

With God, Our Creator

Please turn off all electronic devices

GATHERING MUSIC J. Noel Lance

BLESSING OF PEACE Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.
ALL: **And also with you.**

WORDS OF GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE Dr. Foust

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP Dr. Foust

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Rev. Lee Gray

***HYMN OF ADVENT** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

***LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE** Casey, Matt, Sophie,
& Gabe Perkins

ONE: Advent is a season of waiting, but we do not wait alone.

ALL: **God is with us.**

ONE: We gather with those who have seen the signs, heard the whispers, felt the tugs in their hearts.

ALL: **God is birthing peace into the world. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with us. As we worship with hearts open, we receive God's gift of peace as we pursue peace with God.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE** One Candle Is Lit
Chalice Hymnal No. 128, verse 2 CRADLE SONG

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Jason Benton

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**



With God Our Creator, Children All Are We

SOLO John Fortson
Recite, Thus Sayeth the Lord George F. Handel
Aria, But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER Rev. Allison 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.

Prayer Concerns

Bill Finger, Asbury; Buck Gray, CMC; Larry Batts, Nancy Burgess, McLain Hall, Betty Hastings, Paul & Henrietta Huffman, Gene Poole, Peg Russ, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Elma Thomas & Dee Turner - home

***HYMN** There's a Spirit in the Air
Chalice Hymnal No. 257, verses 1, 4 & 6 LAUDS

OFFERTORY PRAYER Shannon Rodden

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM J. Noel Lance

***PRESENTATION** ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
Christ the Lord.

Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let It Begin with Me

READING OF THE GOSPEL *Luke 3:1-6* Rev. Benfield

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

***SONG OF RESPONSE**
Chalice Hymnal No. 129, verses 1 & 2

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates
TRURO

WORDS OF MEDITATION "Into the Darkest Hour"
Madeleine L'Engle



It was a time like this, war and tumult of war, a horror in the air. Hungry yawned the abyss and yet, there came the star and the child most wonderfully there.

It was time like this of fear and lust for power, license and greed and blight and yet the Prince of bliss came into the darkest hour in quiet & silent light.

And in a time like this how celebrate his birth when all things fall apart? Ah! Wonderful it is with no room on the earth, the stable is our heart.

ANTHEM Chancel Choir
Sleep Little Tiny Baby James Kevin Gray

Sleep little, tiny baby. Sleep little, holy child. You are the hope of the nations. Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep. Sleep while the angels sing to you. Sleep holy child while the angels sing so sweet. You were sent to lead us, teach us how to love.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, "Alleluia," to our King: "Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born."

Let Peace Begin with Me; Let This Be the Moment Now

MESSAGE *Inhabited by Peace that Purifies* Dr. Foust

***HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP** Let There Be Peace on Earth
Chalice Hymnal No. 677 WORLD PEACE

***CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY** Dr. Foust

***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

Financial Stewardship Commitment Campaign 2019

As of this week, we have received 167 commitments at a total of \$812,331. If you have not turned in your commitment card to the church office, please do so as soon as possible.

Architectural Task Force Message

Earlier this year, the church approved the appointment of an Architectural Review Task Force. This group is chaired by Bill Hartsell and includes Don Hinson, Chris Lavender, Bobbie Sherrill, Kathy Spence, and Kevin Turner with Dennis Foust serving ex-officio. This group has chosen the architectural firm WGM Design, Inc. working directly with architects Bill Monroe, President and Sean DeLapp, Vice President. Both Bill and Sean have substantial experience in working with congregations to update and modernize facilities. These architects have heard from several members, through interviews, about ways to update our facilities for the 21st century. The Architectural Review Task Force wants to hear suggestions from anyone who has ideas to share. On Sunday, December 16th, following worship, members of the task force will be in the Chapel to listen. All comments and suggestions are welcome, and your input will greatly help the planning as we go forward. If you are unable to be present on the 16th, feel free to present your ideas to any Task Force member.

Christmas Cards for Neighbors

Our mailboxes for Christmas cards for our neighbors is up in the Main Entrance. Between now and December 16, you are invited to write a note to one of our members who can no longer attend services. The lists of those receiving cards is on the table with the mailboxes. Please have your cards in by December 16 so that deacons have adequate time to deliver them.

Advent Booklet

Our Advent Devotional Booklet is available in the church office and at the entrance to the sanctuary. This collection of writings from our members and staff, illustrations, and coloring pages is one tool to guide you through the busy Advent season as we prepare for Christmas.

Christmas Ornaments

Christmas Ornaments from the 90th Anniversary of the sanctuary are available in the office or from Fredda Kimball. If you would like to purchase one, they are \$10 per ornament.

Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon

The Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon is on Thursday, December 13, at 11:30. This is always such a special event. We are thankful to be able to host again for another year.

Advent Yoga

Advent Yoga will convene again this year on Tuesday, December 18, at 7pm in Room 114 with Sara Vavra as instructor. Any ability of yoga is welcome. Chairs will be provided if needed or bring a mat if you prefer. Please call the church office and make a reservation by December 14 for this class as space is limited. Class will run about an hour and light refreshments will be served.

WDAV Charlotte Lessons & Carols from St. John's

If you missed WDAV's live holiday broadcast or would like to listen to it again, tune into WDAV 89.9FM on December 8 at 5PM or December 25 at 3PM for a full-length re-broadcast.

Charlie Brown Movie and Cocoa

On Sunday, December 23, during the Sunday school hour (9:15-10:15), there will be a gathering of all ages in Broach Hall to watch the Charlie Brown Christmas movie and enjoy hot cocoa together on the eve of Christmas Eve.

St. John's Baptist Church

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

The St. John's Pulpit

Sunday, December 16 -3rd Sunday of Advent, Lessons & Carols

Worship Theme: God, in Christ, Brings Joy to Stay

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon: *We Know What Happened to Sin*

Scripture: Zeophaniah 3:14-20

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, Dec. 9	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)	
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)	
	11:30 am	Joy Class (Parlor)	
	2:30 pm	Jubilee Store (Broach Hall)	
Monday, Dec. 10	11:45 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 220)	
	5:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)	
	6:30 pm	Administrative Deacon Panel (Lounge)	
	6:30 pm	Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)	
	6:30 pm	Youth Resource Team (Room 209)	
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)	
Tuesday, Dec. 11	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)	
	10:00 am	Staff meeting (Conference Room)	
	11:00 am	Bible Work Bench (Room 209)	
	1:00 pm	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)	
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)	
	6:00 pm	Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness (Rooms 114 & 116)	
	6:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)	
	9:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)	
Wed., Dec. 12	1:30 pm	Yoga Class (Room 114)	
	6:00 pm	Learning Charms (Room 116)	
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)	
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)	
	11:30 am	Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon (Broach Hall)	
Thurs., Dec. 13	5:00 pm	Architectural Task Force (Lounge)	
	7:30 pm	CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)	
	Friday, Dec. 14	6:30 am	Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
		4:45 pm	Middle School Youth Christmas Party and RITTI
		5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)
Saturday, Dec. 15	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)	
	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)	
	10:00 am	Basketball Games (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.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
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.....Mallory Brown
Church Administrator.....Jacquelyn McAbee
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted
Organist.....J. Noel Lance
Custodians.....Chris Mullis, Debora Thon, Sonny Ross

The Worship of God



God, in Christ, Brings Peace to Stay

Second Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA