

# With Joy We Hail Our Savior's Birth

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** Dr. Foust

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Dr. Foust

**ONE:** O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done.

**ALL:** Christ embodies the Word and unveils the loving nature and steadfast faithfulness of the Father.

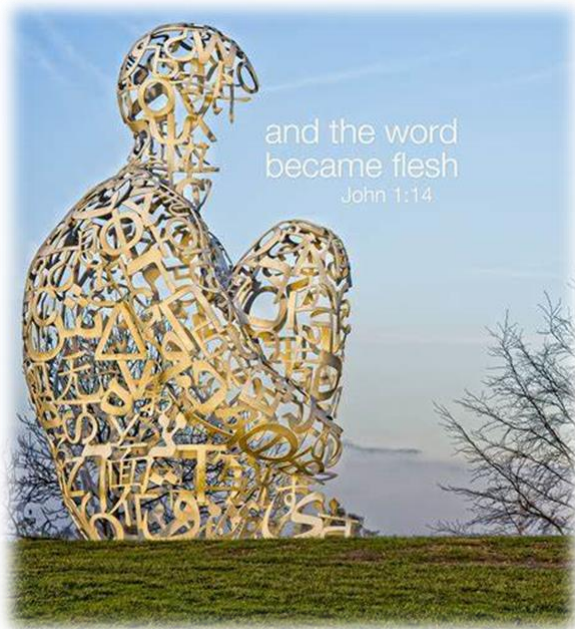
**ONE:** Like the wisemen of old, let us seek this One who made the Word flesh and lived a life of service, changing our perception of God for all time.

**ALL:** O come, let us worship the Lord, for God has done wondrous things!

**\*CAROL OF PRAISE** O Thou Joyful  
Chalice Hymnal No. 169 O SANCTISSIMA

## God's Love Was Made Visible

**READING OF THE GOSPEL** Kim Ray  
John 1:1-18



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. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of

God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**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** Once in Royal David's City  
Chalice Hymnal No. 165 IRBY

**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, Judy Biber, 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

A memorial service will be held for Lewis LeVie tomorrow, January 6, at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary with a reception afterwards in Lasater Hall.

A memorial service will be held for Bryan Thorn on January 13, at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary with a reception afterwards in Lasater Hall.

Sympathy to Betsy Almond in the death of her father, Pete Johnson, a long-time St. John's member, on Thursday, January 2. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, January 12, at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary at St. John's.

**\*CAROL** We Three Kings  
Chalice Hymnal No. 172 KINGS OF ORIENT

Verse 1: All  
Verse 2: Women  
Verse 3: Men  
Verse 4: All

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** Donna Morris, Deacon

**WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** Chancel Choir

**\*PRESENTATION** ADESTE FIDELES

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

**REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL** Read by Shannon Rodden  
"Enfleshed" by Melissa Bane Sevier

**\*CAROL** As with Gladness  
Chalice Hymnal No. 173 DIX

## God's Love Will Reign

**MESSAGE** Christmas for Everyone Dr. Foust

**\*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP** Love Divine. All Loves Excelling  
Chalice Hymnal No. 517 verses 1 & 4 BEECHER

*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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE**

**A JOYFUL PROCLAMATION** Joy to the World  
Samuel Bond & J. Kevin Gray

*Please stand and sing this verse when prompted.*

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders and wonders of His love.

**COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH** Dr. Foust

**\*POSTLUDE** J. Noel Lance

*\*Invites the congregation to stand.*

Copies of worship bulletins and message manuscripts are available on the St. John's website: [stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Financial Ministry Plan 2020: Reaching Out

Amount Received as of January 2: \$899,897 - Commitments Received: 174  
Please turn in your commitment card to Jacquelyn in the church financial office as soon as possible.

### 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@sjohnsbaptistchurch.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/10c0d4caaac2eaf6-room9>

### 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!



### Open Table in February

Join us for the first Open Table of 2020 on Wednesday, February 19 in Broach Hall for a pancake supper and LIVE music from Kevin Gray and friends. Dinner will be served starting at 5:50pm and the program will end at 7:00pm. Costs are \$6/child under 12, \$10/adult, and \$30/max per family. Sign up with Mallory in the office today!

### 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.



### 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](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

### The St. John's Pulpit

Sunday, January 12, 2020 | Epiphany  
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
Worship Theme: The Nature and Character of God  
Message: *Repairing a Broken Concept About God*  
Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21

Our society needs God's Good News (Gospel) desperately and immediately. Yet, the institutional church, the organized church, the self-serving church, the entertainment church, the power-over-you church, the exclusive church, the go-through-the-motions church, the politicized church, the fighting church, the indoctrination church and the surface church have devalued the message of God. The transformational message of God is revealed with clarity in Jesus. Fake interpretations of God's Good News have been tossed onto the trash heap of human ideas because they do not bring about substantive change. Let us respond to people around us, reclaiming God's Good News as God's idea from the trash heap.

### This Week at St. John's

Sunday, January 5	8:00 am	Church Council (Conference Room)
	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Godly Play (Room 221)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
Monday, January 6	2:00 pm	South Sudanese Worship (Chapel)
	5:00 pm	Sunday Night Live (Gym/Lounge/3rd Floor)
	1:30 pm	Memorial Service for Lewis LeVie (Sanctuary)
	2:30 pm	Reception (Lasater Hall)
	5:45 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
Tuesday, January 7	6:00 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Lounge)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	11:00 am	Bible Workbench (Room 209)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
Wednesday, January 8	6:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Mission Resource Team (Conference Room)
Thursday, January 9	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
	10:00 am	Craft & Needles Ministry (Lounge)
	4:00 pm	Charlotte Family Housing (Youth Lounge)
	7:30 pm	CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)
	8:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)
Friday, January 10	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, January 11	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, JANUARY 5, 2020

10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

CELEBRATING GOD'S MISSIONAL MESSAGE

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA