

# Alleluia, Christ Is Risen!

Please turn off all electronic devices

**PRELUDE** J. Noel Lance

**WORDS OF GREETING** Rev. Lee Gray

**\*EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP** Congregation

**A WORD ABOUT TODAY’S WORSHIP** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**PRAYER OF SUBMISSION** Dr. Foust

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Dr. Foust

ONE VOICE: This is the message we have heard from other witnesses, “God is Light and in God there is no darkness at all.” We have opened our lives to this message. Therefore, darkness and death are diminishing in power over us as we are transformed by God’s light. Christ is risen indeed!

**ALL VOICES: We praise God for the light shining into our lives through the living Christ.**

ONE VOICE: We praise God for dispelling darkness, forgiving our sin, resurrecting Jesus from death, and offering us abundant and eternal life.

**ALL VOICES: Let us join with God’s people around the world, bearing witness to the living Christ and releasing God’s light in the darkness. Christ is risen in us! To God be the glory!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** Thine Is the Glory  
Chalice Hymnal No. 218 MACCABEUS

**READING OF THE GOSPEL** John 20:1-18 Nancy Wilson

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

ONE VOICE: This is the written word of God for the people of God.  
**ALL VOICES: Thanks be to God!**

**SONG OF RESPONSE**  
Now the Green Blade Rises NOEL NOUVELET  
VERSE 1 – SOLO  
VERSE 2 – CONGREGATION

In the grave they laid the love by hatred slain, thinking that Jesus would not wake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen. Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, Your touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; love is coming again like wheat arising green.

## We Share Christ with the World

**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER** Rev. Gray

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, Camille Green, Polly Hull, Chuck Jones, Janie Kendrick, Elizabeth Laney, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson & Doris Tedder – home  
Sympathy to the family of Tom Peacock  
and the family of Donice Pharr

**SONG OF REFLECTION** Gay Men’s Chorus of Charlotte  
*There Will I Be* Craig Courtney

“Where you go, I will go; where you stay, I will stay; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there will I be.” Ruth 1:16-17

There is no greater love than this, that a friend lay down her/his life for another. John 15:13

## Speak to Us, Lord

**SERMON** *Interrobang Moments?* Dr. Foust

**\*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP** Some There Are Who by Their Living  
HOLY MANNA

Some there are who by their living lift us to a higher plane, finding joy disclosed in sorrow, healing hidden in their pain. They are drawn by brighter visions, glad to give all they possess for a greater good, discovering holier depths of happiness.

Some there are who by their loving lead us far beyond our fears, showing us by their compassion hatred washed away by tears. When contempts that we inherit fill us with hostility, we have hope because of persons who have known love’s liberty.

Thanks to God for those inviting us to live more faithfully!  
Thanks to God for those who show us richer lives of charity!  
Thanks for those we see no longer, but whose memories in us lie!  
Thanks to God for those who teach us how to live and how to die!

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** Carol Injaychock, Deacon

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

**OFFERTORY** GMCC  
*Lean on Me/We Shall Overcome* Mark Hayes

**\*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.

## Send Us Forth to Be Blessings

**\*CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE** Dr. Foust

**\*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** GMCC & Chancel Choir  
*He Never Failed Me Yet* Robert Ray

**Chorus** - I will sing of God's mercy every day, every hour, He gives me power. I will sing and give thanks to Thee for all the dangers, toils and snares that He has brought me out. He is my God, and I'll serve Him, no matter what the test. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet.

I know God is able to deliver in time of storm. I know that He'll keep you safe from all earthly harm. One day when my weary soul is at rest, I'm going home to be forever blessed. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet.

Didn't my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh? And didn't He cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? When I think of what my God can do, He delivered Daniel, I know He will deliver you. Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out, He never failed me yet.

**\*POSTLUDE** J. Noel Lance

*\*Invites the congregation to stand.*

Copies of worship bulletins are available on the St. John's website: [stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte

This morning, we will welcome the Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte to assist in leading worship. The GMCC will be singing several songs during the service, concluding with a group number by GMCC and the St. John's Chancel choir. They will also be performing in concert at St. John's next Sunday, April 15, at 3:00 pm.

### The St. John's Pulpit

This Spring, the St. John's Pulpit will respond to the resurrection of Jesus and this new life we share in Christ. We will explore *Adapting to God's Light: New Ways of Seeing*. The risen Christ offered new ways of seeing to Mary Magdalene, Cleopas, Didymus, Simon Peter and others in the early Jesus Movement. Like them, we are adapting to God's light revealed through an empty tomb.

#### April

15: **Talking the Walk?** Luke 24:13-35

22: **Genetics of Faith?** John 20:19-31

29: **Love, a Slippery Word?** John 21:1-17

#### May

6: **Why Church, Why?** Matthew 28:18-20

13: **Home Making?** Joshua 24 and John 6

20: **Winds of Change?** Acts 2:1-11

27: **Legacy Living?** 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

### Open Table: Intergenerational Evenings with Purposeful Play

To strengthen opportunities for our multiple generations to interact and learn from one another and play together, we are scheduling 5 or 6 Wednesday evenings per year. Our first OPEN TABLE is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25. Please make reservations on or before April 20 by emailing or calling Jacquelyn McAbee in the church office at [jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org) or 704.333.5428, ext. 11. Meal costs will be \$10/adults and \$6/child under 12 with a maximum of \$30 per household. Dinner will be served beginning at 5:50 and will continue to be served until 6:30. We will gather in Broach Hall and dismiss by 7:00 pm. All generations will be together for this time as we enjoy intergenerational table games, storytelling, conversations, etc.

### 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.

### Investing in the Future

Members of the Investing in the Future task force have now met with every Sunday School class, and we appreciate the time, thoughtfulness, and ideas the congregation shared with us. But it's not too late! If you were not part of any discussion and have thoughts for us, please contact any member of the task force - David Allen, Bill Claytor, Bill Hartsell, Bobbi Sherrill, Randy Brantley, Charlie Harper, Wanny Hogewood, Fredda Kimball, Russell Norris, Meredith Sorrell, Sara Vavra, or Sally Young - and let us know what you think!

### Terrific Tuesday Book Club

Tuesday, April 24, 12 noon, Library - This month's book: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. Books are available in the church office.

### Youth

- **April 8** - Youth will not meet this evening.
- **April 15** - Youth will play Paintball. Meet at the church at 2:30 and return 6:15. Cost will be \$20. Details have been emailed to youth and parents.

### 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](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

### The St. John's Pulpit

April 15 – Third Sunday in Eastertide

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon Series: *Adapting to God's Light: New Ways of Seeing*

Sermon: *Talking the Walk?*

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

### This Week at St. John's

Sunday, April 8	9:15 am	Sunday School/Missions 101 (Classrooms)	
	10:30 am	Godly Play (Room 221)	
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)	
Monday, April 9	11:45 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)	
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)	
	6:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)	
	6:30 pm	Administrative Deacon Panel (Lounge)	
	6:30 pm	Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)	
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)	
Tuesday, April 10	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)	
	3:30 pm	HeadStart (Lounge)	
	4:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)	
	6:00 pm	NAMI Support Groups (Room 114 & 116)	
	6:00 pm	Memory Center Charlotte (Broach Hall)	
	Wed., April 11	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
		9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
9:45 am		Mental Health America (Lounge)	
6:00 pm		Mission Resource Team (Room 209)	
6:00 pm		WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Lounge)	
6:00 pm		Handbells (Handbell Room)	
6:00 pm		AA (Room 114)	
6:30 pm		Charlotte Nets AAU (Gym)	
Thurs., April 12	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	
	10:00 am	Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)	
	6:00 pm	Investing in the Future Task Force (Broach Hall)	
Friday, April 13	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)	
Saturday, April 14	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)	
	9:30 am	Kids 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*

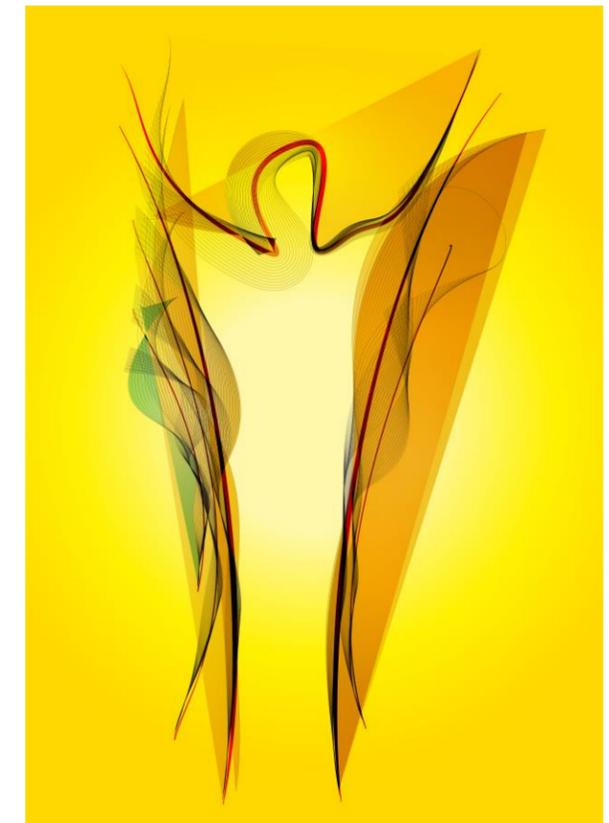
#### Equipping Ministers

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  
Senior Minister ..... Dr. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

#### Church Staff

Administrative Assistant ..... Jacquelyn McAbee  
Church Accountant ..... Elaine Johnson  
Church Administrator ..... Sandra Rogers  
Custodians ..... Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon  
Graded Choirs Director ..... Anna Ball  
Organist ..... J. Noel Lance  
Weekday School Director ..... Lydia Olmsted

# The Worship of God



*Second Sunday in Eastertide*

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA