

# Praise the Lord Who Gathers Us

Please turn off all electronic devices

**INTROIT** J. Noel Lance

**WORDS OF GREETING  
& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE** J. Kevin Gray

**A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP** Congregation

**PRAYER OF SUBMISSION** Dr. Foust

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**LEADER:** Lord, we pray for You to teach us how to be a servant people.

**PEOPLE:** Give us eyes to see opportunities for ministry and ears to hear the cries of those in need. Amen.

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian  
Chalice Hymnal No. 450 HYFRYDOL

## The Lord Speaks to Us Through Word and Prayer

**READING OF THE GOSPEL** Matthew 16:13-19 Kim Ray



Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

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

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God!

**MOMENT OF MEDITATION** Dr. Foust

**LEADER:** The Kingdom is all around us yet its manifestation can be so small that we can easily miss it. How are you seeing God at work, my fellow followers of Christ?

**Take a moment to contemplate this question as the organ and choir proceed with the musical response.**

**Musical response** Chancel Choir  
*The Peace of God* Eugene Butler

Come, peace of God, and dwell again on earth; come with the calm that hailed thy Prince's birth; come with the healing of thy gentle touch; come, peace of God, that this world needs so much.

Break every weapon forged in fires of hate; turn back the foe that would assail thy gate; where fields of strife lie desolate and bare, take thy sweet flowers of peace and plant them there.

Bring selfish lives from shadowlands of loss into the radiance of the Savior's cross; where in that gift, yet so alone, life finds its brotherhood and love its throne.

Come, blessed peace as when in hush of eve, God's benediction falls on souls who grieve; as shines a star when weary day departs; come, peace of God, and rule within our hearts.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** Dr. Foust

## WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

**OFFERTORY** J. Noel Lance

**\*DOXOLOGY** Chalice Hymnal No. 46 OLD HUNDRETH

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. 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

Bill Finger & Barbara Ledford - Presbyterian  
Byron Bullard, Ethel Harris,  
Carmen Howard, Christa Lynch & Judy Sanford – home  
Sympathy to Becki Vaughn on the death of her mother, Helen Huntley;  
to Janice Coulter on the death of her father and St. John's member, Leon Coulter;  
and to Greg & Shannon Rodden and family on the death of Greg's father

## The Lord Teaches Us How to Serve

**HYMN OF ORDINATION** Called as Partners in Christ's Service  
Chalice Hymnal No. 453, verse 1 BEECHER

**LITANY OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION** Randy Brantley  
Incoming Chair of Deaconate

**LEADER:** Eternal God, as an act of our worship of You on this Lord's Day, we set apart these deacons to be servant leaders in the life and ministry of St. John's Baptist Church.

**PEOPLE:** We thank You for them and ask You to bless them with clarity of vision, breadth of wisdom, and pathways of servant leadership as they guide us in the ways of Jesus.

**DEACONS:** As part of our commitment to God, we dedicate ourselves to pursue the spiritual health and ministry vitality of St. John's, as we devote our lives to leading by example.

**PEOPLE:** As the people of St. John's, we promise to pray for you, co-labor with you, and support your ministry leadership as you invest yourselves in the mission of Christ's Church.

**ALL:** We offer this prayer to God, through Jesus Christ, who is the head of the Church. Amen.

**HOMILY** Dr. Foust  
*Imagine a Church*

**PRAYER OF ORDINATION** Dr. Foust

**ORDINATION** The Congregation

Those seated on the organ side will lay hands on the deacons in your section.  
Those seated on the piano side will lay hands on the deacons in your section.  
Those seated in the center section will lay hands on the deacons in your section.

Deacons Being Ordained  
*Judy Godsey, Chuck Howard, Jeff LeVie,  
Gail Sifford, Laura Sorrell, Lindsay Wilson*

Deacons Previously Ordained Being Installed  
*Jason Benton, Tom Blackmon, Leslie Bragg, Stan Brown,  
Minh Callaway, Teri Franklin, Bert Green, Anna Lynn Kearse,  
Kathy Mahnesmith, Jane Newman, Henry Snyder, Anne Sutton*

**\*HYMN OF MISSION** Go, Celebrate the Call of God  
ALIDA'S TUNE

Go, celebrate the call of God that awakens and renews, and chooses from us, for our good, the bringer of good news. The Spirit's blessing all ordains to show what God has done, yet brings to focus and contains the many in the one.

Great Spirit, give us word and breath in Christ to live and speak, and shield against the powers of death the outcast and the weak, our flag of faith, above defeats, in heaven's breeze unfurled, as all our deepest gladness meets the hunger of the world.

**\*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH** Dr. Foust

**\*POSTLUDE** J. Noel Lance

*\* Invites the congregation to stand*

*Copies of Worship Bulletins and Sermon Manuscripts are available at [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Ordination of Deacons**

Today, we ordain or set apart new deacons to serve among us. The Greek word, ‘diakonos,’ means “servant” or “one who serves a master.” Originally, diakonos meant, “one who stirs up dust by hastening to serve others.” In our life together, as St. John’s, our deacons are to be exemplary servants among us serving all of the servants of St. John’s through three primary functions. First, each and every deacon is expected to care for the members of St. John’s. Some deacons serve on the Pastoral Deacon Panel and are specifically assigned the role of caring for fifteen to twenty member households as a shepherd cares for a flock. Second, each and every deacon is expected to be committed to the administrative areas of St. John’s. Some deacons serve on the Administrative Deacon Panel and are specifically assigned the role of guiding us in areas of Properties and Grounds, Finance, and Personnel. And, third, each and every deacon is expected to be involved in the ministries of St. John’s. Some deacons serve on the Ministries Deacon Panel in specifically assigned roles of planning, organizing, staffing, delegating, coordinating and implementing St. John’s diverse ministries.

**Flood Assistance**

Those persons desiring to send financial assistance to help flood victims in Texas, due to Hurricane Harvey, can give through Baptist World Aid of the Baptist World Alliance. Gifts can be made to St. John's and sent on to Baptist World Aid, online at [www.bwanet.org/online-giving](http://www.bwanet.org/online-giving), or sent directly to Baptist World Aid, c/o Baptist World Alliance, 405 North Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046.

**Youth Kick-off**

Tonight, there will be a youth and parent meeting from 5:00-7:00 pm in Broach Hall to kick off the Sunday evening youth schedule. The meeting will include recreation, dinner, a brief worship service and a time of intergenerational discussion. Please bring \$5 per person to help offset the cost of pizza and pasta from Hawthorne’s.

**Immigration and the Charlotte Community - An Educational Forum**

Monday, September 18, from 6:30-8:00 pm - Join us for a forum on immigration led by Maureen Abell, Staff Attorney with the Immigrant Justice Program of Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont. Light refreshments and drinks will be provided.

**MT25**

On Sunday, September 24, we will officially begin MT25 as our program for service here at St. John’s. After we celebrate worship together, then join your service team for lunch. Lunch will be free and will be served at different places throughout the building. Childcare will be provided by professional care-givers, and older children and youth will be invited to share their ideas first, then go to the gym for some fun inflatable play! Our meetings will finish by 1 pm.

**Faith Journey Book Study**

New year will begin on Monday, September 11, from 11:45 am until 1:00 pm, in room 209, with Chapter 1 of James C. Howell's book, "Yours Are The Hands of Christ." We extend an invitation to any woman who would like to join us as we share together our faith journeys. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Sifford.

**Terrific Tuesday Book Club**

Stop by the church office to pick up a copy of September’s book *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. Then join the discussion on Tuesday, September 26, at 12 noon in the church library.

**Co-Ed Bible WorkBench**

This group will return to their regular Tuesday meetings at 11:00 am in Room 209 on September 12. Men and women are invited to enter and explore various Bible readings, as we share together and connect biblical stories with daily living. Steve and Gearlene Hoffman will facilitate sessions, lastly approximately one hour, from materials that focus on Lectionary Readings.

**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**

September 17 - Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
Sermon: *There Goes the Judge*  
Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35; Romans 14:1-12

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN’S**

Sunday, Sept. 10	8:15 am	Administrative Deacon Panel (Lounge)
	9:15 am	Sunday School/Missions 101 (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship/Deacon Ordination (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Godly Play (Room 221)
	11:30 am	Women of the Church Luncheon (Broach Hall)
	3:30 pm	CROP (Lasater Hall)
	5:00 pm	Youth & Parents meeting (Broach Hall)
Monday, Sept. 11	8:00 am	Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)
	10:30 am	Staff meetings (Conference Room)
	11:45 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
	5:15 pm	Men’s Basketball (Gym)
	6:30 pm	Pastoral Deacon Panel (Lounge)
	6:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	7:00 pm	Belvin classes (Room 114)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Tuesday, Sept. 12	6:30 am	Primary Election (Broach Hall)
	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men’s Group (Lounge)
	11:00 am	Co-ed Bible Study (Room 209)
	1:00 pm	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
	4:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	6:00 pm	Zumba class (Gym)
	6:00 pm	NAMI Support Groups (Rooms 114 & 116)
	6:30 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Lasater Hall)
	7:30 pm	NAMI Educational Forum (Lounge)
Wed., Sept. 13	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thurs., Sept. 14	6:00 pm	Zumba (Gym)
Friday, Sept. 15	6:30 am	Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
	5:30 pm	Volunteers serve dinner at Uptown Men’s Shelter
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, Sept. 16	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (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.....	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
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



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ST. JOHN’S BAPTIST CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA