

# Joy to the World

Please turn off all electronic devices

## INTROIT

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Chip Mays  
Wilbur Held

## WORDS OF GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

Rev. Lee Gray

## A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

## EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP

Congregation

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Gray

LEADER: On this day, the Lord revealed the Christ child to the nations,

PEOPLE: **Leading the wise men through a bright and glorious star.**

ALL: **Lead us now, by faith, to know Your presence in our lives.**

## PRAYER OF SUBMISSION

Rev. Gray

## \*CAROL

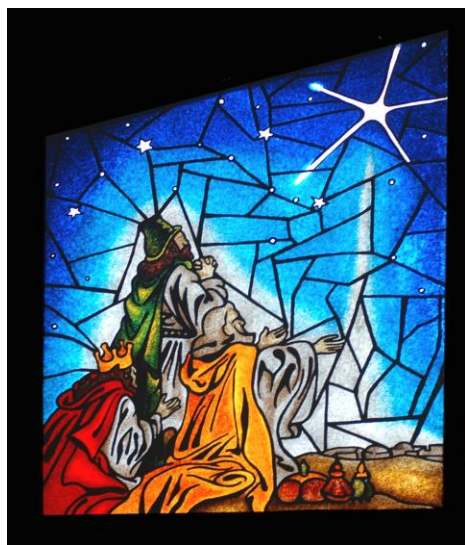
Chalice Hymnal No. 164

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice  
IN DULCI JUBILO

## READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Jan Kerley



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people

Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God!**

## \*CAROL

Chalice Hymnal No. 172

We Three Kings  
KINGS OF ORIENT



The child Jesus, born in Bethlehem, every child who is born and grows up in every part of our world, is a diagnostic sign indicating the state of health of our families, our communities, our nation"

Pope Francis

## The Lord Is Come!

## THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Dr. Foust

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

Betty Crenshaw – Pineville Rehab & Living Center  
Emily Batts, Libby Collier, Joe Ehrenberger, Phillip Fries,  
Cathy Hartsell, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones & Jan Kerley – home

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

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Noel, Noel, A Boy is Born*

Chancel Choir  
Natalie Sleeth

Noel, Noel, a boy is born in Bethlehem, in Bethlehem. Noel, Noel, a boy is born in Bethlehem. So therefore let us joyful be and sing Noel, and sing Noel. So therefore let us joyful be and sing Noel.

He comes to earth to save us all, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day. He comes to earth to save us all, on Christmas Day, Alleluia!

Today in Bethlehem is born a boy. So therefore let us all be filled with joy, and sing Noel, and sing Noel, and sing Noel, Noel.

## \*PRESENTATION

ADESTE FIDELES

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

## Let Earth Receive Her King

## \*CAROL

Chalice Hymnal No. 170, verses 1 & 4

How Great Our Joy!  
JUNGST

## HOMILY

*A GPS to Bethlehem*

Dr. Foust

## \*CHRISTMAS CAROL

Chalice Hymnal No. 167

Go Tell It on the Mountain  
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN



## Let Heaven and Nature Sing

## \*CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

Dr. Foust

## \*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

## \*SONG OF SENDING

Chalice Hymnal No. 143, verse 3

Joy to the World  
ANTIOCH

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.

## \*POSTLUDE

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

Chip Mays  
Douglas Wagner

*\* 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

### Baptism Sunday

Next 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.

### Financial Stewardship Commitment Campaign 2018

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

Budget Pledge Report: Amount Received: \$859,206 - Commitments Received: 176  
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 29: \$1,007,630

### 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.

### Holiday Office Hours

The church offices will be closed on Monday, January 1. If you need to reach a minister, please call their cell phone.

### 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.

### Concert – Saturday, January 13, at 7 pm

Leslie Lee and Steve Gretz join us again this winter as they swing through the South, sharing their beautiful gifts for music and lyrics, as well as words both thoughtful and entertaining! Join us in Lasater Hall for an evening of great music, lovely desserts, and a great, mid-winter evening! Donations will be accepted for hurricane relief in Zulueta, Cuba.

### 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, January 7 – Epiphany Sunday/Baptism of Our Lord  
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
Homily: *Opening the Heavens*  
Scripture: Matthew 3:1-17

### This Week at St. John's

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*

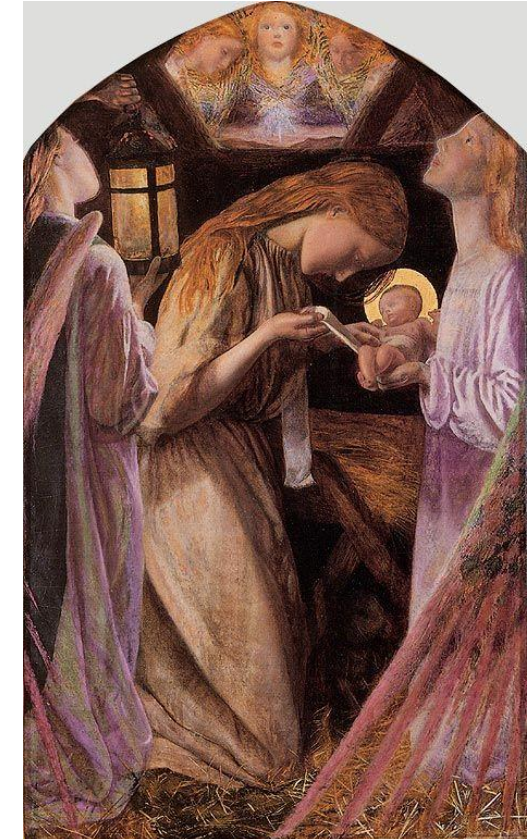
#### Equipping Ministers

Senior Minister.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
Associate Minister .....Rev. Martha 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  
Weekday School Director..... Lydia Olmsted  
Organist..... J. Noel Lance  
Custodians ..... James Ford, Chris Mullis

# The Worship of God



*First Sunday after Christmas*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA