

God, We Gather as Your People

Please turn off all electronic devices.

THE GATHERING J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Allison Benfield

CALL TO SERVICE FOR YOUTH MISSION AUCTION Lilly Marie Sweet & Sam Vavra

INTROIT J. Noel Lance

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Rev. Benfield

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Benfield

ONE: We are God's people, walking together.

ALL: Let us choose the way of the Lord and live.

ONE: We are God's servants working and living together.

ALL: It is the Lord who shows us the way of forgiveness, salvation and joy.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Chalice Hymnal No. 86 FAITHFULNESS

Speak to Us, Lord

READING FROM THE GOSPEL Luke 6:27-42 Vanessa Boling

“But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” He also told them a parable: “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

***HYMN OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS** Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive
DETROIT

Choir: “Forgive our sins as we forgive,” You taught us, Lord, to pray, but, You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

Words of Meditation: C. Michael Haw

“Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, ‘Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.’ Accepting and giving forgiveness may be one of the most important aspects of living. I believe that the Assurance of Pardon is one of the most significant parts of Christian worship: ‘In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!’ These words may offer healing and hope for many in worship, even beyond anything else said or sung.”

Congregation: How can Your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

We Give

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY PRAYER Cindy McIntyre, Deacon

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Chancel Choir
Twenty-Third Psalm J. Kevin Gray

***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.

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

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

Parker Jackson-military; Larry Batts, Al Bridges Betty Hastings, Paul & Henrietta Huffman, Delbridge Narron, Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Elma Thomas, Dee Turner, & Jeck Warren-home

***HYMN OF GOD'S MERCY** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
Chalice Hymnal No. 73 WELLESLEY

Work in Us and Through Us to Accomplish the Seemingly Impossible

MESSAGE Rev. Dr. Amy Chilton
Forgiveness: A Most Impossible Calling

LITANY OF FORGIVENESS AND GRACE Rev. Benfield

ONE: God, we turn our attention now to the work of peacemaking and reconciliation.

ALL: Christ is our peace.

ONE: We remember Jesus in the throes of death, offering forgiveness and peace to those who taunted and tormented him.

ALL: Christ is our example.

ONE: We remember Jesus after his resurrection, offering forgiveness and restoration to his disciples who had denied and forsaken him.

ALL: Christ is our leader.

ONE: We acknowledge that we have wronged others and have been wronged by others,

ALL: And need forgiveness applied to both.

ONE: Help us to forgive others as we have been forgiven by You,

ALL: For in forgiving, we find peace and freedom.

ONE: Help us to have humility and courage

ALL: To admit when we are wrong,

ONE: To confess and apologize,

ALL: To make amends to those we have hurt.

ONE: We acknowledge that forgiveness benefits the forgiver

ALL: And that we can never force others to forgive us.

ONE: We do not deny or devalue the pain caused us by others. And we acknowledge that we may never see the results of our peacemaking.

ALL: But you see our hearts.

ONE: We thank you God, for removing our transgressions from us.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

ONE: We ask for hearts conformed to the way of Jesus Christ,

ALL: Ready to offer peace, willing to forgive and be forgiven.

***HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP** Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive
DETROIT

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” You taught us, Lord, to pray, but, You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease; then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace.

***CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY** Lee Gray

Send Us Forth as Your Servant Church

***COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH** Lee Gray

***POSTLUDE** J. Noel Lance

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come to Book Club with Katherine Stillerman

Everyone is invited to join with the St. John's Book Club this Tuesday! Come at noon this Tuesday, February 26. Bring a sandwich and stay after for lunch and conversation with our guest, Katherine Stillerman! Let us know that you are planning to come by calling or emailing Mallory. Katherine Stillerman is a retired educator who turned to writing as a second career. She is author of Retirement: *A Journey not a Destination, Hattie's Place, In the Fullness of Time, and Over the Mountain*. She plans to talk generally about her writing and what drew her into it, and leave time for lots of discussion.

State and Community Missions Offering 2019

Our offering for State and Community Missions will continue until the end of March, with your gifts this year going to support Habitat for Humanity and Urban Ministries. We have had for many years a partnership with these two agencies, both with our allocations in the annual budget of the church and with volunteers who provide hands-on services. Through Urban Ministries volunteers from St. John's make 200 sandwiches each month and staff a weekly Room in the Inn ministry during the winter months. On March 10 we will hear from Katie Church of Urban Ministries about these and other services provided by that agency for the homeless in our community.

Loaves & Fishes Food Drive 2019

Last chance! The food drive is ending this week. Have you thoughtfully shopped? Donated money? Don't forget to say prayers for the pantry volunteers and their clients and for yourselves as you donate food that will make such a difference in all the lives involved.

Youth Mission Auction

Join us Sunday, March 17 after Heritage Sunday worship in Broach Hall for the Youth Mission Auction. With this one auction we will raise funds for two years of mission trips! This is a significant way for the entire congregation to engage with our youth and mission partners. Plan to come and support the youth and missions. Want to donate? Please contact Leslie Bragg (<mailto:lmbragg3@gmail.com>) or Lia Benton (<mailto:liabenton@outlook.com>).

Heritage Sunday

This year Heritage Sunday is celebrated on March 17 and focuses on the youth ministries of St. John's. Invite anyone who has been a part of the youth ministry of St. John's to join us for worship this day. We need pictures of youth and directories for youth from the years 1959 and before, 1980-1995, 2005, 2006, 2008, and 2009. If you have anything to share, give to Fredda Kimball, Linda Crowder, or Mallory in the church office.

Elizabeth 8K Road Race

Join us on Saturday, March 23 at Independence Park for the Elizabeth 8K Road Race. Once again, St. John's is a sponsor for Charlotte's oldest road race. As a sponsor, we can offer 10 free registrations and a 10% discount to all who choose to participate. If you would like to run in the race and need a free code or 10% off code, email or call Mallory for this. If you want to volunteer, sign up through this link: <https://elizabeth8k.racesonline.com/volunteers>

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

The St. John's Pulpit

March 3, 2019

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
 Theme: Tell of the God Who Is to You
 Message: *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*
 Scripture: Luke 9:28-36

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, Feb. 24	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 pm	Sunday School (Classrooms) Parent Seminar (Library) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ Int'l Ministries Worship (Chapel)
Monday, Feb. 25	5:00 pm 11:45 am 12:30 pm 5:30 pm 8:00 pm	Sunday Night Live (Chapel, 3rd Floor, Lounge, Gym) Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge) Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305) Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room) AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Feb. 26	7:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm 5:15 pm 6:15 pm 7:30 pm	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge) Staff Meeting (Conference Room) Bible Workbench (Room 209) Terrific Tuesday Book Club (Library and Lounge) SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym) Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room) Sherrill Basketball Group (Gym) Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
Wed., Feb. 27	9:30 am 1:00 pm 1:00 pm 5:50 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm 8:15 pm	Yoga Class (Room 114) Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305) Learning Charms (Room 116) Open Table (Broach Hall) AA (Lasater Hall) Handbells (Handbell Room) Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) Team United/AAU Basketball (Gym)
Thursday, Feb. 28	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Youth Auction Preparation (Lasater Hall) CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)
Friday, Mar. 1	10:30 am 5:00 pm 8:00 pm	Metrolina Assoc. for the Blind Yoga (Room 114) Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym) AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Mar. 2	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

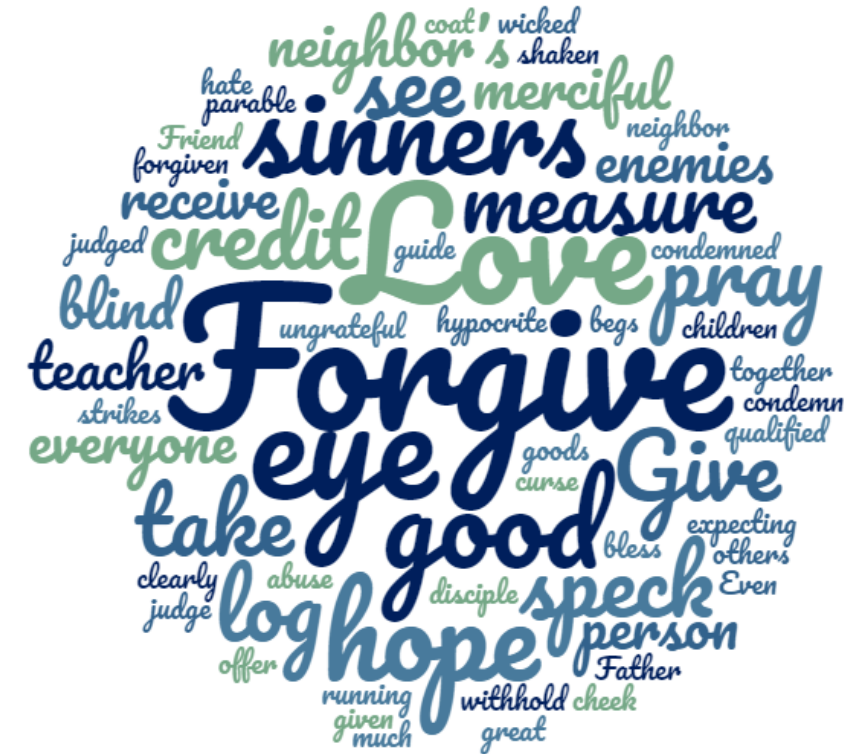
Equipping Ministers

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, Debora Thon, Sonny Ross
 Organist..... J. Noel Lance
 Weekday School Director..... Lydia Olmsted

The Worship of God



Worship Theme

Tell of the God Who Is Your Exemplar

Sunday, February 24, 2019

10:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary

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