

# We Lift Our Voices in Praise

Please turn off all electronic devices

**GATHERING MUSIC** J. Noel Lance

**WORDS OF GREETING** Rev. Allison Benfield

**EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP** Congregation

**PRAYERFUL CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Benfield

ONE: Where ignorance, self-love, and insensitivity have fractured life in community,

**ALL: O God of love, give Your light.**

ONE: Where we are tempted to sterilize the agony, blood, and suffering of Jesus's death from our theology,

**ALL: O God of truth, give Your light.**

ONE: Where injustice and oppression have broken the spirit of peoples,

**ALL: O God who frees, give Your light.**

ONE: Where hunger, poverty, illness, and death have made life unbearable and a burden,

**ALL: O God of grace, give Your light. Open our eyes that we may walk in the light of love; free us from any stubbornness that would prevent us from being part of Your work grace in the world. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** The Voice of God Is Calling  
Chalice Hymnal No. 666 MEIRIONYDD

## Give Us Ears to Hear, O Lord

**READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES** Suzanne Taylor  
Esther 4:12-17

When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.” Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

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

**MOMENTS FOR MEDITATION** Rev. Lee Gray

“There was a time when the church was very powerful. It was during that period that the early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was the thermostat that transformed the mores of society.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
(Letter from the Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963)

## SONG OF PREPARATION

1. Solo
2. Choir
3. All



**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER** Rev. 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

Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Carol Drye, Gene Poole, Peg Russ, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Henry Snyder, Elma Thomas, & Jeck Warren - home; Parker Jackson – military; Construction Workers on 7<sup>th</sup> and Hawthorne

## We Proclaim Your Faithfulness

**PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS** Rev. Benfield

ONE: God is always faithful and will never leave us, whether we walk on mountaintops or suffer in the valleys,  
**ALL: Let us remember that God cares and calls us to do the same.**

**\*HYMN OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS** Great Is Thy Faithfulness  
Chalice Hymnal No. 86 FAITHFULNESS

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** Judy Sanford, Deacon

**WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** Chancel Choir  
*He Never Failed Me Yet* Robert Ray

### Chorus

I will sing of God’s mercy every day, every hour, He gives me power. I will sing and give thanks to Thee for all the dangers, toils and snares that He has brought me out. He is my God, and I’ll serve Him no matter what the test. Trust and never doubt. Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

### Verse 1

I know God is able to deliver in times of storm; and I know that He’ll keep you safe from all earthly harm. One day when my weary soul is at rest, I’m going home to be forever blessed. Trust and never doubt. Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

### Verse 2

Didn’t my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh? And didn’t He cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? When I think of what my God can do, He delivered Daniel I know He will deliver you. Trust and never doubt. Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet.

### \*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.

## Teach Us to Be Your Hands to Those in Need

### \*SONG OF JUSTICE

Chalice Hymnal No. 658

Restless Weaver

BEACH SPRING

### MESSAGE

*The Hope We Give*

Rev. Dr. Daynette Snead

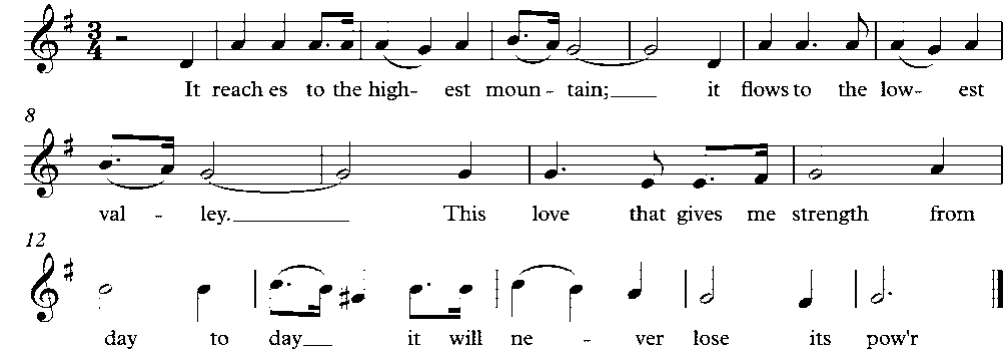
### \*SONG OF RESPONSE

This Love Will Never Lose Its Power

Andre Crouch

Solo: The life that Jesus gave for me way back on Calvary; this love that gives me strength from day to day will never lose its pow’r.

All:



### CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

Rev. Gray

### \*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

Rev. Gray

### \*POSTLUDE

J. Noel Lance

*\*Invites the congregation to stand*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Building Sabbath Weeks**

Our annual “building sabbath” is continuing for the weeks of August 5-9 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) and August 12-16 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor and outside). This is a time when our custodians are hard at work performing extra cleaning and maintenance tasks. Some entrances may be closed for a few hours or more. Please contact Jacquelyn if you have custodial or maintenance needs during these weeks. Thank you for being flexible during this time!

**Terrific Tuesday Book Club Meets This Tuesday!**

Join us Tuesday, August 6 at 12PM at the home of Betty Harkey at 2044 Ferncliff Road. Bring your favorite salad to share. At this meeting, we will make plans for the coming year regarding book choices and such. Bring a list of books you would like use to consider. If you have questions, please email Betty Harkey at [harkeybg@gmail.com](mailto:harkeybg@gmail.com) or call her at 704-366-5901. Invite a friend to join us!

**School Uniform Drive**

The first of August marks the beginning of our uniform donation drive for Highland Renaissance Academy. These uniforms will be collected at the Main Entrance from now until August 25. The needs include: girls khaki or navy pants (sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16), boys khaki or navy pants (sizes 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14), short-sleeved white or navy polo shirts (ALL sizes), and long-sleeved white or navy polo shirts. The greatest need is for smaller sizes. Consider donating a uniform today!

**Charlotte Pride Interfaith Service**

The Charlotte Pride Interfaith Service is on Sunday, August 11 at 4PM at Caldwell Presbyterian Church. There will be a reception afterwards. The theme for the service is centered around the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stonewall. We hope to see you there!

**Charlotte Pride Festival & Parade 2019**

The 2019 Charlotte Pride Festival is Saturday-Sunday, August 17-18, and the 2019 Bank of America Pride Parade starts at 1PM on Sunday, August 18. If you would like to volunteer to help staff our booth at the festival on Saturday or Sunday, please email Todd Stillerman at [stillerman@gmail.com](mailto:stillerman@gmail.com) or text Mattie Stillerman at 704-362-6743. This year’s official St. John’s Pride t-shirt is available for \$10. We hope everyone will consider marching with us in the parade!

**2019 Global Mission Offering**

For this year, the Mission Resource Team has set a goal of \$16,000, with \$1000 going to assist those impacted by the Sierra Leone fire in West Africa and \$15,000 going to the Nyarweng School in South Sudan. When the \$15,000 for the Nyarweng School is added to funds from our Mission budget and from the designated account for the school, the total contribution from St. John’s for the school will exceed \$55,000. This amount will cover 100% of the Nyarweng school’s normal operating expenses, including teacher salaries and supplies for an entire year! This offering will be collected until August 31. The wrong amount was published in the Family News this week. The correct amount received is listed below.

**Goal: \$16,000**  
**Received: \$10,714**

**Save the Date!**

Mark your calendars for the Annual Women of the Church Luncheon after worship on Sunday, September 15 in Broach Hall. If you already know you would like to come, call or email Mallory in the office to reserve your spot!

**St. John’s Baptist Church**  
300 Hawthorne Lane,  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204  
704.333.5428 | [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

**The St. John’s Pulpit**

Sunday, August 11  
Proclaimer: Rev. Dr. Larry Hovis

**This Week at St. John’s**

Sunday, August 4	8:00 am	Search Task Force (Lounge)
	9:15 am	Sunday School (Broach Hall & Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ Int’l Ministries (Chapel)
	2:00 pm	South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
Monday, August 5	All Week	Sabbath Weeks Continue
	12:30 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, August 6	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men’s Group (Lounge)
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	1:00 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Youth Areas)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men’s Basketball (Gym)
Wed., August 7	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	10:00 am	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	6:30 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	7:30 pm	Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
Thursday, August 8	10:00 am	Craft & Needles Ministry (Room 209)
Friday, August 9	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, August 10	All Week	Middle School Mission Trip
	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Charlotte Family Housing Family Empowerment Event (Broach Hall, Gym, Lounge, Classrooms)

**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 ..... Dr. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**Church Staff**

Administrative Assistant ..... Mallory Brown  
Church Administrator ..... Jacquelyn McAbee  
Custodians ..... Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon  
Graded Choirs Director ..... Anna Ball  
Organist..... J. Noel Lance  
Weekday School Director ..... Lydia Olmsted

# The Worship of God



Artwork by Ruth Meharg,  *Holding Hands*, 2017

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019**

**10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY**

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