

Hanging of the Green



December 8, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

Please turn off all electronic devices

INTROIT

J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

A WORD ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Dr. Foust

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION

Rev. Allison Benfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Benfield

ONE: The sanctuary is filled with symbols, each placed here to remind us that Christ has come and is coming.

ALL: This morning, let us stop, look, listen, hear, and smell as these symbols come alive in our hearts, leading us toward the pathways of hope, peace, joy, and love.

HYMN OF ADVENT

HYFRYDOL

Born Thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

THE ADVENT CANDLES

Chase, Natalie, & Kate Bailey

ONE: Advent is a season of waiting, but we do not wait alone.

ALL: God is with us.

ONE: We gather with those who have seen the signs, heard the whispers, and felt the tugs in their hearts.

ALL: God is birthing peace into the world. Let us worship with our hearts open to peace.

SONG OF RESPONSE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
MCGEE

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.**

THE CHRISMON TREES

Mattie Stillerman

*CAROL

Children are invited to come and help decorate the trees.

O Chrismon Tree
Traditional German Carol

O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
thy leaves are so unchanging;
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
thy leaves are so unchanging;
not only green when summer's here,
but also when 'tis cold and drear.
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
thy leaves are so unchanging!

O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
how richly God has decked thee!
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
how richly God has decked thee!
Thou bidst us true and faithful be
and trust in God unchangingly.
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
how richly God has decked thee!



THE WREATHS AND GREENS

Pauline Carter

*CAROL

The Holly and the Ivy
Traditional English Carol

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

[Refrain]

O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom,
As white as lily flower
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our dear Savior.

[Refrain]



A MOMENT FOR CONTEMPLATION

In this season, the sights and sounds draw us to focus on the external symbols. Yet, these symbols point us to God's gift in Jesus, which births within us hope, peace, joy, and love.

SONG

Peace, peace, God's peace,
Peace that brings stillness and calm within.
Peace, peace, God's peace,
Peace that is greater than all our sin.

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. Lee 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

Henry Snyder (Novant Mint Hill), Harry Barr, Emily Batts, Judy Biber, Tom Bryson, Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Don Furr, Polly Hull (Asbury), Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Bryan Thorn, Elma Thomas, & Alison Ziegelmeier (Ken & Donna Scott's daughter); Parker Jackson – military

Sympathy to the family of Mike Miller who passed suddenly on Monday, December 2. Our prayers are with Tricia, his wife, Jennifer & Todd Goodson, his daughter and son in law, Jacob, Melanie, and Scarlett, his grandchildren, and his son Grant and his family. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, December 10, at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Sympathy to Nina Phillips in the passing of her sister, Bess Ruppelt Perkinson.

GIVING OUR GIFTS

Hutch Benton

ONE: What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

ALL: **If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part. Yet what can I give him but my heart.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Tim Gibson, Deacon

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*PRESENTATION

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

READING OF THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-11

Elizabeth Rodden

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and

all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

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 PROCLAMATION

VENI EMMANUEL

When John the Baptist preached for all to hear he said, "Repent! The kingdom has come near!" His rough, prophetic manner caused surprise, but people heard his words and were baptized. Prepare the Lord's own way! Make his paths straight! It's time to change! We can no longer wait!

THE PATHWAY OF PEACE: READINGS AND ANTHEMS

READING

*The Prophet Foretold
based on Isaiah 11:1-9*

Cole Turner

SONG

There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob

*Chancel Choir
Felix Mendelssohn*

READING

Peace Comes as a Child

Lily Wilkerson

SONG

Gospel Magnificat

*Tarsha Williams & Chancel Choir
Patti Drennan*

READING

A Message of God's Peace

Cole Turner

SONG

What Child?

*Chancel Choir
Paul W. Lohman*

READING

Peace that Leads to Joy

Lily Wilkerson

SONG

How Great Our Joy

*Chancel Choir
Craig Courtney*

MESSAGE

All Are Welcome! But Was John Our Kind of Baptist?

Dr. Foust

SONG

Chancel Choir
Craig Courtney

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Congregation join in when cued

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

***COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH**

Dr. Foust

***POSTLUDE**

J. Noel Lance

** Invites the congregation to stand.*

We are thankful to have the following musicians join us for worship today: Emily Chatham & Linda Whitesitt, Violin; Elda Franklin, Viola; Kim Pfleeger, Cello.

A special thank you to all those who assisted in assembling the stage and decorating the sanctuary for this special service and the Advent/Christmas season, including: Linda & Leonard Balentine, Treva Bridges, J. Mark Crump, Ruth Jackson, Dale Johnson, Beth Jones, Jane Lineberger, Kevin Lynch, Thomas Merchant, Tricia Miller, Herb Parrott, Becky Skidmore, Jane Starnes, Don & Selina Swofford, Suzanne Taylor, and Sally Young.

Readings on peace written by Mallory M. Brown and James Kevin Gray.

Announcements

Financial Ministry Plan 2020

Commitment Report: Amount Received as of December 6: \$834,037 - Commitments Received: 157
If you have not turned in your Pledge Card to Jacquelyn in the church financial office, please do so as soon as possible.

Advent Devotional Booklets

Our Advent Devotional Booklets are available now! Pick one up on Sundays or with Mallory in the office!

Christmas Cards for Our Neighbors

The mailboxes for cards are up in the Main Entrance. Between now and December 15th, you are invited to write a note to one of our members who can no longer attend services. Lists with names and addresses are on the table with the mailboxes. Happy writing!

Room in the Inn

Each Friday night from December 6 to March 27, we will collaborate with Caldwell Presbyterian Church to host 12 homeless neighbors. We still need volunteers and hope many of you will sign up to help. Contact Dale Johnson at 704-364-2575 or Alice Wirz at 704-377-6189. If you would like to sign up online, follow this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4caae2eaafb6-room9>

Advent Yoga & Meditation

Advent Yoga and Meditation will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 5:00pm in the McLeod-Brown Room 114 with Sara Vavra as the leader. Go calmly in the Advent season with breathing techniques and warm thoughts. Any ability of yoga is welcome to come. Chairs will be provided if you need a chair. Or bring a mat if you prefer. Mats are also available on site. Please call Mallory in the church office and make a reservation for this class so that we can make sure we have enough room!

Annual Senior Adult Christmas Gathering

The Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon is Wednesday, December 11, from 11:30am - 1:30pm in Broach Hall. We are so glad to be able to host this event again this year for our senior members.

Charlie Brown, Cocoa, and Cookies

All generations are invited to join together in Broach Hall on Sunday, December 22 during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15) for a special viewing of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. We will enjoy one another and have cookies and cocoa to go along with this special time. All are welcome! Contact Allison if you have questions.

St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

704-333-5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

This Week's Events

Sunday, December 8

- 9:15 Sunday School (Classrooms)
10:30..... Worship (Sanctuary)
10:30..... Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
3:00 Jubilee Store (Broach, Lasater, Classrooms)
4:30 High School Christmas Party (Lounge/Offsite)

Monday, December 9

- 11:45..... Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
12:30..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
5:45 Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
6:30 Administrative Panel (Lounge)
6:30 Ministries Panel (Conference Room)
8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Tuesday, December 10

- 8:00 Financial Resource Team (Conference Room)
10:00..... Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
1:30 Miller Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
5:15 SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
6:15 Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
6:30 Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Support Groups
..... (Rooms 114 & 116)

Wednesday, December 11

- 6:30 Benton Basketball (Gym)
10:00..... Charlotte Family Housing (Room 305)
11:30..... Senior Adult Christmas Luncheon (Broach Hall)
6:00 AA (Lasater Hall)
6:00 Handbells (Sanctuary)
7:15 Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 12

- 10:00..... Craft & Needle Ministry (Lounge)
10:30..... WDS Winter Festival (Broach Hall)
7:30 CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)

Friday, December 13

- 6:30 Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
4:45 Middle School Christmas Project/Party
5:00 Room in the Inn (Lounge, Gym)
6:00 Communities in Schools (Broach Hall)
8:00 AA (Lasater Hall)

Saturday, December 14

- 7:00 Benton Basketball (Gym)
10:00..... Basketball Games (Gym)

Complete calendar online:
www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

THE ST. JOHN'S PULPIT

December 15– Third Sunday of Advent

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Worship Theme: God Inspires Us
to Rediscover Joy

Sermon: *The Question We Really Must Settle*

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-7 & Matthew 11:2-6

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
Senior Minister Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Minister for Worship & Music..... J. Kevin Gray
Minister for Youth & Young Adults Rev. Lee Gray

Church Staff

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

