

Praise the Lord Who Gathers Us

Please turn off all electronic devices

INTROIT J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP Dr. Foust

EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP Congregation

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Rev. Allison Benfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Lord, we pray for You to teach us how to be a servant people.

ALL: Give us eyes to see opportunities for ministry and ears to hear the cries of those in need. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** All Creatures of Our God and King
Chalice Hymnal No. 22 LASST UNS EFREUEN

The Lord Speaks to Us Through Word and Prayer

READING OF THE GOSPEL James 2:1-13 Jason Benton



By Dan Gbeno

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with

evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MOMENT OF MEDITATION

The Kingdom is all around us yet its manifestation can be so small that we can easily miss it. How are you seeing God at work in your life, in your family, in our church, or in the world?

Take a moment to contemplate this question as the organ and choir proceed with the musical response.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

The Kingdom of God

Verse 1 - Choir

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace; the captives are freed, the sinners find place, the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share; and hope is awakened in place of despair.

Verse 2 - Congregation

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal; in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole. The heirs of the kingdom shall answer His call; and all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Shannon Rodden, Deacon

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY

Heaven Came Down

J. Noel Lance and Maureen Howell

Arr. John Innes and Bill Fasig

*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.

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. Lee 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

Larry Batts, Martha Brown, Nancy Burgess, Matt Collins, Bill Finger, McLain Hall, Gene Poole, Dot Propst, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Dee Turner—home
Sympathy to Kevin Turner and family in the death of his mother; Judy Godsey and family in the death of her mother; Jackie Southwell and family in the death of her father

The Lord Teaches Us How to Serve

HYMN OF ORDINATION

Chalice Hymnal No. 453, verse 1

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

LITANY OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Todd Stillerman

Incoming Chair of Deaconate

ONE: Living God, as an act of our worship of You on this Lord's Day, we set apart these deacons to be servant leaders in the life and ministries of St. John's Baptist Church.

ALL: We thank You for them and ask You to bless them with clarity of vision, breadth of wisdom, and pathways of servant leadership as they guide us in the ways of Jesus.

DEACONS: As part of our commitment to God, we dedicate ourselves to pursue the spiritual health and ministry vitality of St. John's, as we devote our lives to leading by example.

PEOPLE: As the people of St. John's, we promise to pray for you, co-labor with you, and support your ministry leadership as you invest yourselves in the mission of Christ's Church.

ALL: We offer this prayer to God, through Jesus Christ, who is the head of the Church. Amen.

ANTHEM

Be Thou My Vision

Chancel Choir

Arr. Carlton Young

MESSAGE

Seeing with Eyes Closed

Dr. Foust

PRAYER OF ORDINATION

Dr. Foust

ORDINATION

The Congregation

Those seated on the organ side will lay hands on the deacons in your section.
Those seated on the piano side will lay hands on the deacons in your section.
Those seated in the center section will lay hands on the deacons in your section.

Deacons Being Ordained

Allene Cooley, Tim Gibson, Clara Howell, Libby LeVie, Keith Towery, Kathy Turner, Wesley Watts

Deacons Previously Ordained Being Installed

James Laney, Randy Mabnesmith, Greg Rodden, Donna Scott, Nancy Wilson, Lydia Farnsworth, Gary McFarland, Hank Packman, Judy Sanford, Jean Thompson

*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

Go, Celebrate the Call of God

ALIDA'S TUNE

Go, celebrate the call of God that awakens and renews, and chooses from us, for our good, the bringers of good news. The Spirit's blessing all ordains to show what God has done, yet brings to focus and contains the many in the one.

Great Spirit give us word and breath in Christ to live and speak, and shield against the powers of death the outcast and the weak, our flag of faith, above defeats, in heaven's breeze unfurled, as all our deepest gladness meets the hunger of the world.

*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

Dr. Foust

*POSTLUDE

J. Noel Lance

** Invites the congregation to stand*

Copies of Worship Bulletins are available at www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Ordination

Deacon Ordination and Installation is today during morning worship. The first All Deacons’ Meeting of the new year will be held on Monday, September 10, at 7:30 pm in Broach Hall. Panel meetings are at 6:30 pm.

Global Missions Offering

Goal - \$15,000—Received \$14,560

Please participate in our Global Mission Offering by giving and by writing a letter to a student, a teacher, or a parent. What do you want to share with your friends in Nyarweng? A part of yourself? An encouraging word? Your favorite bible verse? A picture of your family?

New Administrative Assistant

The Personnel Resource Team is pleased to announce the hiring of our new Administrative Assistant, Mallory Brown. She began her new role with us this past Tuesday, September 4. Stop by the office to welcome her to St. John’s when you are in our buildings.

Faith Journey Book Study

The Faith Journey Book Study will begin the new session on Monday, September 10, in Room 209. This group of ladies meets Monday mornings, from 11:45 am - 1:00 pm for sharing, prayer, and study (join us on your lunch break). Our study begins with the book *Boundless Compassion* by Joyce Rupp. We would love to have you journey with us as we explore our faith. Please contact Gail Sifford at sgsifford@aol.com if you have questions.

Craft & Bake Sale

Sunday, October 21 - Sponsored by The Craft & Needle Ministry
We need your help to donate handmade crafts and baked goods! All proceeds will be used to reduce hunger in the Charlotte region! Contact Ruth Jackson or the church office to volunteer or for more information.

New Sanctuary Sound System Installed

Our new sound system in the sanctuary is a step forward. However, we want to hear from you as we adjust settings on microphones to allow for the best acoustics in the room. Bringing clarity of sound to a variety of hearers and hearing devices in a large room always presents challenges. Please be patient with us as we respond to your reports. Last Sunday, we received numerous positive reports and some reports of concerns. Please share your reports with Kevin Gray or any staff member.

Open Table

Our next Open Table is September 26. The menu will be announced soon. 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 together.

Brotherhood of the Biscuit

The next Brotherhood of the Biscuit meeting is Friday, September 21 at 6:30AM in the Lounge.

ST. JOHN’S BAPTIST CHURCH

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

THE ST. JOHN’S PULPIT

September 16 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon: *Show and Tell*

Scripture: James 2:14-20; Mark 8:34-36

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN’S

Sunday, Sept. 9	8:00 am	Church Council (Conference Room)
	11:30am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship/Deacon Ordination (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Godly Play (Room 221)
	11:45 am	Women of the Church Luncheon (Broach Hall)
Monday, Sept. 10	8:00 am	Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)
	10:00 am	Staff meetings (Conference Room)
	11:30 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 209)
	5:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	6:30 pm	Pastoral Deacon Panel (Lounge)
	6:30 pm	Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
	6:30 pm	Administrative Deacon Panel (Broach Hall)
	7:30 pm	All Deacons’ Meeting (Broach Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Sept. 11	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men’s Group (Lounge)
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	11:00 am	Bible Workbench (Room 209)
	11:00 am	King’s College (Broach Hall)
	12:00 pm	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men’s Basketball (Gym)
	6:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
Wed., Sept. 12	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	Handbells (Handbell Room)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	7:30 pm	Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
Thurs., Sept. 13	10:00 am	Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)
Friday, Sept 14	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, Sept. 15	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

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.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Church Staff

Administrative Assistant.....Mallory Brown
Church Administrator..... Jacquelyn McAbee
Custodians Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon
Graded Choir Director..... Anna Ball
Organist..... J. Noel Lance
Weekday School Director..... Lydia Olmsted

The Worship of God



ACTIVELY FAITHFUL FAITHFULLY ACTIVE LIVING
LEARNING TO LIVE BY CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD’S SPIRIT OF LOVE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

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