

Westward Leading

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. Lee Gray

*EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP

Congregation

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION

Rev. Gray

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Gray

ONE: With joyful steps, we speed to the lowly manger bed.
ALL: There to bend our knee before One whom heaven and Earth adore.
ONE: O true morning star, may we ever more Your splendor see;
ALL: May it be our light in darkest night and guide us safely through life's seas.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Chalice Hymnal No. 170

How Great Our Joy!

JUNGST

READING OF THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

Joe Millsaps



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where

the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judah; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Still Proceeding

*SINGING WHILE SEEKING

Chalice Hymnal No. 172

We Three Kings
KINGS OF ORIENT

Verse 1: All
Verse 2: Women
Verse 3: Men

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

Buck Gray - Asbury

Larry Batts, Nancy Burgess, McLain Hall, Betty Hastings,
Paul & Henrietta Huffman, Gene Poole, Peg Russ, Brad Sifford,
Carole Ann Simpson, Elma Thomas, and Dee Turner - home
Sympathy to Linda Finger and family in the death of her husband Bill

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Gray

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Let the Song Begin

Chancel Choir
Leroy Yarbrough

*PRESENTATION

ADESTE FIDELES

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

*SINGING WHILE SEEKING

Chalice Hymnal No. 172

We Three Kings
KINGS OF ORIENT

Verse 4: Choir
Verse 5: All



Following Yonder Star

MESSAGE

J. Kevin Gray

Where Are You Headed? What Star Are You Following?



*HYMN OF GLADNESS

Chalice Hymnal No. 173

As with Gladness
DIX

CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

J. Kevin Gray

God go before you to lead you; God go behind you to protect you; God go beneath you to support you; God go beside you to befriend you. May the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you. Be filled with hope, peace, love and joy, and go now from this place to serve all as God has taught you. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

J. Noel Lance

*Invites the congregation to stand.

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

Announcements

Holiday Office Hours

The church offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.

Financial Stewardship Commitment Campaign 2019

As of this week, we have received 180 commitments at a total of \$873,271. If you have not turned in your commitment card to the church office, please do so as soon as possible.

Blood Drive

There will be a blood drive at St. John's today from 9:30am-1:00pm in Lasater Hall. For questions, please contact Lia Benton. 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.

St. John's Baptist Church

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

The St. John's Pulpit

Sunday, January 13 – Epiphany/Baptism
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Message: *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?*
Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, Dec. 30	9:00 am	Blood Drive – Lasater Hall
	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	1:00 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
Monday, Dec. 31	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Jan. 1		Church offices closed (New Year's holiday)
Wed., Jan. 2	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, Jan. 3	7:30 pm	CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)
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

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



And when at times the mob is swayed to carry praise
or blame too far, we may choose something like a star
to stay our minds on and be staid.
- Robert Frost

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2018

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

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