

# Revering the Lord

Please turn off all electronic devices

## GATHERING MUSIC

Angela Swicegood

## WORDS OF GREETING & A WORD ABOUT TODAY’S WORSHIP

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

## EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP

Congregation

## PRAYER OF SUBMISSION

Dr. Foust

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Foust

ONE: I was glad when they said unto me:  
ALL: **Let us go into the house of the Lord!**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

Chalice Hymnal No. 464

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

# Listening for the Lord

## READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Joshua 24:14-15

Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve the Lord in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

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

## HYMN

Once to Every Soul and Nation  
HYFRYDOL

Once to ev'ry soul and nation comes the moment to decide. In the strife of truth and falsehood, for the good or evil side. Some great cause, some great decision, offering each the bloom or blight; and the choice goes by forever 'twixt that darkness and that light.

Then to side with truth is noble, when we share her wretched crust. Ere her cause bring fame and profit, and 'tis prosperous to be just. Then it is the brave soul chooses, while the coward stands aside. 'Til the multitude make virtue of the faith they had denied.

By the light of burning martyrs, Christ, thy bleeding feet we track. Toiling up new Calv'ries ever with the cross that turns not back. New occasions teach new duties, ancient values test our youth. They must upward still and onward, who would keep abreast of truth.

Tho' the cause of evil prosper, yet the truth alone is strong. Tho' her portion be the scaffold, and upon the throne be wrong. Yet that scaffold sways the future, and, behind the dim unknown, standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above God's own.

## MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rev. Allison Benfield

## THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. 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.

## \*A PRAYERFUL LITANY

Dr. Foust

ONE: Living God, having responded to Your call, we follow Jesus Christ as vocational disciples. Learning to continue Jesus' work of redeeming, reconciling, healing and peacebuilding, we are involved in Your spiritually transforming social mission in our community and beyond. And, we know people in other lands are also Your people desiring to fulfill Your requirements of acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with You.

### ALL: Sing Verse 1 of Hymn 722, “This Is My Song,”

ONE: As citizens in our national life, we lift high a value that all persons are created equal. Yet, we confess to You that we often ignore this value in our working, competing, relating, voting, deciding and governing. We base our national visions on lofty ideals like every person being endowed by You with undeniable Rights such as Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. We celebrate phrases such as, “*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;*” Yet, amidst our achieving, acquiring and accumulating, we often embrace our rights as privileges while limiting the same rights to others; even using our religious freedom to disguise our intolerance, prejudice and persecution of others close-by and far away.

### ALL: Sing Verse 2 of Hymn 722, “This Is My Song,”

ONE: Transcendent Living God who makes Yourself known to us, forgive our sin. Redeem us by Your heart until we live what we pray, ‘*Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.*’ Transform us until we incarnate the teachings and message of Jesus as Your people of peace. Amen!

### ALL: Sing Verse 3 of Hymn 722, “This Is My Song,”

## READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Amy Chilton  
Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So, they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

# Proclaiming the Lord’s Message

## SONG OF RESPONSE

*The Table of Freedom*

Kathleen Tunson & J. Kevin Gray

J. Kevin Gray

Seems the days are getting longer. So many people are confused. The when and where are up for grabs, depending on your choice of news; but, please tell me where we go from here. Don't forget me, that's what they whisper in my ear, the ones who've fought so hard to be here at table of freedom. Each of us fills a space representing the human race. Every one of us has a voice, each and every day we make a choice. Whether to be the good we want to see in this world. Whether or not to be the change that we all know we should be, for the sake of the ones who gathered around the table of freedom. It will never be easy and will take a lot of courage and strength. But keep your heart open and never let it close my friend. The door must stay open so everyone here can see the table of freedom. We will be the good we want to see in this world. We will be the change that we all know we should be for the sake of the ones who've faithfully come to the table of freedom.

## MESSAGE

*God Within the Shadows*

Dr. Foust

# Doing the Lord's Work

## \*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound  
MCKEE, Words by Adam M.L. Tice

The Church of Christ cannot be bound by walls of wood or stone. Where charity and love are found, there can the church be known.

True faith will open up the door and step into the street.  
True service will seek out the poor and ask to wash their feet.

True love will not sit idly by when justice is denied.  
True mercy hears the homeless cry and welcomes them inside.

If what we have, we freely share to meet our neighbor's need,  
then we extend the Spirit's care through ev'ry selfless deed.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Robby Ray, Deacon

## OFFERTORY

*And the Father Will Dance*

Chancel Choir  
arr. Mark Hayes

## \*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.

## CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

Dr.Foust

## \*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

Dr. Foust

## \*POSTLUDE

Angela Swicegood

*\*Invites the congregation to stand*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Women of the Church Luncheon**

All women of the church are invited to the annual Women of the Church luncheon on Sunday, September 15 from 11:45am-1:00pm in Broach Hall. This year, our speaker is the Rev. Kheresa Harmon from the School of Divinity Admissions Office at Gardner-Webb University. Kheresa also serves as the Minister to Children at First Baptist Church of Forest City, NC and used to be a member here at St. John's! The menu includes turkey croissants, potato salad, and cookies from Carolina Confections. The cost is \$10 at the door but you can reserve your spot with Mallory in the office today.

**Faith Journey Book Study**

An eventful beginning for the Faith Journey Book Study is planned. Rev. Dr. Martha Kearsa will be here on Monday, September 9 to discuss her book, *The Sun Is Up*, which will be the study for the "Soul Sisters" for the fall. The group would like to invite the congregation to join them in welcoming Martha on the 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:45am-1:00pm. If you are interested in attending, contact Mallory in the church office to let her know you want to come. Martha's book is available for purchase through Amazon and Smyth and Helwys for 13 dollars.

**Queen Esther and the Journey to the Authentic Self**

All women are invited to join us for the annual Women of the Church Retreat from November 1-3 in Blowing Rock, NC. We will stay at the Blowing Rock Conference Center. Registration is due by September 15. This year, we will use the book of Esther as our guide as we seek to live more fully into our authentic selves and listen for how we are called "...for such a time as this." Janet L. Jones, M.Ed., LPC is our presenter. If you would like to register, please see Mallory or Donna Scott for a registration form today!

**2019 Global Mission Offering**

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. We are only a little over \$1,000 from reaching our 2019 goal. This offering will be collected until next Sunday, September 1.

**Goal: \$16,000**  
**Received: \$14,613**

**New Deacon Ordination**

On Sunday, September 8, we will ordain eight new deacons during morning worship: Treva Bridges, Alan Deitz, Paula Foust, Deacon Jones, Durning Moore, Casey Perkins, David Sherrill, and Mindy Vergakis. We hope you all will attend for worship and to support these new servants!

**Join the Handbell Choir**

Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals in early September on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm. If you are interested in joining this fun group that plays in worship several times a year, please contact Jacquelyn McAbee for more information ([jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org) or 704-333-5428 ext. 20). No previous experience is necessary, and you don't even have to read music to learn to play bells.

**Prayer Concerns**

Byron Bullard, Carol Drye, Gene Poole, Peg Russ, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Henry Snyder, Elma Thomas, & Jeck Warren-home; Parker Jackson—military

Congratulations to Chase and Natalie Bailey on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Kate Bailey, on Wednesday, August 21! Kate and her family are doing well.

**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, September 1, 2019  
Proclaimer: Delbridge Narron

**This Week at St. John's**

Sunday, August 25	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	9:15 am	Promotion & Parent Meeting (Broach Hall)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
Monday, August 26	12:30 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	5:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas Orientation (Broach Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, August 27	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men's Group (Lounge)
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
	5:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas Orientation (Broach Hall)
Wed., August 28	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	7:00 am	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	1:00 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	4:30 pm	Weekday School Open House
	6:00 pm	Women of the Church Spiritual Growth Team (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	Search Task Force (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	6:30 pm	Staffing Search Task Force (Lounge)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	7:30 pm	Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
Thursday, August 29	8:00 am	Head Start Staggered Entry Day
Friday, August 30	8:00 am	Head Start Staggered Entry Day
	4:00 pm	High School Retreat Begins
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, August 31	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Kids' 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 .....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



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019**

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

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