

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Please turn off all electronic devices.

GATHERING MUSIC Jesse Roberts

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Dennis W. Foust. PhD

***EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP** Congregation

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Dr. Foust

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Allison Benfield

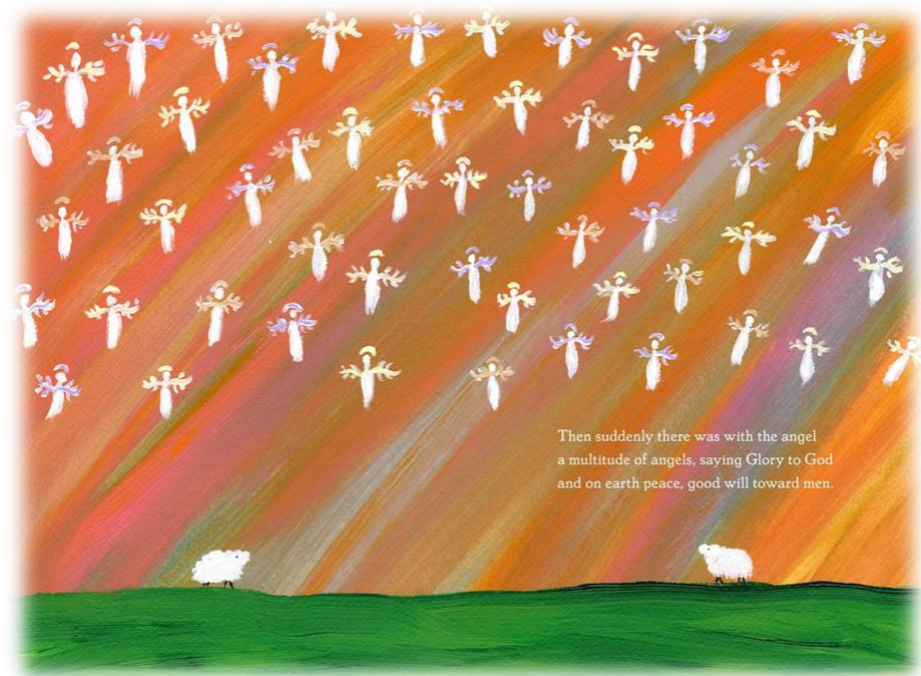
ONE: With joyful steps, we speed to the lowly manger bed.

ALL: There to bend our knee before One whom heaven and Earth adore.

ONE: O true morning star, may we ever more Your splendor see;

ALL: May it be our light in darkest night and guide us safely through life's seas.

***CAROL OF PRAISE** Angels We Have Heard on High
Chalice Hymnal No. 155 GLORIA



Then suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of angels, saying Glory to God
and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Artwork by Cynthia Rylant from her book, *Nativity*

READING OF THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Paige Parham
Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity, he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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.

Over the Hills and Everywhere

SPECIAL MUSIC Deb Black & Wesley Watts
Joyful, Joyful, to the World arr. Jay Althouse

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

Harry Barr, Emily Batts, Byron Bullard, Betty Curlin, Don Furr, Polly Hull, Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Margaret Snyder, Elma Thomas. & Alison Zieglmeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott); Parker Jackson – military

Sympathy to Marie Wright in the death of her sister on December 22.

Sympathy to Hilda Outen in the death of her sister, Davies Jordan, on December 21.

***CAROL** What Child Is This?
Chalice Hymnal No. 162 GREENSLEEVES

OFFERTORY PRAYER Tom Blackmon, Deacon

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Chancel Choir
Gloria Antonio Vivaldi

***PRESENTATION** ADESTE FIDELES

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 Rev. Benfield
Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then



Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been

spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

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

SPECIAL MUSIC Carol Foust Smith & David Foust
Mary, Did You Know? arr. Mark Lowry

MESSAGE *Christmas Everywhere* Dr. Foust

Go Tell It on the Mountain, that Jesus Christ Is Born!

***CAROL OF JOY** Go Tell It on the Mountain
Chalice Hymnal No. 167 GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

**CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY
& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE**

COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH Dr. Foust

***POSTLUDE** Jesse Roberts

**Invites the congregation to stand.*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Financial Ministry Plan 2020: Reaching Out

Amount Received as of December 23: \$889,037 - Commitments Received: 168
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 or 704-333-5428 ext. 20. Any monies received after December 2019 will count towards your 2020 pledge.

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; 704-333-5428, ext. 11.

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 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/10c0d4c2aae2eafb6-room9>

Office Closings for Holidays

The office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 for New Years' Day.

Opera Carolina Presents: Ugly Duckling

On Saturday, February 8, children and families are invited to a free opera presentation of the "Ugly Duckling." This will be at 10:30am in Broach Hall at St. John's Baptist Church. This is a community-wide event sponsored by St. John's Baptist Church and Opera Carolina. This is a great event to bring children and grandchildren to!



The Gift of Forgiveness Book Launch & Presentation

On Sunday, March 15, we welcome Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt to St. John's Baptist Church for a launch of her book, *The Gift of Forgiveness*, which will be released nationwide on March 10, 2020. Katherine will be a part of our regular worship service and will stay afterwards for book sales and signings. Overflow seating will be available. This event is free and open to all.



An Afternoon with Al Staggs as Dietrich Bonhoeffer

On Saturday, March 28, Al Staggs will present his one-person drama called "A View from the Underside" in the Sanctuary. The time is yet to be determined. Tickets are \$10/person and will be on sale soon. Save the date and invite neighbors and friends to this event. Al Staggs was a parish minister for over 20 years and began his career as a performing artist after that. He has performed all over the United States and abroad and his repertoire extends beyond Bonhoeffer to portrayals of Clarence Jordan, Walter Rauschenbusch, Martin Luther, and more. On Sunday, March 29, Staggs will join us in worship to offer his portrayal of Clarence Jordan.



St. John's Baptist Church

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

The St. John's Pulpit

Sunday, January 5, 2020 | Second Sunday after Christmas
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Worship Theme: Celebrating God's Missional Message
Message: *Christmas for Everyone*
Scripture: John 1:1-18

This Week at St. John's

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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

CELEBRATING GOD'S PRESENCE WITH
ALL PEOPLE — ESPECIALLY REFUGEES

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA