

You Are Our God and We Are Your People

Please turn off all electronic devices

PRELUDE	J. Noel Lance
WORDS OF GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE	J. Kevin Gray
EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP	Congregation
PRAYER OF SUBMISSION	J. Kevin Gray
CALL TO WORSHIP	Rev. Allison Benfield

LEADER: O God, who is known yet mysterious unto Your people,
PEOPLE: Help us to remain steadfast along our faith journey and true even in the midst of our doubt.
LEADER: You have revealed yourself as love in the form of Christ, who taught us how to live trusting in Your will and way.
ALL: Let us, like Christ, pray for the strength to trust and to move though this world knowing that You are the north star that guides our way.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Chalice Hymnal No. 66, verses 1 & 2 ST. DENIO

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Cathy Doheny
Proverbs 8:22-31



“The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.

Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth— when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world’s first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command,

when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker;

and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways.”

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

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF RESPONSE
Chalice Hymnal No. 556, verses 1 & 3

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER Rev. Benfield

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

Ethel Harris – Mayo Clinic; Jim Austin, Byron Bullard,
Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones, Jane Starnes & Elma Thomas - home

Help Us to Believe

A TELLING OF THE GOSPEL John 3:1-15 Rev. Benfield



Jesus and Nicodemus by Henry Ossawa Tanner

SONG OF RESPONSE J. Kevin Gray
What Do I Know Sara Groves

I have a friend who just turned eighty-eight, and she just shared with me that she's afraid of dying. I sit here years from her experience and try to bring her comfort. I try to bring her comfort, but what do I know? What do I know?

She grew up singing about the glory land, and she would testify how Jesus changed her life. It was easy to have faith when she was thirty-four, but now her friends are dying, and death is at her door. Oh, and what do I know? Really, what do I know?

Chorus:

I don't know that there are harps in heaven or the process for earning your wings. I don't know of bright lights at the ends of tunnels or any of those things.

She lost her husband after sixty years, and as he slipped away she still had things to say. Death can be so inconvenient. You try to live and love. It comes and interrupts. And what do I know? What do I know?

Chorus

But I know to be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord, and from what I know of him, that must be pretty good. Oh, I know to be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord, and from what I know of him, that must be very good.

Trust and Obey
TRUST AND OBEY

SERMON Rev. Martha Kearse, DMin
 $A^2+B^2=C^2$

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT** God is Here!
Chalice Hymnal No. 280, verses 1 & 4 ABBOTT'S LEIGH

Trusting in God, We Go Forth

OFFERTORY PRAYER Dr. Kearse

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Chancel Choir
I Will Arise Arr. Susan Byler

I will arise and go to Jesus.
He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior,
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity, love and power.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.

***DOXOLOGY** OLD HUNDREDTH
Chalice Hymnal No. 46

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** Dr. Kearse

***COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH**

***POSTLUDE** J. Noel Lance
Rigaudon Andre Campra

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. John's Pulpit Summer Series

Ten Commandments for the Twenty-First Century: The Calling of Wisdom

July 2 *A Rose, By Any Other Name* - Martha Kears

3rd Commandment: Wrongful Use of the Name

July 9 *You Are Not a Robot* - Dennis Foust

4th Commandment: Sabbath

July 16 *Live Long and Prosper* - Martha Kears

5th Commandment: Honor Your Parents

July 23 *Choosing Life* - Dennis Foust

6th Commandment: Murder

July 30 *Thou Shalt Commit Commitment* - Dennis Foust

7th Commandment: Adultery

August 6 *Thief* - Martha Kears

8th Commandment: Steal

August 13 *Southern Gentle Lady, Be Good* - Martha Kears

9th Commandment: False Witness

August 20 *Craving Simplicity* - Dennis Foust

10th Commandment: Covet

August 27 *Our Sweet Husband* - Martha Kears

Love the Lord with heart soul mind & strength

Sept. 3 *Labor of Love* - Dennis Foust

Love One Another

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

Next Sunday: Hearing Our Name: Levi/Discernment Exercise

Our Summer Sunday School Series runs through August 20 in Lasater Hall. 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.

Holy Spirits

Join us for conversation and discussion on our summer worship series at Hawthorne's Pizza. The next one will be this Tuesday, June 27, at 7 pm. Hawthorne's Pizza is located at 1701 E. 7th Street.

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 closing of the intersection of Hawthorne Lane and East 7th Street has been extended until June 30. 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!

2017 State & Community Offering

Received \$3480 - Goal: \$5000

To meet the MT25 challenge our 2017 State and Community Offering will be given to the Galilee Refugee Support Center, Sowing Seeds, and Center for Community Transitions.

Summer Softball

All games will be played at Providence Baptist Church, 4921 Randolph Road Come out and support the team! This week's games: Tuesday 6/27 at 7:15 pm vs PBC Grey; Thursday 6/29 at 7:15 pm vs St. Gabriel

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

MT25

Over the summer, we will have a representative from the Mission Resource Team each Sunday at our Summer Sunday School series in Lasater Hall and available in the Main Entrance lobby after worship to give you a chance to sign up. Information will be available each Sunday on what each group is doing over the summer, and who your contact people will be for each group. Watch for your chance to connect!

St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

704.333.5428 - www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

July 2 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Proclaimer: Rev. Martha Kears, DMin

Sermon: *A Rose, By Any Other Name*

Scripture: Exodus 20:7, Proverbs 8:4-11, Matthew 16:13-20, Acts 17:23

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, June 25	8:45 am	Called All Deacons' Meeting (Chapel)
	9:15 am	Summer Sunday School (Lasater Hall/Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Monday, June 26	11:00 am	Staff meeting (Conference Room)
	5:00 pm	Freedom School Family Night (Lasater Hall)
	6:15 pm	Administrative Deacon Panel (Lounge)
	6:45 pm	Zumba (Gym)
Tuesday, June 27	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	11:00 am	Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)
	6:00 pm	Zumba class (Gym)
	7:00 pm	Holy Spirits (Hawthorne's Pizza)
Wed., June 28	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Guard U (Gym)
	6:00 pm	Women of the Church luncheon planning (Lounge)
Thursday, June 29	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	6:00 pm	Zumba Class (Gym)
Friday, June 30	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, July 1	7:00 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)

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.....Dr. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
 Associate Minister.....Rev. Martha Kears, 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
 Graded Choirs Director.....Sandy Holland
 Weekday School Director..... Lydia Olmsted
 Organist.....J. Noel Lance
 Custodians..... James Cowan, James Lee, Chris Mullis

The Worship of God



Exodus 20:4-6

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

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