men's Basketball (Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Tuesday, May 30	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
	11:00 am	Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)
	4:45 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	5:30 pm	Queen City Unlimited AAU (Gym)
	6:00 pm	Zumba class (Lasater Hall)
Wed., May 31	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga Class (Room 114)
	5:45 pm	Women of the Church planning (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Guard U (Gym)
	6:15 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Room)
	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, June 1	10:00 am	Unity Coalition (Lounge)
	4:00 pm	Queen City Unlimited AAU (Gym)
	6:00 pm	Zumba Class (Lasater Hall)
Friday, June 2	4:30 pm	Moore/Duskin wedding rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, June 3	7:00 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Kids' Basketball (Gym)
	5:00 pm	Moore/Duskin wedding (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 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
 Custodians.....James Cowan, James Lee, Chris Mullis
 Graded Choirs Director.....Sandy Holland
 Organist.....J. Noel Lance
 Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted

The Worship of God



Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 28, 2017

10:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary

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