

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Please turn off all electronic devices.

THE GATHERING Handbell Choir
Within the Darkest Night Derek Hakes

GREETING AND A WORD ABOUT TODAY’S WORSHIP Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

INTROIT J. Noel Lance

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Rev. Allison Benfield

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Benfield

ONE: The Living God works all things together for the good of those committed to the ways of God.

ALL: Let us worship the Living God who gives us our daily bread, forgives our debts in proportion to how we forgive our debtors, leads us not into temptation and delivers us from evil

ONE: The Living God redeems our sins, wipes our tears and saves us from eternal death.

ALL: Let us worship the Living God who relates with us through transformational, amazing grace.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** God We Gather as Your People
NETTLETON

God, we gather as Your people with our friends from far and near;
Let our voices sound with praises, knowing You have called us here.
Now we seek and greet each other, now in joy approach our friends.
Here we mingle, bound together as to all our love extends.

God of grace and God of glory teach our hearts to sing Your praise.
For we find in You forgiveness, for each step and word misplaced.
Called to be Your faithful people, help us be Your voice of love,
Showing mercy, helping justice, as we look to You above.

I Once Was Blind

READING FROM THE GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9 Elizabeth Benton

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So, he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

***HYMN OF CHANGE** What We Should Change
Carolyn Gillette Winfrey
LEONI

O God, we pray for help to see what we should change,
To see the values we ourselves should rearrange.
Now help us know our sin, the good we've left undone,
The times when you have looked for fruit and we've borne none.

In Christ, we see your grace: You give us one more day —
Another opportunity to live your way.
May we again repent and turn our lives to you,
And may we love our neighbors more and bear much fruit.

MOMENTS FOR REFLECTION Handbell Choir
I’m Just a Poor, Wayfaring Stranger arr. Tammy Waldrop

Please take time to reflect upon this text while the handbells play.

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger, traveling through this world below.
There is no sickness, no toil, nor danger, in that bright land to which I go.

I'm going there to see my father and all my loved ones who've gone on. I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home.

I want to wear a crown of glory when I get home to that good land. I want to shout salvation’s story, in concert with the grace-filled band. I’m going there to meet my Savior, to sing his praise forevermore. I’m only going over Jordan, I’m just going over home.

MOMENTS OF CONFESSION Rev. Lee Gray

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Gray

ONE: Just as we are, You will receive, welcome, pardon, cleanse, and relieve.

ALL: Because Your promise we believe, O lamb of God, we come, we come.

Moments of Silence

ONE: Just as we are, Your love now known, has broken every barrier down.

ALL: Now to be Yours, yes, Yours alone, O Lamb of God, we come, we come.

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.

But Now, I See

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Amazing Grace
Chalice Hymnal No. 546 NEW BRITAIN

OFFERTORY PRAYER Carol Injaychock, Deacon

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Chancel Choir
If Ye Love Me Thomas Tallis

***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.

SONG OF GRACE J. Kevin Gray
Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace) by Joel Houston & Jonas Myrin

All these pieces, broken and scattered, in mercy gathered, mended and whole. Empty-handed but not forsaken. I've been set free, I've been set free.

Chorus
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see. Oh, I can see it now. I can see the love that You bring, calming storms of fear and strife. Raising up the broken to life.

You take our failure. You take our weakness. You set Your treasure in jars of clay. So, take this heart, Lord. I'll be Your vessel, the world to see Your life in me.

Chorus

The Hour I First Believed

MESSAGE *Amazing Grace Is More Than a Song* Dr. Foust

***HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Chalice Hymnal No. 46, Verses 1 & 4 BEECHER

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

***COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH** Dr. Foust

***POSTLUDE** J. Noel Lance

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

State & Community Missions Offering Update

There are two more weeks left for the annual State and Community Missions Offering. The receipts of the offering this year will go to Habitat for Humanity and Urban Ministry Center. For many years we have supported both these ministries with our hands-on labor through building houses, sponsoring a Room in the Inn site in our facility, serving meals at the Men's Shelter, and making 200 sandwiches a month. Your offering will provide valuable financial assistance for these ministries in their work with the homeless and the hungry.

2019 Goal: \$5000.00 | Received to Date: \$1,911.00

Road Closures on Hawthorne Lane

Starting Monday, March 25, the entrance to the parking lot for St. John’s from Hawthorne Lane will be closed off. This will be closed until July 29. During this time, please enter and exit this parking lot from Lamar Avenue. The parking lot entrance from 5th street is still open during this time. Additionally, we are permitted to use the parking lots at what was previously King’s College on Sundays. Although these are chained off, the owner of the property has given us permission to move the barriers and use the lots for our Sunday morning activities.

Report on the Future of King’s College Campus

Please join us on Monday, April 1, at 6:30pm in Broach Hall for a special report on the exciting plans for the recently vacated King’s College building on our block. Some longtime partners of St. John's Baptist Church will share these plans. All are welcome to attend!

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 27, April 3, and 10. The season’s theme is “Meals with a MESSage,” focused on Luke’s meal stories.

Easter Outfits Collection for A Child’s Place

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.

Refugee Support Services

Can you imagine needing help reading mail? Making a telephone call? Completing a government form or understanding a power bill? The refugee help center at the Refugee Support Services (RSS) helps newly arrived refugees to just that. RSS wants to help refugees new to Charlotte Arrive, Survive, and Thrive. The day Keith Towery visited with 6 other St. John’s members they saw the Children’s Love and Learn program in action. This is a program that seeks to develop a life-long love of learning. We smelled a hot lunch being prepared and heard many different languages spoken as people bagged groceries from the food pantry. We also felt lots of love and appreciation as everyone socialized with smiles. The RSS wants to be a good neighbor by helping these refugees become good neighbors themselves. If you would like to find out more about the work of the Refugee Support Services or would like to go there with other St. John’s members to serve snacks and give welcoming smiles, please let Mallory know and she will have someone contact you.

Prayer Concerns

Betty Hastings, Paul & Henrietta Huffman, Gene Poole, Peg Russ, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Elma Thomas, Pris Tillman, Dee Turner, & Jeck Warren-home; Parker Jackson, military

Easter Calla Lilies Order Form

Note: Your purchase helps provide funds for our Advent & Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary.

I will give ____ lilies at **\$18 each**.

____ **in memory of:**

____ **in honor of:**

Donor name and telephone: _____

_____ I wish to pick up my lilies.

_____ I do not wish to pick up my lilies.

Last date to order lilies is **Sunday, April 7**. Turn form into Mallory in office.

St. John’s Baptist Church

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

The St. John’s Pulpit

March 31, 2019

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Theme: There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

Message: *On Being Found*

Scripture: Luke 15:1-32

This Week at St. John’s

Sunday, Mar. 24	8:00 am	Stewardship Resource Team (Conference Room)
	9:15 am	Staffing Our Future Feedback Session (Conference Room)
	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 pm	Together in Christ Int’l Ministries Worship (Chapel)
Monday, Mar. 25	5:00 pm	Sunday Night Live (Chapel, 3 rd Floor, Lounge, Gym)
	11:30 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
	12:30 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	5:30 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Mar. 26	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men’s Group (Lounge)
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	11:00 am	Bible Workbench (Room 209)
	12:00 pm	Terrific Tuesday Book Club (Library and Lounge)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men’s Basketball (Gym)
Wed., Mar. 27	6:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	7:00 pm	Team United/AAU Basketball (Gym)
	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga Class (Room 114)
	12:00 pm	Elizabeth Comm. of Faith Lenten Service (Caldwell Presby.)
Thursday, Mar. 28	1:00 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	1:30 pm	Learning Charms (Room 116)
	4:45 pm	Staffing Our Future Task Force (Lounge)
	5:50 pm	Open Table (Broach Hall)
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Friday, Mar. 29	7:00 pm	Handbells (Handbell Room)
	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	7:30 pm	Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
	7:30 pm	CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)
	7:30 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
Saturday, Mar. 30	5:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	8:00 pm	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	8:30 am	Metro. Music Auditions (Sanctuary, Chapel, Choir Room)
	10:00 am	Prom Project/Girl Talk Foundation (Broach & Lasater Hall)
	2:30 pm	Housing Committee (Room 209)

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.

Have you included St. John’s in your Estate Planning?

Ministers

Every participant in God’s Servant Church

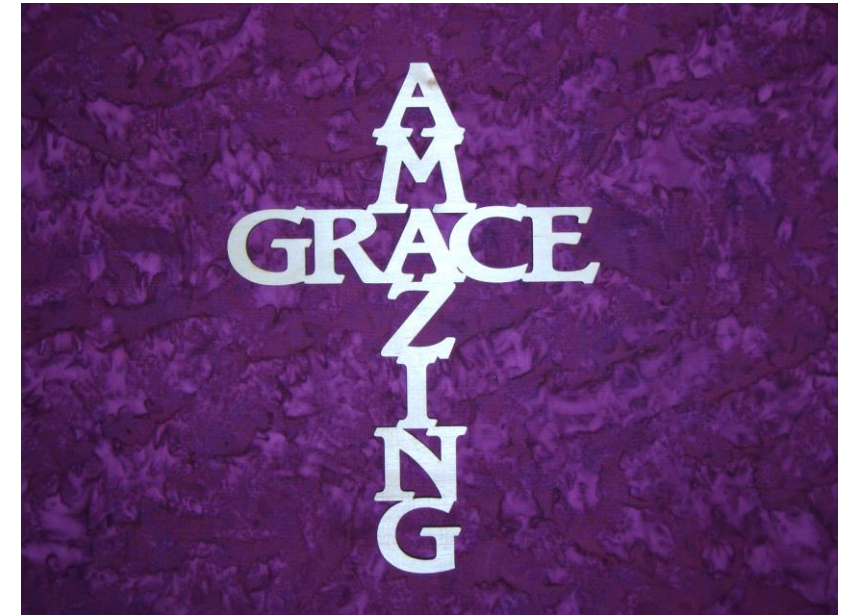
Equipping Ministers

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

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Sunday, March 24, 2019

10:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary

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