

Come Thou Long Expected One

Please turn off all electronic devices

GATHERING MUSIC	J. Noel Lance
WORDS OF GREETING	Rev. Dennis W. Foust. PhD
A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP	Dr. Foust
EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP	Congregation
PRAYER OF SUBMISSION	Rev. Lee Gray
*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE	Matt, Casey, Sophie, & Gabe Perkins
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ONE: Amidst a world in darkness, a light shines brightly.

ALL: Come, O Christ, our Hope!

ONE: Into the night of our doubt, illumine our hearts, O God.

ALL: Come, O Christ, our Hope!

ONE: Give wings to our songs, so that they join with the angels who forever sing, into the night of our doubt, illumine our hearts, O God.

ALL: Come, O Christ, our Hope!

*HYMN OF PRAISE	One Candle Is Lit
Chalice Hymnal No. 128, verse 1	CRADLE SONG

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES	Isaiah 2:1-5	Jan Kerley
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The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall

beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

ONE: Through these written words of scripture, we listen for the Living Word of God.

ALL: Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

ADVENT HYMN	Like a Child
Chalice Hymnal No. 133	LIKE A CHILD

We Seek You in Our Prayers and Offerings

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER	Rev. Allison Benfield
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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

Harry Barr, Judy Biber, Tom Bryson, Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Don Furr, Polly Hull (Asbury), Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Henry Snyder, Bryan Thorn, & Elma Thomas; Parker Jackson – military

SONG OF THANKSGIVING	Give Thanks
Chalice Hymnal No. 528, once through	GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER	Keith Towery, Deacon
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WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM	Chancel Choir
<i>Prepare the Way</i>	arr. Allan Robert Petker

Prepare the way, O Zion; your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appears. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name. Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace. And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

*PRESENTATION	ADESTE FIDELES
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O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
Christ the Lord.

READING FROM THE EPISTLE	Romans 13:11-14	Rev. Benfield
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Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

ONE: Through these written words of scripture, we listen for the Living Word of God.

ALL: Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

*SONG OF RESPONSE	Hail to the Lord's Anointed
Chalice Hymnal No. 140, verse 1, 2, & 4	SHEFFIELD

Teach Us Your Vision of Hope

MESSAGE	<i>Can You See Hope from Here?</i>	Dr. Foust
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*HYMN OF HOPE	O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines
Chalice Hymnal No. 711	CANDLER

During this hymn, anyone desiring to make a commitment to become a member of St. John's or make a profession of faith to follow Jesus Christ as a disciple is invited to come to the front of the sanctuary and pray with the minister.

*CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY	Dr. Foust
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*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

*POSTLUDE	J. Noel Lance
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**Invites the congregation to stand.*

Copies of worship bulletins and message manuscripts are available on the St. John's website: www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship Update

Amount Pledged: \$756,477
Commitments Received: 142

If you have not turned in your pledge card to Jacquelyn in the office, please do so as soon as possible.

WDAV Lessons & Carols

This year’s broadcast from St. John’s of the WDAV Service of Lessons and Carols is THIS TUESDAY, December 3 at 7PM in the Sanctuary with a reception following in Lasater Hall.

Christmas Cards for Neighbors

Our mailboxes for Christmas cards for our neighbors are up in the Main Entrance from December 1-15. During this time, all are invited to write a note to one of our members on the list at the mailboxes. Please have your cards in by December 15 so that deacons have adequate time to deliver them.

Room in the Inn

Room in the Inn will run from the weekend of December 6 to the weekend of March 27 here at St. John’s! We have a current need for volunteers in the following roles: overnight hosts, van drivers, bag lunch providers, set-up team members, meal providers, laundry assistants, and community resource table representatives. Each role is important in making RITI a success and a good experience for the 12 men who will be staying in our facilities overnight. If you have questions, contact Dale Johnson at 704-364-2575 or dwj9578@usa.com or Alice Wirz at 704-377-6189 or ahwirz@carolina.rr.com. The link to sign up is here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caae2eaafb6-room2>

Advent Yoga

Advent Yoga will take place on Sunday, December 15 at 5:00pm in McLeod-Brown Room 114. Sara Vavra will lead us in this time of quiet stillness and contemplation as we move gently and focus on the meaning of this Advent season. Call or email Mallory in the office to sign up so that we can make sure we have enough room! Bring your own mat or use one of the mats here. Cookies and herbal tea will be served after the session.

St. John’s Baptist Church

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

The St. John’s Pulpit

Sunday, December 8 | Hanging of the Green
 Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
 Worship Theme: God Inspires New Beginnings through Peace
 Message: *All Are Welcome! But Was John Our Kind of Baptist?*
 Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-9 & Matthew 3:1-11

This Week at St. John’s

Sunday, Dec. 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)
	5:00 pm	Sunday Night Live (Gym, Lounge, 3rd Floor)
Monday, Dec. 2	5:45 pm	Young Voice of the Carolinas
	11:30 am	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	11:45 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
	12:30 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
	6:00 pm	WDAV Rehearsal (Sanctuary, Choir Room)
Tuesday, Dec. 3	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men’s Basketball (Gym)
	7:00 pm	WDAV Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	WDAV Reception (Lasater Hall)
Wed., Dec. 4	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	Handbells (Sanctuary)
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Thursday, Dec. 5	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	9:00 am	Unity Coalition (Lounge)
	1:00 pm	Chrismon Tree Decorating (Sanctuary)
	1:15 pm	Temporary Sanctuary Group (Lounge)
	7:30 pm	CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)
Friday, Dec. 6	9:00 am	Jubilee Store Preparation (Broach Hall)
	10:30 am	Metrolina Assoc. for the Blind Yoga (Room 114)
	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
Saturday, Dec. 7	10:00 am	Basketball Games (Gym/Lounge)
	3:00 pm	Jubilee Store (Broach, Lasater, 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

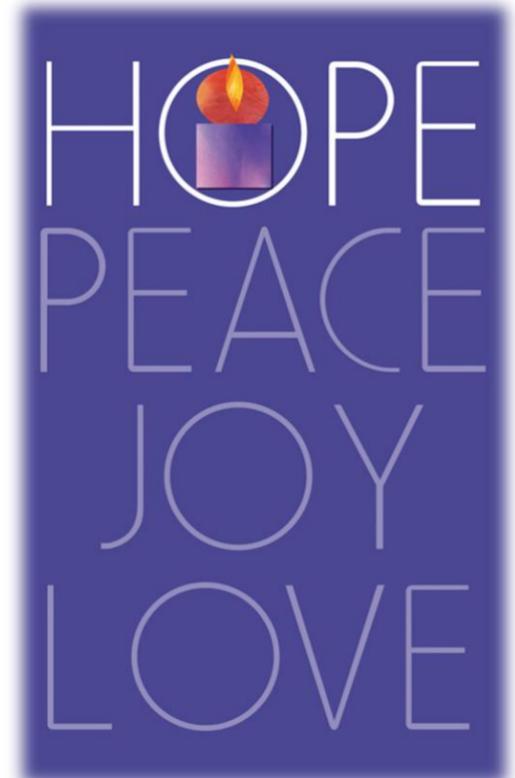
Equipping Ministers

Minister for Spiritual Growth..... 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, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon
 Graded Choir Director..... Anna Ball
 Organist..... J. Noel Lance
 Weekday School Director Lydia Olmsted

The Worship of God



*God Inspires Visions of Hope
 First Sunday of Advent*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

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