

LITANY OF HERITAGE AND HOPE

Rev. Lee Gray

ONE: As stewards of St. John's heritage, we honor 97 years of commitment to ministry with youth and their families. Through these years, we have made friends and enjoyed making memories. Many individuals have guided and taught us by exemplifying discipleship, sacrifice and vision helping youth take seriously personal Christian growth and encouraging others to establish and maintain a Christian atmosphere in our homes.

ALL: We have learned how to worship God by following Jesus; investing our lives in God's justice, mercy and humility through active faith.

ONE: Blessed are those who have taught us to love God and neighbor...

ALL: ...by speaking God's message on behalf of the poor and confronting the causes of poverty.

ONE: Blessed are those who have led us to new understanding as we...

ALL: ...learned how to be welcoming and affirming of all persons by living the truth, 'God Loves Everyone!'

ONE: Blessed are those who have worked alongside us on Habitat House builds, mission trips, CROP Walks, Pride Parades and creek clean-ups as we involved ourselves in relating God's good news in our world...

ALL: ...giving voice to those whose voices have been silenced and restricted because of prejudice, bullying and misuses of power.

ONE: Blessed are those who have instructed us in studies of The Bible, music, worship, theology, ethics, Church history, discipleship, stewardship, prayer and mission...

ALL: ...showing us how to be compassionate, participating in peacebuilding and serving the hungry, homeless, sick, lonely and afraid.

ONE: For all these blessings, we give thanks to The Living God who...

ALL: ...unites us with other generations, in our commitment to Jesus Christ, making each and every step along our journey sacred ministry. Amen.

A New Creation

HONORING OUR HERITAGE IN YOUTH MINISTRY

Dr. Foust

Recognition of Youth & Youth Workers

Signing of the Bible

Memories of a Former Youth Minister

Valerie Hardy

A Fountain, Ever Springing

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mattie Stillerman

OFFERTORY

The Lights of the City

Chancel Choir

Michael Murphy

arr. David Haas and Bobby Fisher

John tells us of a city so high up above, where we'll meet in a spirit of love. We'll meet over yonder in that heavenly place. There we'll see each other face to face. I can almost see the lights of the city, shining down on me. I can almost see the lights of the city. Forever, Lord, I shall be free.

John tells us of a time when time will be no more, in the days when the trumpet shall love. We'll meet over yonder in that heavenly place. There we'll see each other face to face. I can almost see the lights of the city, shining down on me. *Refrain*

John tells us of the water which brings us to life. When we drink we will not thirst for more. When we're born in that water, a heavenly place, we'll be with brothers and sisters face to face. I can almost see the lights of the city, shining down on me. *Refrain*

In memory of all who have come before us.

*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.

Make Fresh Our Hearts

*SONG OF JOY

Chalice Hymnal No. 619

My Life Flows On

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

MOMENTS OF CONFESSION

Rev. Allison Benfield

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Benfield

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Benfield

ONE: Hear the good news: Anyone in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. You are forgiven.

ALL: We receive the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN

It was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

In Endless Song

PSALM 91

Whoever Lives Beside the Lord, Psalm 91

Chancel Choir

arr. Iona Community

Verse 1, Solo

Whoever lives beside the Lord, sheltering in the Almighty's shade, shall say, "My God, in you I trust, my safety, my defender."

Verse 5, All

God says, "I'll save from every harm those who know and love my name. In trouble I will honor them and show them my salvation."

MESSAGE

Growing Like Jesus

Dr. Foust

"Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and people."

Luke 2:52

*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

Give of Your Best to the Master

Howard B. Grose

Verse 1

Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth; Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor, into the battle for truth. Jesus has set the example, dauntless was he, young and brave; Give Him your loyal devotion; Give Him the best that you have.

Refrain

Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth; Clad in salvation's full Garments, join in the mission for truth.

Verse 2

Give of your best to the Master; Give Him first place in your heart; Give Him first place in your service; Consecrate every part. Give, and to you will be given; God His beloved Son gave; Gratefully seeking to serve Him, give Him the best that you have.

Refrain

CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

Dr. Foust

How Can I Keep From Singing?

*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

Dr. Foust

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Irish Blessing

Congregation

Andre Lash

May the road rise to meet you, the wind be at your back, may the sun shine warmly on your face. May the rain fall softly, softly on your fields and may God hold you in the palm of his hand, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

POSTLUDE

J. Noel Lance

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

"The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and to celebrate the Youth and Youth Ministry of St. John's."

Prayer Concerns

Parker Jackson-military; Betty Hastings, Paul & Henrietta Huffman, Gene Poole, Peggy Russ, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Elma Thomas, Dee Turner, & Jeck Warren-home Sympathy to Chris Mullis in the death of his aunt on March 13, 2019; Sympathy to the family of Harriet Lasater in her death on March 7, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Youth Ministries Today

Thank you for joining us today for Heritage Sunday as we incorporate a celebration of the history of youth ministries at St. John’s into our worship service. Valerie Hardy will join us to share memories of her time as youth minister at St. John’s in the 1980s. Additionally, the Heritage Team has compiled a booklet devoted to the past 97 years of youth ministry at St. John’s, including many past youth group members’ personal stories and memories. Pick up your copy during today’s worship. After worship today, the Youth Mission Auction will take place in Broach Hall. Anyone is welcome to come to the auction whether or not you made lunch reservations. Many exciting items are available in both the live and silent auctions.

Elizabeth Communities of Faith Services

On Wednesdays in Lent, the Elizabeth Communities of Faith will meet at Caldwell Presbyterian Church on 5th Street at 12PM for a service of worship and fellowship. The services continue March 20, 27, April 3, and 10. St. John’s will lead the service on March 20. The season’s theme is “Meals with a MESSage,” focused on Luke’s meal stories.

Staffing Discussion Sessions

Church members are invited to join members of the Staffing for Our Future Task Force in the conference room for discussions about our staffing goals. There will be no formal presentation but instead an opportunity for you to ask questions, make suggestions and openly discuss. These meetings are Monday, March 18 at 5pm, Thursday, March 21 at 10:30am, and Sunday, March 24 at 9:15am.

Easter Outfits Collection for A Child’s Place

Starting this week, St. John’s is collecting new or gently used children’s outfits with socks and underwear for A Child’s Place. The collection point for outfits is the main entrance by the gym. Please have all outfits in by Sunday, March 31.

State & Community Missions Offering Update

We have only two weeks left before the closing of our annual Community and State Offering. This year the receipts of the offering will go to **Habitat for Humanity** and **Urban Ministry Center**. For many years we have supported both of these ministries in their work with the homeless and hungry. Our special offering will provide valuable financial assistance for their work.
2019 Goal: \$5,000.00 | Received to Date: \$1186.00

“...for I was hungry and you fed me ...I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”
 Matthew 25:35

Terrific Tuesday Book Club

The Terrific Tuesday Book Club will meet again on Tuesday, March 26, at 12PM in the Library to discuss *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka. Bring a lunch to share afterwards in the lounge.

March Open Table

Join us for dinner on Wednesday, March 27 from 5:50-7:00PM in Broach Hall for this month’s Open Table. Dinner costs are \$5/child under 12 and \$10/adult with a maximum of \$30/family. More detailed information coming soon.

CBFNC Annual Gathering

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina hosts its 25th Annual Gathering on March 28 & 29 at First Baptist Church of Greensboro, NC. They invite all to join them for two days of fellowship, learning, and growth. This is always a wonderful time to network with others, learn about what is going on in other churches affiliated with CBFNC, and worship together. Register online today. For more information, visit their website: <https://www.cbfnag.com/>

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

The St. John’s Pulpit

March 24, 2019 | Third Sunday in Lent
 Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
 Theme: Just As I Am, Without One Plea
 Scripture: Luke 13:1-9
 Message: Amazing Grace is More than a Song

This Week at St. John’s

Sunday, Mar. 17	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	9:15 am	Worship 101 (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship/Heritage Sunday (Sanctuary)
	10:30 pm	Together in Christ Int’l Ministries Worship (Chapel)
	11:30 pm	Youth Mission Auction (Broach Hall)
	4:00 pm	South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
Monday, Mar. 18	8:00 am	Finance Resource Team (Conference Room)
	11:30 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
	12:30 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	5:00 pm	Staffing Discussion Session (Conference Room)
	5:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	6:00 pm	Deacons’ Work Session w/ Architects (Broach Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Mar. 19	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men’s Group (Lounge)
	9:30 am	HeadStart (Broach Hall)
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	11:00 am	Bible Workbench (Room 209)
	2:00 pm	Safety & Security Task Force (Lounge)
	5:00 pm	Prom Project (Lounge)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men’s Basketball (Gym)
	6:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	7:00 pm	Team United/AAU Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga Class (Room 114)
	10:00 am	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	12:00 pm	Elizabeth Communities of Faith Service (Caldwell Presby.)
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	6:00 pm	Handbells (Handbell Room)
	6:00 pm	Membership Resource Team (Lounge)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	7:30 pm	Sherrill Basketball Group (Gym)
Thursday, Mar. 21	10:30 am	Staffing Discussion Session (Conference Room)
	12:30 pm	Novant Managers’ Meeting (Broach Hall)
	7:30 pm	CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)
Friday, Mar. 22	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Mar. 23	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:00 am	Set-Up for Youth Mission Auction (Broach Hall)
	9:00 am	Charlotte Family Housing Workshop (Room 305)
	11:00 am	Opera Guild of Charlotte Auditions (Sanctuary/2 nd Floor)

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.

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



My Life Flows On in Endless Song

Sunday, March 17, 2019

10:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary

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

Above Earth’s Lamentations

Please turn off all electronic devices.

THE GATHERING

Delbridge Narron

GREETING AND A WORD

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

ABOUT TODAY’S WORSHIP

A PRAYERFUL CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Foust

ONE: Welcome into this sanctuary children of God! Take a deep breath. The God of peace and hope can comfort you in this sacred space.

ALL: **O Living God, like a field of sunflowers are constantly turning, facing the sun, we gather to express our worship to You. For You alone, O God, are our help in ages past and our hope for years to come. Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Chalice Hymnal No. 67

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE