

## Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

**Please turn off all electronic devices**

**Prelude** J. Noel Lance

**Words of Gathering** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

*Expression of Fellowship	Congregation
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**\*Call to Praise** Dr. Foust

LEADER: The angels announced God's good news and the world was changed forever!

**PEOPLE:** We follow the shepherds to see the baby in the manger  
who changes our lives day by day!

LEADER: Joy to the world! The Lord is come to change our lives and to change our world.

**ALL:** Joy to the world! The Lord is come! The Lord is come!

**\*Carol** Joy to the World  
*ANTIOCH*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

## Glory to the Newborn King

**\*Carol** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing  
*MENDELSSOHN*

**H**ark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”  
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

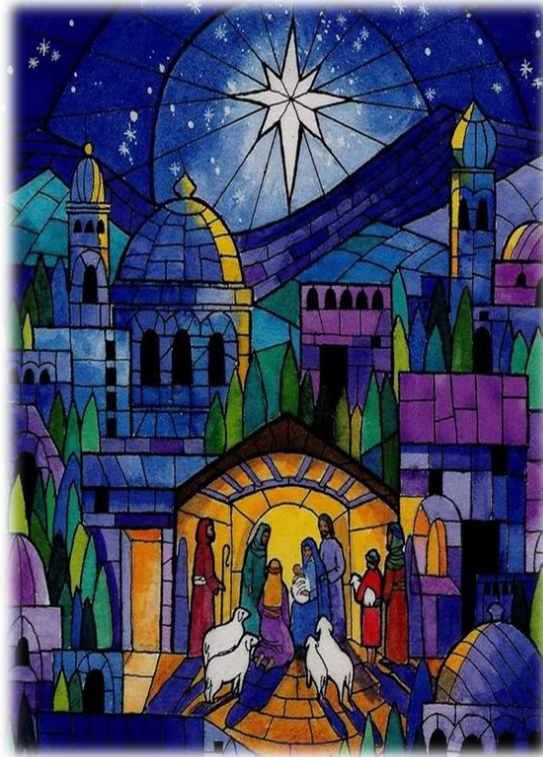
Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings,  
mild he lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**\*Reading of the Gospel**                      Reverends Benfield, Kearse & Gray  
*John 3:16-17*

**Solo** J. Kevin Gray  
*Christmas Hallelujah* Leonard Cohen/ Cloverton

## A Christmas Prayer



*Peace on Earth and Mercy Mild,  
God and Sinners Reconciled!*

**Solo** Kim Blanchard  
*O Holy Night* Adolph Adams

**Moments with the Younger Church** Rev. Allison Benfield

\*Carol The First Noel  
THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel, the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain:*  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

*During this carol, deacons should come forward to the front pews reserved for them.*

Dr. Foust

## Offertory Prayer

Randy Brantley

## We Bring Our Gifts to the Christ Child

<b>Offertory Anthem</b>	Chancel Choir
<i>Still, Still, Still</i>	Joel Hoelscher

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.  
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,  
Holy Star, its vigil keeping.  
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, tis the eve of our savior's birth.  
The night is peaceful all around you;  
close your eyes let sleep surround you.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, tis the eve of our savior's birth.

Dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.  
While guardian angels without number  
watch you as you sweetly slumber,  
dream, dream, dream, of the joyous day to come.

**\*Presentation of Our Gifts to God**

*ADESTE FIDELIS*

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

**Homily** *God's Gift of Love* Dr. Foust

*Joyful All Ye Nations, Rise,  
Join the Triumph of the Skies*

## Invitation to the Lord's Table

*St. John's observes the communion tradition of an OPEN TABLE. This is the Lord's Table, and all are welcome here. No person is excluded from Christ's broad invitation for any reason. "Come to me," Jesus said.*

## Serving of the Bread and Cup





With Angelic Host Proclaim,  
“Christ is Born in Bethlehem!”

A Moment of Mindfulness

Sleep Little Tiny Baby

Chancel Choir

James Kevin Gray

Sleep little, tiny baby. Sleep little, holy child. You are the hope of the nations. Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep. Sleep while the angels sing to you. Sleep holy child while the angels sing so sweet. You were sent to lead us, teach us how to love.

\*Carol of Proclamation

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light  
radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.

\*Postlude

J. Noel Lance

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, 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.

Charlotte Lessons & Carols from St. John’s

If you would like to listen to the broadcast again, tune into WDAV 89.9FM on Christmas Day 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 the church office (704-333-5428 ext. 11) or Dr. Foust.



On Sunday, January 7, our new ministry with young adults will begin a new year. Join us in the Lounge (near the gym) at 9:15 on Sunday mornings.

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

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)/No nursery care
	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve service (Sanctuary)
Monday, Dec. 25		Church office closed
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Dec. 26		Church office closed
	5:15 pm	Men’s Basketball (Gym)
Wednesday, Dec. 27	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Friday, Dec. 29	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Dec. 30	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Girls’ Basketball (Gym)

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

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 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



Candles, Carols and Communion

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve Service of Worship

5:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN’S BAPTIST CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA