

Jesus Comes

Please turn off all electronic devices

GATHERING MUSIC

J. Kevin Gray

WORDS OF GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

INTROIT

J. Noel Lance

BLESSING OF LOVE

Rev. Allison Benfield

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

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION

Rev. Benfield

*SONG OF ADVENT

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
MCGEE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Mary Rickenbaker & Joe Trull

ONE: “For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.”
ONE: “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.”
ALL: As we light this candle of love, let us prepare room in our lives for God’s hopeful expectancy, peaceful vision, joyful celebration and loving presence. Amen.

Like a Child, Strong and Kind, Jesus Comes

*CAROL

Chalice Hymnal No. 149

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
REGENT SQUARE



READING OF THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a

J. Kevin Gray

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

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

SOLO

From *Messiah*

Anne Hager
G. F. Handel

O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain.
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your god! Arise,
shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee
(*Isaiah 40: 9*)

Like a Child, Born to Pray, Jesus Comes

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

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

SONG OF REFLECTION

Chalice Hymnal No. 133, verse 1

Like a Child
LIKE A CHILD

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rev. Benfield

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Advent Alleluia

Chancel Choir
arr. Keith Christopher

*PRESENTATION

ADESTE FIDELES

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

Like a Child, We Receive All That Love Can Conceive

READING OF THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

Dan Redding & Aluel Nyuon

A few days later Mary hurried to the highlands of Judea to the town where Zacharias lived, to visit Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth’s child leaped within her and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, “You are favored by God above all other women, and your child is destined for God’s mightiest praise. What an honor this is, that the mother of my Lord should visit me! When you came in and greeted me, the instant I heard your voice, my baby moved in me for joy! You believed that God would do what he said; that is why he has given you this wonderful blessing.” Mary responded,

“Oh, how I praise the Lord. How I rejoice in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and now generation after generation forever shall call me blest of God. For he, the mighty Holy One, has done great things to me. His mercy goes on from generation to generation, to all who reverence him. “How powerful is his mighty arm! How he scatters the proud and haughty ones! He has torn princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. He has satisfied the hungry hearts and sent the rich away with empty hands. And how he has helped his servant Israel! He has not forgotten his promise to be merciful. For he promised our fathers—Abraham and his children—to be merciful to them forever.”

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

MARY’S SONG

Breath of Heaven

Maddie Minogue
Chris Eaton & Amy Grant

MESSAGE

Strength to Love

Dr. Foust

Like a Child, We Believe Jesus Comes

*CAROL

Chalice Hymnal No. 133, verses 2 & 3

Like a Child
LIKE A CHILD

*CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

Dr. Foust

Please come forward for prayers, to profess your faith in Christ, or to become a member of St. John’s.

*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

Dr. Foust

*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

Christmas Eve Service of Communion and Candlelight

We will worship together in the Sanctuary at 5PM on Monday, December 24 for a Christmas Eve service of communion and candlelight. There will be no nursery care during this service. We hope to see you there!

Holiday Office Hours

The church offices will be closed December 25 and 26 and January 1. There will be no Family News this week. If you need to reach a minister, please call their cell phone.

Financial Stewardship Commitment Campaign 2019

As of this week, we have received 177 commitments at a total of \$867,751. If you have not turned in your commitment card to the church office, please do so as soon as possible.

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 25 at 3PM for a full-length re-broadcast.

Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive at St. John’s on Sunday, December 30, from 9:30am-1:00pm in Lasater Hall. For questions or to sign-up, please contact Lia Benton at 704-533-1629. All donors will receive a free long-sleeved t-shirt.

From the Finance Office

All allowable tax donations must be received (and checks dated) by December 31, 2018. If mailed, please ensure that the envelope is postmarked 2018. Any monies received after December 2018 will count towards your 2019 pledge.

Charlotte Hornets Pride Night

For those who love basketball and the Hornets, here's a special upcoming event from SJBC member Matt Comer to enjoy your favorite sport while giving back to a good cause! The Charlotte Hornets will be hosting their first-ever Pride Night in partnership with Charlotte Pride on January 2, 2019 at 7PM. The Hornets face off against the Dallas Mavericks, and proceeds from tickets bought through Charlotte Pride will benefit the Charlotte Pride Scholarship Program.

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.

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 30 -First Sunday after Christmas
Proclaimer: J. Kevin Gray
Homily: *Where Are You Headed?*
What Star Are You Following? Sailors and Navigators.
Scripture: Matthew 2: 1 - 12

This Week and Next Week at St. John’s

Sunday, Dec. 23	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	9:15 am	<i>A Charlie Brown Christmas</i> & Cocoa (Broach Hall)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Monday, Dec. 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Tuesday, Dec. 25	All day	Church Offices Closed-Merry Christmas!
Wed., Dec. 26	All day	Church Offices Closed
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Friday, Dec. 28	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Dec. 29	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Kid’s Basketball (Gym)
Sunday, Dec. 30	9:15 am	Adult Sunday School (Classrooms)
	9:15 am	Blood Drive (Lasater Hall)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Monday, Dec. 31	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	All day	Church Offices Closed-Happy New Year!
Tuesday, Jan. 1	4:00 pm	South Sudanese Gathering (Broach Hall)
	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
Wed., Jan. 2	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Friday, Jan. 4	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Jan. 5	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, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon

The Worship of God



God, in Christ, Brings Love to Stay

Fourth Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ST. JOHN’S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA