

We Lift Our Voices in Praise

Please turn off all electronic devices

PRELUDE	J. Noel Lance
WORDS OF GREETING	Rev. Lee Gray
CHURCH CONFERENCE	Randy Brantley & Russell Norris
A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP	Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
PRAYER OF SUBMISSION	Rev. Gray
CALL TO WORSHIP	Kevin Turner

LEADER: Bread is a daily nutrient of life around the world.

PEOPLE: There are many types of bread, but we are all one as the Body of Christ.

LEADER: As bread is a symbol of celebration, we rejoice through our new life in Christ.

ALL: God gathers us as grains from many fields and forms us to be a single loaf, offering us as nourishment in a world where people desire spiritual transformation and life.

*HYMN OF PRAISE	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Chalice Hymnal No. 622	CWM RHONDDA

Speak, and We Will Listen

TELLING OF THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE	Exodus 12:33-39	Dan Biber
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The Egyptians urged the people to hasten their departure from the land, for they said, "We shall all be dead." So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls wrapped up in their cloaks on their shoulders. The Israelites had done as Moses told them; they had asked the Egyptians for jewelry of silver and gold, and for clothing, and the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. And so they plundered the Egyptians. The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. A mixed crowd also went up with them, and livestock in great numbers, both flocks and herds. They baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt; it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

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

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God!

SONG OF RESPONSE

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

MOMENTS FOR MEDITATION

Jesus taught us to pray,
"Our Father in heaven...
Our daily bread..."



SONG OF RESPONSE

Let us seek God together on our knees;
let us seek God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. Martha Kearse, DMin

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, Carmen Howard, Chuck Jones,
Janie Kendrick, Brad Sifford & Jane Winn – home

Transform Us

*SONG OF TRANSFORMATION

We Are One Body

LEADER: We are being transformed, mixed, and kneaded by the hands of the One who created.

ALL: God gathers us as grains from many fields and forms us to be a single loaf, offering us as nourishment in a world where people desire spiritual transformation and life.

LEADER: We are one body, one body in Christ;
and we do not stand alone.
We are one body, one body in Christ;
and He came that we may have life.

**ALL: We are one body, one body in Christ;
and we do not stand alone.
We are one body, one body in Christ;
and He came that we may have life.**

HOMILY

Transformed

Dr. Foust

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

We Are Called to Be God's People
AUSTRIAN HYMN

We are called to be God's people, showing by our lives God's grace,
one in heart and one in spirit, sign of hope for all the race.
Let us show how God has changed us, and remade us as God's own,
let us share our life together as we shall around God's throne.

We are called to be God's servants, working in God's world today;
taking God's own task upon us, all God's sacred words obey.
Let us rise, then, to God's summons, dedicate to God our all,
that we may be faithful servants, quick to answer now God's call.

We are called to be God's prophets, speaking for the truth and right;
standing firm for godly justice, bringing evil into light.
Let us seek the courage needed, our high calling to fulfill,
that we all may know the blessing of the doing of God's will.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Henry Snyder, Deacon

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Chancel Choir
Lowry/arr. Fedak
Nick Gattis, clarinet

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night He giveth. *Refrain*

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am His! How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

*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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

Dr. Foust

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE (IF) TASK FORCE REPORT

Sally Young, Chair

*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

*POSTLUDE

J. Noel Lance

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Celebrating the Ministry of Rev. Dr. Martha Kearse

Commissioning and Reception next Sunday, March 4, during 10:30 am worship, with a reception to follow in Broach Hall. Contributions to The Love Gift for Martha should be made out to St. John's Baptist Church with "Martha Kearse Love Gift" on memo line. (Please note that Love Gifts are NOT tax-deductible contributions.) Gifts can be presented through the offering plate or mailed to the church.

Handbell Choir

Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, February 27, at 6:00 pm. They will rehearse weekly throughout the spring and will play in worship several times. It's not too late to join this group! Contact Jacquelyn McAbee (jmcabee@sjcharlotte) or Kevin Gray to volunteer or for more information.

Loaves & Fishes

Please join us as we restock the Loaves & Fishes pantry at Galilee Center (formerly St. Andrews Episcopal Church) on Central Avenue. 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!

Terrific Tuesday Book Club

Tuesday, February 27, 12 noon - This month's book: The Color of Water by James McBride. Bring a sandwich and continue the conversation over lunch!

Elizabeth 8K

The 32nd Annual Elizabeth 8K Road Race is Saturday, March 24. Once again, St. John's is a sponsor for Charlotte's oldest road race. As a sponsor, we can offer 10 free registrations and a 10% discount to all who choose to participate. Please contact the church office for more information.

A Year in the Church: St. John's/St. Martins VBS 2018

June 11-15 from 9 am-12 noon each day - For children aged 4 - rising 6th Graders \$15/Child - We'll be learning about the life of Jesus as we walk through the seasons of the church year together with stories and art. We do have a maximum number of children we can care for at VBS, so don't wait to sign up!

Youth

- February 4 – Regular Sunday Night Live from 5:00-7:30 pm. Youth can participate in the Chili Cook-off and/or open gym from 5-6 pm; then they will play ambush from 6-7 pm, and youth program will be on the church as the Body of Christ.
- March 4 - No evening youth activities

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

Copies of worship bulletins and sermon manuscripts are available on the St. John's website: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

St. John's Baptist Church

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

The St. John's Pulpit

March 4 - Third Sunday in Lent

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon Series: Living in the World as the Body of Christ

Sermon: *Taken*

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:27; Mark 14:22

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, Feb. 25	8:00 am	Church Council (Conference Room)
	9:00 am	11 th /12 th Grade Discipleship (Room 116)
	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship/Church Conference (Sanctuary)
	11:45 am	Loaves & Fishes (Lounge)
	11:45 am	MT25 Education/Children & Families (Conf. Room)
	5:00 pm	Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/3 rd Floor)
Monday, Feb. 26	11:45 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
	5:30 pm	Elizabeth Village HOA (Lounge)
	6:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Tuesday, Feb. 27	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
	9:00 am	HeadStart (Lounge)
	10:00 am	Staff meeting (Conference Room)
	11:00 am	Bible Workbench (Room 209)
	12:00 pm	Terrific Tuesday Book Club (Library/Lounge)
	4:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
	6:00 pm	Handbells (Handbell Room)
Wed., Feb.28	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	11:15 am	CROP (Lounge)
	12:00 pm	ECOF Ash Wednesday service (Sanctuary)
	12:30 pm	ECOF Soup lunch (Broach Hall)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thurs., March 1	9:00 am	Unity Coalition (Lounge)
	10:30 am	Charlotte Family Housing (Lounge)
	1:30 pm	Scholars Academy/AG Middle School (Choir Rm)
	5:00 pm	Scholars Academy/AG Middle School Concert (Sanc.)
Friday, March 2	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, March 3	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.....Dr. 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..... Anna Ball
Weekday School Director..... Lydia Olmsted
Organist.....J. Noel Lance
Custodians.....Chris Mullis, Debora Thon

The Worship of God



Second Sunday in Lent

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

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