

Praise

Please turn off all electronic devices.

GATHERING MUSIC

J. Noel Lance

ONE: This is the day that the Lord hath made.

ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRELUDE

J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING

Rev. Dennis W. Foust. PhD

A WORD ABOUT TODAY’S WORSHIP

Dr. Foust

*EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP

Congregation

A PRAYERFUL CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lee Gray

ONE: Here, O Lord, your servants gather; hand we link with hand—

ALL: Looking to the words you teach us, joined in love we stand.

ONE: As we seek your realm, O God, we unite and pray:

ALL: Be our vision guide our steps, for You are the truth, our way. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Chalice Hymnal No. 288, verses 1-3

O God of Vision

LOBE DEN HEREN

Listen

A PRAYERFUL LITANY OF VISION

Dr. Foust

ONE: As fast-paced change unfolds, and uncertainty clouds the future, we search for clarity.

ALL: God of vision, we know we cannot eliminate change or uncertainty; guide us so we anticipate working with You as we live tomorrow’s life today.

ONE: As part of Christ’s Church in the world, we approach the future not as a problem to be solved, but as an opportunity for God to spiritually transform us and our world.

ALL: Living God, open our eyes to see how You are at work within us and in the world, answering our prayers for ‘Thy kingdom to come, Thy will be done on earth.’ Renew us, Lord, to Your vision which is worth the risk of investing our lives. Amen

SONG

By Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

O God We Yearn for Safety

ANGEL’S STORY

O God, we yearn for safety; We long to be secure. Yet faithful, loving service is what you value more. You give us what is needed; You love, forgive and save. Then, sending us to serve you, You call us to be brave. You give to some ten talents — to others, two or three; to some You give one blessing to manage faithfully. For you, O Lord, are loving and don't demand success; You daily call your people to lives of faithfulness.

Pray

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

Bill Finger, Asbury; Larry Batts, Martha Brown, Nancy Burgess, McLain Hall, Paul Huffman, Martha Moore, Rob Peacock, Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Elma Thomas & Dee Turner – home

Give

A WORD ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

Nora Frances Benton, Claude Bragg,

Jacob Callaway, Miller Ray, Katherine Mae Rodden, Mattie Stillerman

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jacob Callaway

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lord, Here Am I

Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

*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.

Learn

AS YOU LISTEN TO THE READING OF THE PARABLE, CONSIDER THESE QUESTIONS:

In the story, who is represented by the business person? In the story, who are the business assistants? In the story, the master gives his assistant a lot of money. what does the money represent? What did the fearful assistant do with the money? What does God want us to do with all things he entrusts to us?

READING OF THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

Lilly Marie Sweet



It’s like a businessman who was leaving town for a long time and called in his assistants and turned over his investments to them. He made one responsible for about five hundred thousand dollars, another two hundred thousand, and another a hundred thousand—according to each one’s ability—and then he left town. Right away the man with the five hundred grand got to work and made five hundred more. The man with the two hundred grand did the same and made another

two hundred. But the guy with the hundred C’s went and rented a safe-deposit box and put his boss’ money in it. After a long time, the boss returned and called his assistants together for an accounting. The one with the five hundred thousand brought his other five hundred thousand and said, ‘Sir, you let me have five hundred grand; look, I’ve made another five hundred.’ The boss said, ‘Splendid, you good and responsible worker! You were diligent with the smaller sum; I’ll entrust you with a larger one. You’ll be a partner in my business.’ Then the one with the two hundred G’s came and said, ‘Sir, you let me have two hundred thousand; look, I’ve made another two hundred.’ The boss said, ‘Splendid, you good and responsible worker! You were diligent with the smaller sum, I’ll entrust you with a larger one. You’ll be a partner in my business.’ Well, the hundred-grand man came up and said, ‘Sir, I know you are a hard-nosed man, squeezing pennies you haven’t yet made and expecting a profit before the ink has dried. I was plain scared to take any chances, so I rented a safe-deposit box and put your money in it. Look, you’ve got every cent.’ But his boss replied, ‘You sorry, ornery bum! You knew that I squeeze pennies I haven’t yet made and expect profits before the ink dries. Then you should have turned my money over to the bank so that upon my return I would get back at least my principal with interest.’

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

SONG OF VISION

By Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

O God We Yearn for Safety

ANGEL’S STORY

You give Your church the gospel — good news for us to share.
You give us great compassion for neighbors everywhere.
You give us skills to serve You and loving work to do.
We're blest to be a blessing and called to risk for You.

O God, it seems much safer to live from day to day,
protecting what You lend us and hiding it away.
Yet all these gifts can't flourish when hidden in the ground.
When we are brave to share them, Your blessings will abound.

MESSAGE

A Vision Worth a Risk

Dr. Foust

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Chalice Hymnal No. 595

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

Recognizing Veterans on Veterans’ Day

Dr. Foust

Go

COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

Dr. Foust

*POSTLUDE

J. Noel Lance

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

Copies of worship bulletins and sermons are available on the St. John’s website:
www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Veterans' Reception Today

Please join in Lasater Hall after worship today for a reception to further honor the veterans of St. John's. All are welcome to attend.

Commitment Sunday

Sunday, November 18, is Commitment Sunday. We will make our financial commitments for the 2019 financial ministry plan and celebrate baptism with new disciples during morning worship. You will receive a commitment card and letter from our Stewardship Resource Team this week. This year, the commitment card is two-sided. Be sure to fill out both sides.

Winthrop University Concert: A Gateway Experience

Come enjoy our annual Winthrop University Chorale fall concert on Sunday, November 18, at 4PM in the sanctuary. The theme that afternoon centers around loving your neighbor and allowing your own love to be heard by all others. They will be performing works by Brahms, Runestad, Dello Joio, and Rheinberger. A premiere of a new work by Winthrop alumna and our Minister for Worship and Music, James Kevin Gray, will also be featured. The event is free! Bring a friend along as this is a great way to introduce folks to the life of St. John's.

All Deacons' Meeting

The next All Deacons' Meeting is Monday, November 19, at 7:30PM in Broach Hall. All deacon panels will meet prior to this meeting at 6:30PM in various locations. The Ministries Panel meets in the Conference Room; the Administrative Panel meets in Broach Hall; the Pastoral Panel meets in the Lounge. We hope all deacons will be in attendance.

Advent Devotionals

As we make our way toward Advent, Kevin invites all those who find writing as way to express God's graciousness to join him in working on our Advent devotional book. Each devotional does not need to be any longer than a few paragraphs. First, let Kevin know of your intention to write a devotional. Next, submit your devotional by email to kgray@sjcharlotte.org and mbrown@sjcharlotte.org by November 20th. The topics for each week of Advent are as follows: hope, peace, joy, and love. One might consider these topics in the writing process.

December Women of the Church Outing

On Sunday, December 9, at 4:00pm, join the Women of the church for an outing to the Knight Theater to see the *Singing Christmas Tree: Big Band Bash!* The 64th Annual Singing Christmas Tree will be accompanied by Charlotte's hottest all-star Big Band. This new twist into their 64th consecutive season will feature swinging arrangements of favorite Christmas classics, Miller Street Dance Academy, and special guests. To join the group from St. John's attending this year's show or for more information, please contact Jacquelyn McAbee at jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org or 704-333-5428, ext. 20 by Wednesday, November 14.

Senior Adult Christmas Gathering

This event will take place on Thursday, December 13, from 11:30am until 1:30pm. More information is coming soon!

St. John's Baptist Church

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

The St. John's Pulpit

Sunday, November 18, Commitment Sunday

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Worship Series: The Love that Christ Revealed

Message: *Live Tomorrow's Life Today*

Scripture: Joshua 3:1-17; Proverbs 3:27-28; Matthew 6:7-10

This Week at St. John's

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|-------------------|----------|--|
| Sunday, Nov. 11 | 9:15 am | Sunday School & Mission 101 (Classrooms) |
| | 10:30 am | Worship/Vision Sunday (Sanctuary) |
| | 10:30 am | Godly Play (Room 221) |
| | 11:30 am | Veterans' Reception (Lasater Hall) |
| | 5:00 pm | Sunday Night Live (Gym, Lounge, 3 rd Floor) |
| Monday, Nov. 12 | 11:30 am | Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge) |
| | 5:30 pm | Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room) |
| | 6:00 pm | Youth Mission Auction Meeting (Room 209) |
| | 8:00 pm | AA (Lasater Hall) |
| Tuesday, Nov. 13 | 7:00 am | Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge) |
| | 9:30 am | HeadStart Meeting (Broach Hall) |
| | 10:00 am | Staff Meeting (Conference Room) |
| | 11:00 am | Bible Work Bench (Room 209) |
| | 12:00 pm | Sandwich Ministry (Lounge) |
| | 5:15 pm | SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym) |
| | 6:15 pm | Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room) |
| | 6:00 pm | NAMI Support Group (Rooms 114 & 116) |
| | 7:30 pm | Sherrill Basketball (Gym) |
| Wed., Nov. 14 | 6:30 am | Benton Basketball (Gym) |
| | 9:30 am | Yoga (Room 114) |
| | 6:00 pm | Missions Resource Team (Conference Room) |
| | 6:00 pm | AA (Lasater Hall) |
| | 6:00 pm | Handbells (Handbell Room) |
| | 7:15 pm | Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) |
| Thursday, Nov. 15 | 11:00 am | Uptown Ladies (Lounge) |
| | 12:30 pm | Novant Monthly Managers' Meeting (Broach Hall) |
| | 5:00 pm | Architectural Task Force (Lounge) |
| | 7:30 pm | CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge) |
| Friday, Nov. 16 | 6:30 am | Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge) |
| | 5:30 pm | Dinner at Uptown Men's Shelter |
| | 8:00 pm | AA (Lasater Hall) |
| Saturday, Nov. 17 | 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

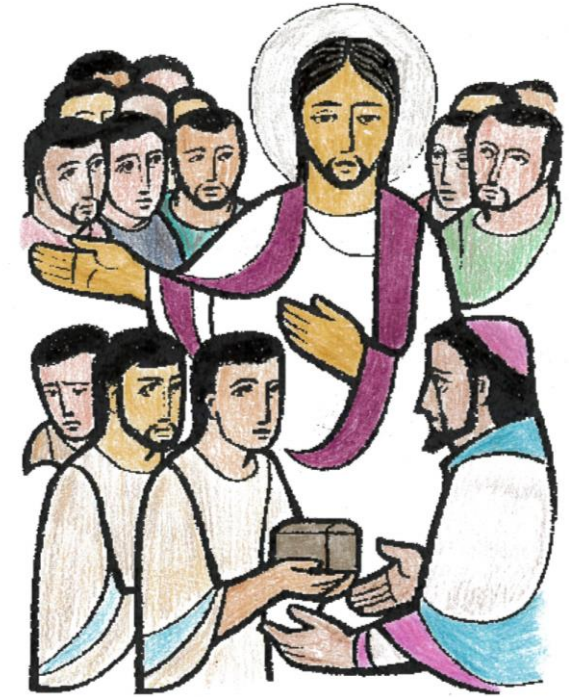
Equipping Ministers

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



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018

VISION SUNDAY

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

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