

Come and Worship the Living God

Please turn off all electronic devices

GATHERING MUSIC Jane Lineberger

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Allison Benfield

EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP Congregation

PRAYERFUL CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Benfield

ONE: Come and worship. Turn from the distractions of the world, for just this small moment, to worship God.

ALL: Our worst temptations are not hedonism, egoism or materialism.

ONE: Our worst temptation is to believe the often-repeated image of a one-false-move God, an accountant God who keeps score and demands payments.

ALL: We are tempted to believe that God is like us rather than striving to be like God.

ONE: We find it hard to fully embrace the no-matter-whatness of God – to rest in the hands of a God who’s just plain-old too busy loving us to be disappointed in us.

ALL: We find overwhelming, all-accepting love unbelievable because, like the universe, like quarks, like eternity, it is a concept that far surpasses our human capacity.

ONE: So, we gather here to worship the One who chooses us in spite of our unbelief, our weakness, our hubris.

ALL: We worship God who creates us, redeems us, and sustains us.

ONE: Come and worship.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** O Worship the King
Chalice Hymnal No. 17, verses 1, 2, & 5 LYONS

READING FROM ACTS OF THE APOSTLES Kevin Turner
Acts 10:1-16

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. One afternoon at about three o’clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius.” He stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” He answered, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.” When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa. About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean.” The voice said to him again, a second time, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

God is building new bridges to lands we have yet imagined. We are at times fearful of the cross; but, when God has made a new way for us to reach others with this unbelievable message of grace and good news, let us be faithful to answer the call and follow.

SUNG MEDITATION Restless Weaver
Chalice Hymnal No. 658 BEACH SPRING

Verse 1: Solo

Verse 4: All

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.

Prayer Concerns

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

Sympathy to the family and friends of Grace Burton in her passing this past week. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, September 3 at 11am in the Chapel at St. John’s.

READING FROM THE GOSPEL Renee Hutchison

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM OF ILLUMINATION Chancel Choir
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now William Byrd, Arr. Hopson

Lord Jesus Christ be present now, our hearts in true devotion bow,
Thy Spirit send with grace divine, and let Thy truth within us shine.

Unseal our lips to sing Thy praise, our souls to Thee in worship raise,
make strong our faith, increase our light, that we may know Thy name aright.
Lord Jesus Christ be present now.

Illuminate Us Though Your Presence, O Lord

MESSAGE *Word of God* Rev. Delbridge E. Narron

***HYMN OF MISSION AND WITNESS** Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
Chalice Hymnal No. 589 I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

OFFERTORY PRAYER Bert Green, Deacon

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM J. Kevin Gray
How Great Thou Art Hine & 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.

Send Us Forth

CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE Rev. Benfield

***COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH** Rev. Benfield

***POSTLUDE** Jane Lineberger

**Invites the congregation to stand*

About Today’s Proclaimer

For many Sundays, we have heard Delbridge Narron play the piano as worship begins. Today, we will hear from Delbridge as our proclaimer. Delbridge E. Narron was ordained by Wake Forest Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. He has served as a deacon at Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City, and at Wedgewood Baptist Church in Charlotte. He served as the interim pastor of the First Baptist Church of Littleton, Massachusetts, and as pastor of North Hunterdon Baptist Church, in Glen Gardner, New Jersey. Delbridge did one unit of clinical pastoral education at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.



Delbridge is a native of North Carolina and grew up in the Charlotte area. Delbridge is an Eagle Scout and a Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow. Delbridge earned an M.Div. in 1987 at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, attending as a Union Scholar. He earned his J.D. in 1996 at New York University School of Law in Manhattan. Delbridge currently works as General Counsel of Springs Global US, Inc., headquartered in Fort Mill, South Carolina. Delbridge is the chairperson of the Advisory Board for the Honors College at UNC Charlotte and teaches a course in constitutional law for the Honors College one semester a year. He was named the 2019 Honorary Alumnus for UNC Charlotte. In lieu of progeny, Delbridge endowed the Delbridge Narron Scholarship in the Honors College of UNC Charlotte. His hobbies include reading and music. Until retiring as of Easter Sunday 2015, Delbridge was the accompanist for Wedgewood Baptist Church for fifteen years. While working for North Hunterdon Baptist Church in Glen Gardner, New Jersey, Delbridge founded the AIDS Network in Hunterdon County, the first AIDS service organization in that area, and helped found the North Hunterdon Community Food Bank and Voorhees Village Preschool.

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. The menu includes turkey croissants, potato salad, and cookies from Carolina Confections. The cost is \$10 at the door but you need to **reserve your spot by September 8**. You can pay ahead with Nancy Wilson today or next Sunday to avoid the line.

Faith Journey Book Study

An eventful beginning for the Faith Journey Book Study is planned. Rev. Dr. Martha Kearsse 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 9th from 11:45am-1:00pm in the Lounge. 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.

Bible Workbench

Please accept our invitation to join us as we begin the weekly meetings for our Bible Workbench (Reading Between the Lines) on Tuesday, September 17, at 11 am in room 209 at St. John’s. We originally planned to meet September 3 but wanted to delay this due to the memorial service for Grace Burton. We meet for one hour each Tuesday. We welcome back our small group as we welcome people who have not attended in the past. Contact Steve Hoffman (hstevhoffman@gmail.com) or call 704-604-9634 for more information.

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**. 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! There are some forms in the office you can get today.

2019 Global Mission Offering

The Mission Resource Team has set a goal of \$16,000, with \$1,000 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 have already exceeded this goal and a final total will be published in this coming week’s Family News.

Goal: \$16,000
Received: \$17,513

New Deacon Ordination

Next Sunday, September 8, we will ordain eight new deacons during morning worship: Treva Bridges, Alan Dietz, 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 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.

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

The St. John’s Pulpit
Sunday, September 8 – Deacon Ordination
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John’s

Sunday, Sept. 1	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ Int’l Ministries (Chapel)
	2:00 pm	South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
Monday, Sept. 2	All Day	Church Offices Closed (Labor Day)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Sept. 3	7:00 am	Tuesday Morning Men’s Group (Lounge)
	11:00 am	Memorial Service for Grace Burton (Chapel)
	2:00 pm	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men’s Basketball (Gym)
	6:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
Wed., Sept 4	6:30 am	Benton Basketball Group (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	10:00 am	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	6:00 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	Nursery Teacher Training (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	7:30 pm	Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
Thursday, Sept. 5	9:00 am	Unity Coalition (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	Stewardship Resource Team (Lounge)
	7:30 pm	CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)
Friday, Sept. 6	10:30 am	Metrolina Assoc. for the Blind Yoga (Room 114)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Sept 7	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

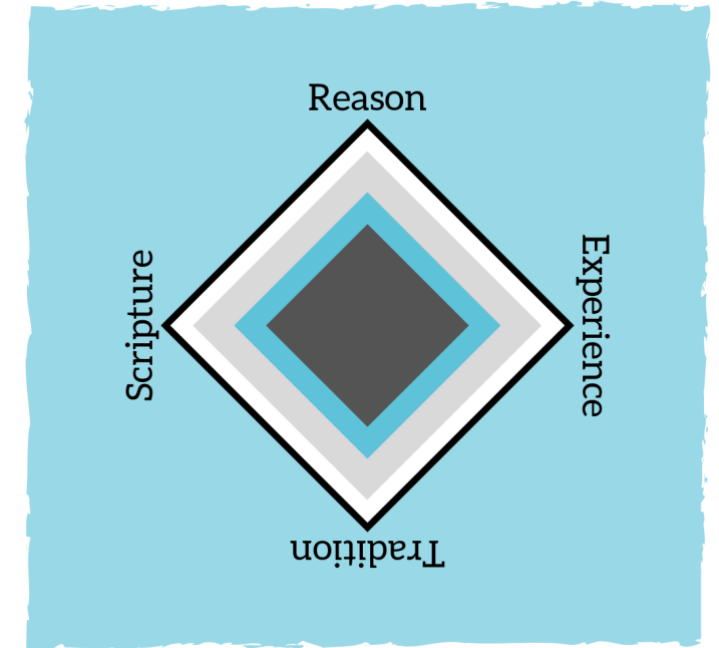
Equipping Ministers

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 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, SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ST. JOHN’S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA