

## For Lo, the Days are Hastening On

Please turn off all electronic devices

INTROIT J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Martha Kearse, DMin  
& 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 Haley Callaway  
Anna Kearse, Carlisle Poteat

LEADER: "For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that  
everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may 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."

ALL: As we light this candle of love, let us prepare room in our lives  
for God's hopeful expectancy, peaceful vision, joyful  
celebration and loving presence.

\*CAROL Angels, from the Realms of Glory  
Chalice Hymnal No. 149 REGENT SQUARE



SOLO Reneé Hutchison  
*I Wonder as I Wander* John Jacob Niles

## THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. Allison 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

Joe Ehrenberger - Mercy  
Emily Batts, Libby Collier, Betty Crenshaw, Phillip Fries,  
Cathy Hartsell, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones & Jan Kerley – home

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

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Minuet Noel*

Deb Black & Wes Watts  
arr. Jean Anne Shafferman

### \*PRESENTATION

ADESTE FIDELES

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



## When Peace Shall Over All the Earth Its Ancient Splendors Fling

\*CAROL  
Chalice Hymnal No. 159

There's a Song in the Air!  
CHRISTMAS SONG

HOMILY *A Love That Gives*  
John 3:16-17

Dr. Foust

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near us, Lord Jesus, we ask You to stay  
close by us forever, and love us, we pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with You there.

## And the Whole World Send Back the Song Which Now the Angels Sing

\*CAROL It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
Chalice Hymnal No. 153 CAROL

\*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](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)



## Announcements

### Holiday Office Hours

The church offices will be closed December 25 and 26 and January 1, and most of the staff will also be off on December 29. There will be no newsletter this week. If you need to reach a minister, please call their cell phone.

### Financial Stewardship Commitment Campaign 2018

#### *Offering Ourselves for God's Work in the World*

Budget Pledge Report: Amount Received: \$849,806 - Commitments Received: 173  
If you have not turned in your Pledge Card to the church office, please do so as soon as possible.

### Year -End Financial Goal

2017 Financial Ministry Goal – \$1,075,535 - Income as of December 17: \$975,321

### From the Finance Office:

All allowable tax donations must be received (and checks dated) by December 31, 2017. If mailed, please ensure that the envelope is postmarked 2017. Any monies received after December 2017 will count towards your 2018 pledge.

### Pictorial Directory Update

To update your St. John's pictorial directory, a page of photos of our recent new members and a new address/phone directory are now available on the table in the church office.

### 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 (Monday) at 3:00 pm. Or follow the link on the St. John's website.

### Baptism Sunday

Sunday, January 7, has been scheduled as a Baptism Sunday. Anyone desiring baptism, please contact Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office (704-333-5428 ext. 11) or Dr. Foust.

### 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

Sunday, December 31 -First Sunday after Christmas

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Homily: *A GPS to Bethlehem*

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

### This Week at St. John's

Sunday, Dec. 24	9:15 am	Adult Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)
Monday, Dec. 25		Church Offices Closed
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Tuesday, Dec. 26		Church Offices Closed
Wed., Dec. 27	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Friday, Dec. 29	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, Dec. 30	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	10:00 am	Girls Basketball (Gym)
Sunday, Dec. 31	9:15 am	Adult Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Monday, Jan. 1		Church Offices Closed
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Tuesday, Jan. 2	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
Wed., Jan. 3	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Mission Resource Team (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, Jan. 4	9:00 am	Unity Coalition (Conference Room)
Friday, Jan. 5	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, Jan. 6	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	10:00 am	Basketball games (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 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  
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted  
Organist.....J. Noel Lance  
Custodians.....James Ford, Chris Mullis

# The Worship of God



## Candle of Love

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA