

## 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
*ADVENT PROCESSIONAL	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
oh, bid our sad divisions cease, and be Yourself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to You, O Israel!

\*LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE                      Buster & Barbara Ledford

ONE: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

CHOIR: "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

ALL: **Let us prepare room in our lives for God's hopeful expectancy, peaceful vision, joyful celebration, and loving presence.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE                      O Come, All Ye Faithful  
Chalice Hymnal No. 148                      ADESTE FIDELES

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES                      Chip Wilson  
Psalm 80:1-3

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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.**

\*CAROL                      Angels from the Realms of Glory  
Chalice Hymnal No. 149                      REGENT SQUARE



## We Seek You in Our Prayers and Offerings

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER                      Rev. Allison 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

Harry Barr, Emily Batts, Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Don Furr, Polly Hull, Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Margaret Snyder, & Elma Thomas;  
Parker Jackson – military

Sympathy to Carol Snyder and family in the death of her husband, Henry Snyder. A memorial service for Henry was held this past week on Wednesday, December 18.

Sympathy to Jeff and Libby LeVie in the death of his father, Lewis LeVie, member of St. John's, in his passing on Sunday, December 15. A memorial service for Lewis will be on Monday, January 6 at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Sympathy to Jim Keese in the death of his husband, Bryan Thorn. A memorial service for Bryan will be held on January 13 at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary.

\*CAROL                      O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Chalice Hymnal No. 144                      ST. LOUIS

READING FROM THE GOSPEL                      Matthew 1:18-25                      Rev. Gray

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER                      James Laney, Deacon

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM                      Chancel Choir  
*In the Bleak Midwinter*                      arr. Albin C. Whitworth

\*PRESENTATION                      ADESTE FIDELES

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

\*CAROL                      IN DULCI JUBILO

O love came down at Christmas time, O love excelling, love divine.  
Love came down at Christmas time: joy, joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door and all are blessed forevermore.  
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this!

O love came down at Christmas time, O love excelling, love divine.  
Love came down at Christmas time: joy, joy!  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
He came down from heav'n above and offers all eternal love.  
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save!

## Teach Us Your Vision of Love

MESSAGE                      *How Does Jesus Affect Your Loving?*                      Dr. Foust

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT                      Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
*Have the Mind That Was in Jesus*                      BEACH SPRING

Have the mind that was in Jesus; let His way be found in you.  
For He gave up what was precious—heaven's blessings—glory, too.  
He was one with God in heaven yet put heaven's joy aside.  
May we, too, give up ambition, letting Jesus be our guide.

Christ our Lord knelt down to save us; then God raised Him high above,  
so that at the name of Jesus all should know His wondrous love.  
One day all will bow before Him. "He is Lord!" we'll all proclaim.  
Till that time, may we all serve Him—serving others in His name.

*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

\*COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH

\*POSTLUDE                      J. Noel Lance

*\*Invites the congregation to stand.*

## Christmas Eve Service

CANDLELIGHT, CAROLS, AND COMMUNION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019

AT 5:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Christmas Eve Service: Candlelight, Carols, and Communion

Our Christmas Eve Service of Candlelight, Carols, and Communion will be held at 5PM on Tuesday, December 24 in the Sanctuary. No nursery will be available during this service as it is certainly appropriate to have the sounds of babies and young children present in any service, especially one such as Christmas Eve where we welcome the Christ-child.

### Financial Ministry Plan 2020: Reaching Out

Amount Received as of December 19: \$861,837 - Commitments Received: 165  
Please turn in your commitment card to Jacquelyn in the church financial office as soon as possible.

### Giving in 2019

All allowable tax donations must be received, and checks dated, by December 31, 2019. If mailed, please ensure the envelope is postmarked 2019. If you are unsure of the remaining balance on your commitment for 2019, please contact Jacquelyn McAbee, Church Administrator, at [jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org) or 704-333-5428 ext. 20. Any monies received after December 2019 will count towards your 2020 pledge.

### Room in the Inn

Each Friday night from now 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/10c0d4caaae2eaafb6-room9>

### Update on the Road Closure

We have been notified that the intersection of Hawthorne Lane and Fifth Street will remain open through this calendar year. The construction originally planned has been postponed until January 2, 2020 and will be closed at least through February 14, 2020.

### St. John's 101

Registration for St. John's 101 is underway! This three-week series is designed for anyone who wants to know more about the church's history, ministries, missions, and more. We will meet Sunday mornings (1/26, 2/2, 2/9) at 9:15 AM in the Church Lounge. Coffee and snacks will be provided.  
RSVP: Mallory Brown; [MBrown@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:MBrown@sjcharlotte.org); 704-333-5428, ext. 11.

### Office Closings for Holidays

The office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26 for Christmas. It will also be closed on Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day. There will be no Family News the week of Christmas!

## 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, December 29 | First Sunday after Christmas  
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
Worship Theme: Celebrating God's Presence with  
All People-Especially Refugees  
Message: *Christmas Everywhere*  
Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9 & Matthew 2:13-23

### This Week at St. John's

Sunday, Dec. 22	9:15 am	Cookies, Cocoa, and Charlie Brown (Broach Hall)
	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
Monday, Dec. 23	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Dec. 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
Wed., Dec. 25	All Day	Church Offices Closed-Merry Christmas!
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Thursday, Dec. 26	All Day	Church Offices Closed
Friday, Dec. 27	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, Dec. 28	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
Sunday, Dec. 29	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms) (No children's classes)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
Monday, Dec. 30	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, Dec. 31	10:00 pm	Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Lasater Hall)
Wednesday, Jan. 1	All Day	Church Offices Closed-Happy New Year!
	6:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Friday, Jan. 3	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Jan. 4	7:00 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:00 am	Basketball Games (Gym/Lounge)

### 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



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

God Inspires the Character of Our Loving

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

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