

Let Us Go into the House of the Lord

INTROIT J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Allison Benfield
& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Benfield

LEADER: I was glad!

MEN: Glad!

WOMEN: Glad!

CHOIR: Glad!

LEADER: When they said unto me, "Let us go!"

MEN: "Let us go!"

WOMEN: "Let us go!"

CHOIR: "Let us go!"

LEADER: "Let us go into the house of the Lord." Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly."

ALL: Let us embrace the abundant life and worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE Morning Has Broken
Chalice Hymnal No. 53 BUNESSAN

We Are Listening, O Lord

LITANY OF CONFESSION Dr. Foust

LEADER: In the spirit of confession,

PEOPLE: We confess that we work too hard and play too little.

LEADER: This is your confession to God: that you PLAY too little? What kind of confession is this?

PEOPLE: Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. All we do is work. Abundant life should be more play than work. We don't play enough.

LEADER: You're guilty about playing too little!?!

PEOPLE: We feel guilty about working too little. But we've been given, as a free gift, abundant life. We should live it up. Yet we don't.

LEADER: I should pray that God forgive us for our work and help us play more?

PEOPLE: Amen.

LEADER: Okay. God forgive us for all this work. Help us play more.

PEOPLE: Amen and Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG OF RESPONSE

J. Kevin Gray
ASHOKAN FAREWELL

Light of God that cast out all darkness; we thank you, O Lord, for making us whole.

READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Ken Raynor, Kimberly & Steven Follis

Matthew 18:1-4

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Isaiah 11:6-9



The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Mark 2:18-19

Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast."

John 10:10

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Luke 7:31-35

"To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.' For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

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

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Chalice Hymnal No. 711

O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines

CANDLER

Transform, Equip & Send Us

SERMON Rev. George Williamson

Fat Tuesday and a Piety of Play

*SONG OF JOYFUL DISCIPLESHIP Lord of the Dance
Choir will sing verses; congregation joins on refrain arr. John Ferguson

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain: Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said He. And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they wouldn't dance, and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; they came with me and the dance went on. *Refrain*

I danced on the sabbath and I cured the lame: the holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and left me there on a cross to die. *Refrain*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the devil on your back; they buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high: I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me. I am the Lord of the dance, said He. *Refrain*

OFFERTORY PRAYER Dr. Foust

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY J. Noel Lance
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*DOXOLOGY Chalice Hymnal No. 46 OLD HUNDREDTH

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. Foust

*SONG OF THE SCATTERED CHURCH Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Chalice Hymnal No. 2, verses 1 & 4 HYMN TO JOY

*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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome George Williamson!

This morning, we welcome George Williamson, former Vassar professor, pastor and chaplain (and brother-in-law of Wannu Hogewood) as he comes to share with us in worship and in readings from his memoir. George, along with others, was instrumental in starting the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America/Bautistas Por La Paz (which has its offices housed in our building); BPFNA published his book and LeDayne Polaski, the Executive Director of BPFNA, also joins us today. Lunch reservations are closed, but those who do not want lunch can join the reading and discussion with George (beginning at 12:15).

Have you ever wanted to ring handbells?

If so, stop by the table in the Broach Hall lobby after worship to talk with Jacquelyn McAbee about joining this music ministry. Experience is not required; only a willingness to learn. Rehearsal times will be determined by availability of ringers. Email Jacquelyn to volunteer or for more information at jmcabee@sicharlotte.org.

Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday Experience is available for you from 7 am -7 pm on Wednesday, February 14 (except for the hours of 11 am -1 pm to allow for our ECOF service, hosted by St. Martin's Episcopal and Hawthorne Lane United Methodist in our sanctuary). We will be in Broach Hall all day, offering the imposition of ashes along with several other stations. The practices are accessible and appropriate for just about any age, and anyone is welcome, including friends outside the St. John's community.

Loaves & Fishes

Please join us as we restock the Loaves & Fishes pantry at Galilee Center (formally St. Andrews Episcopal Church) on Central Ave. We are dedicating the month of February to collecting non-perishable grocery items/monetary donations for the perishable items the pantry offers. The Big Blue Barrels can be found in Broach Hall and Main Entrance lobbies. Thanks for your support!

Living in the World as the Body of Christ

Experiencing the Season of Lent in St. John's - This year, on each of the six Sundays during Lent, we will experience the symbolism of bread as 'the body of Christ.' We will explore how we live in the world as the body of Christ using worship themes of 'Kneaded and Needed,' 'Transformed,' 'Taken,' 'Blessed,' 'Broken' and 'Given.' On Wednesdays at noon during Lent, we will serve as the host site for the Elizabeth Communities of Faith ecumenical worship services.

Brotherhood of the Biscuit

Friday, February 16, 6:30 am – Lounge

Terrific Tuesday Book Club

Tuesday, February 27, 12 noon - This month's book: The Color of Water by James McBride. Books are available in the church office.

Basketball Sunday

This morning, we welcome the St. John's basketball teams and their families who join us for worship before they head uptown to attend the Hornets vs. Raptors game at the Spectrum Center. Teams will sit together down front and be recognized during worship; then they will enjoy lunch in Broach Hall before the game.

Chili Cook-off

Sunday, February 25, from 5-7 pm – Categories: Children, No Beans Please, Vegetarian, The Works, Bring on the Heat. Prizes will be given for each category. To enter, please contact Kim Allen or Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office.

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

Prayer Concerns

Joe Ehrenberger - Mercy
Betty Crenshaw, Tim Gibson, Carmen Howard,
Chuck Jones, Brad Sifford & Dee Turner – home
Sympathy to Shirley Ballard on the death of her sister Audrey

St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 - www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

February 18 - First Sunday in Lent/Communion
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Sermon: *Kneaded and Needed*
Scripture: Jeremiah 7:1-20; Matthew 4:1-4

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, Feb. 11	9:15 am	Sunday School/Missions 101 (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Godly Play (Room 221)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:30 am	Lunch & Book Reading (Broach Hall)
Monday, Feb. 12	8:00 am	Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)
	11:45 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
	6:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	6:30 pm	Administrative Deacon Panel (Broach Hall)
	6:30 pm	Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
	6:30 pm	Pastoral Deacon Panel (Lounge)
	7:30 pm	All Deacons' Meeting (Broach Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Tuesday, Feb. 13	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
	10:00 am	Staff meeting (Conference Room)
	11:00 am	Bible Workbench (Room 209)
	1:00 pm	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
	4:45 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	5:30 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Lasater Hall)
	6:00 pm	NAMI Support Groups (Rooms 114 & 116)
Wed., Feb.14	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	7:00 am	Ash Wednesday Activities (Broach Hall)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	12:00 pm	ECOF Ash Wednesday service (Sanctuary)
	1:00 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, Feb. 15	11:00 am	Uptown Ladies (Lounge)
	12:30 pm	Novant Monthly Managers' Meeting (Broach Hall)
Friday, Feb. 16	6:30 am	Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	5:30 pm	Volunteers serve dinner at Uptown Men's Shelter
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, Feb. 17	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	10:00 am	Basketball games (Gym)
	10:00 am	Communion Task Force (Conference Room)

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
Associate MinisterRev. Martha Kearse
Minister for Children and Their Families Rev. Allison Benfield
Minister for Worship and MusicJ. Kevin Gray
Minister for Youth and Young AdultsRev. Lee Gray

Church Staff

Administrative AssistantJacquelyn McAbee
Church Accountant..... Elaine Johnson
Church AdministratorSandra Rogers
Graded Choirs Director Anna Ball
Weekday School Director Lydia Olmsted
OrganistJ. Noel Lance
Custodians.....James Ford, Chris Mullis, Debora Thon

The Worship of God



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

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