

We Rejoice in God's Faithfulness

Please turn off all electronic devices

As you enter the Sanctuary, please notice the basin of water and hand towel marked 'Servant' on the Communion Table. Please reflect on your baptism; you may even come forward to touch the water as a sign of remembrance.

INTROIT J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP Dr. Foust

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Dr. Foust

CALL TO WORSHIP J. Kevin Gray

ONE: Today, we gather as the baptized people of God. We are committed to obeying God, as we follow Jesus' teachings, lifestyle practices and example of sacrificial service.

ALL: We have died with Christ. We no longer pursue our self-centered ambitions, for we no longer belong to ourselves; we belong to God.

ONE: We open our lives to the Truth of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. We listen for God's Spirit flowing free, high surging as it will – the Spirit speaking in prophets of old and speaking still.

ALL: Praise to the Living God, who is faithful and full of compassion.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Chalice Hymnal No. 16 NETTLETON

We Proclaim Our Commitment to Follow Jesus

ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM

Audrey Heasley and Katherine Mae Rodden

***HYMN OF PROCLAMATION** If We Have Died to Ourselves
Chalice Hymnal No. 374 IF WE HAVE DIED

1. Solo
2. Choir
3. All



We Listen, O God, for Your Voice

READING OF THE GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-17 Anne Sutton

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

MEDITATING ON YOUR BAPTISM J. Noel Lance

*Your baptism is a permanent watermark on your life as a disciple of Jesus.
Your baptism symbolizes your commitment to follow Jesus through a full immersion into his life of sacrificial ministry through service and reconciliation.
You are baptized into a community of active faithfulness.*

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

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; Sympathy to Lee Gray and family in the death of his father, Buck Gray; Sympathy to Mallory Brown and family in the death of her grandfather, Warren James "Rip" Collins

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Chancel Choir
In This Very Room Ron & Carol Harris

***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.

We Stand Before You, Water-Washed and Spirit-Born

***HYMN OF BAPTISM** Down by the Jordan
Carol Gillette Winfrey
LOBE DEN HERREN

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!
Surely God's new day is rising!"

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:
"Are you God's Chosen One, sent here to rescue our nation?"
"No!" John replied. "He who is mightier than I
Judges and offers salvation."

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"
Let's take the good news and share it!

MESSAGE Dr. Foust
Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?

***HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP** Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters
Chalice Hymnal No. 365 BEACH SPRING

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

***COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** Congregation
Go, My Children, With My Blessing AR HYD Y NOS

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone; waking, sleeping, I am
with you, you are my own; in my love's baptismal river I have made you
mine forever, go, my children, with my blessing you are my own

***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

Blood Drive Note of Thanks

On behalf of the CBCC, thank you to everyone who made my birthday blood drive a success. Special thanks to the church staff who helped publicize the drive and to Chris for the last-minute set-up help, and to everyone who came by to donate, cheer on the donors and eat some cake. The CBCC workers all mentioned how much they loved the hospitality and turn-out. They can't wait to come back!

NAMI Support Groups

The NAMI support group for family members/caregivers of those with mental illness meets monthly at St. John's on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 - 8:00pm. This month's meeting is on January 8 in Rooms 114 & 116.

Terrific Tuesday Book Club

The Terrific Tuesday Book Club will meet to discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover on Tuesday, January 22 at 12PM in the Library. *Educated* is a memoir about the survivalist upbringing of Tara Westover in rural Idaho. The first time Westover entered a classroom was at the age of 17. At this time, she had never heard of events like the Holocaust or the names of those like Martin Luther King, Jr. This book outlines her journey through higher education institutions including Harvard University and Cambridge University, where she eventually earned her PhD. Please join us on January 22 to discuss.

Parent Seminar

Did you know that the bulk of spiritual formation for children happens at home? Did you realize that you are their primary teacher when it comes to faith? Does this seem like a very big and overwhelming task? On Sunday, February 24, we'll gather in the Chapel during the Sunday School hour to learn about and discuss ways that you can create intentional opportunities at home to deepen your child's (and family's) faith. I'll share easy ways to build prayer, scripture, and service into your life as a family. We'll have time to discuss what good resources are available to you, what resources you would be interested in finding, and what things are already working for your family.

St. John's Winter Weather Policy

On the weekdays, when the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools cancel school due to bad weather, all church activities, including meetings and Weekday School, will be canceled and the church office will be closed. On Sundays, in the case of extreme weather conditions affecting Sundays, we will announce alterations/closings no later than 7:00 am Sunday through the following media: automated greeting on church phone (704.333.5428), church website (www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org), Facebook & Instagram, e-mail to St. John's Family News list, local TV stations, including WBTV, WCNC, WSOC and Channel 14 News.

Have you included St. John's in your estate planning?

St. John's Baptist Church
300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 - www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

January 13 - Second Sunday after Epiphany
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Sermon: *Tempted to be Christ's Church*
Scripture: Luke 4:1-15

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, January 6	8:00 am	Church Council (Conference Room)
	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship/Baptism (Sanctuary)
	1:00 pm	South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
Monday, Jan. 7	12:30 pm	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
	5:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Jan. 8	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
	10:00 am	Staff meeting (Conference Room)
	12:00 pm	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
	6:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	6:30 pm	Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Groups (Room 114 & 116)
	7:30 pm	Sherrill Basketball Group (Gym)
Wed., Jan. 9	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	6:00 pm	Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	Women of the Church Board Meeting (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, Jan. 10	10:00 am	Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)
	10:00 am	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	7:30 pm	CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)
Friday, Jan. 11	7:30 am	Mental Health America Advocacy Breakfast (Broach Hall)
	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Jan. 12	7:00 am	Benton Basketball Group (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, Debora Thon, Sonny Ross
Organist.....J. Noel Lance
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted

The Worship of God



Matthew 3:16, NRSV

EPIPHANY & BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 6, 2019

10:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary

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