

God Is Love

Please turn off all electronic devices.

GATHERING MUSIC J. Noel Lance

WORDS OF GREETING Rev. Dennis W. Foust. PhD

***EXPRESSION OF FELLOWSHIP** Congregation

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION Dr. Foust

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Foust

ONE: Sisters and brothers, arise! Lift your hearts, your eyes and voices!

ALL: The living and loving God has called us together, in witness, in celebration and struggle.

ONE: Reach out toward each other as the Living God reaches out in love toward us.

ALL: Let us worship God!

***HYMN OF PRAISE** O Worship the King
Chalice Hymnal No. 17, verses 1, 2, & 5 LYONS

God's Word Proclaims It!

READING OF THE EPISTLE Gail Sifford
1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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 LOVE

God Is Love
ABBOTS LEIGH

God is love! God's Word proclaims it, day by day the truth we prove;
Heav'n and earth with joy are telling, ever telling, God is love!

Refrain

Hallelujah! Tell the story, sung by angel choirs above;
sounding forth the mighty chorus—God is light, and God is love!

God is love! Oh, tell it gladly, how the Savior from above,
came to seek and save the lost ones, showing thus the Father's love.

Refrain

Hallelujah! Tell the story, sung by angel choirs above;
sounding forth the mighty chorus—God is light, and God is love!

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

A memorial service for Pete Johnson will be held today, January 12, at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in Lasater Hall.

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

Sympathy to Don Swofford in the death of his sister, Lena Swofford Gordon.

Sympathy to Laura Solitario in the death of her father, Bill Wortman. A memorial service will be held at Nicholson Funeral Home in Statesville, NC on Saturday, January 18 at 1:00pm. The family will receive visitors after the service at the Statesville Country Club.

HYMN OF PARTNERSHIP In Loving Partnership
Chalice Hymnal No. 497 PARTNERSHIP

OFFERTORY PRAYER David Sherrill, Deacon

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Chancel Choir
With a Voice of Singing Martin Shaw

***DOXOLOGY** Chalice Hymnal No. 46 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

REFLECTION LONDONDERRY, DANNY BOY

Text based on prayer by Hildegard von Bingen

Creator God, who draws compassion from us, Leader
teach us to see that all people have worth.
Give us Your heart to care for those who need us,
and call us out as servants to the world.

Questions for Reflection

1. How did you awaken to God's love?
2. How are you currently feeling God's love?
3. How are your currently expressing God's love?

And we will praise the God who loves all people, Congregation
for God has given all that one could give.
And in God's name we'll love all the nations
and do the work God's voice calls us to do.
We'll do the work God's voice calls us to do

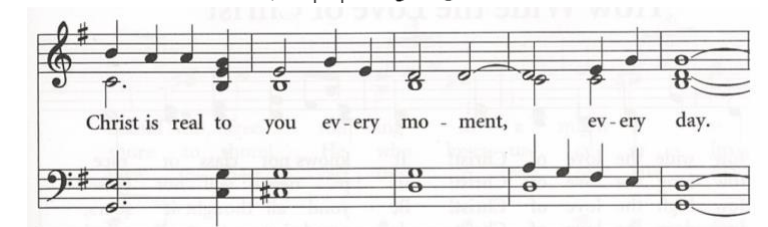
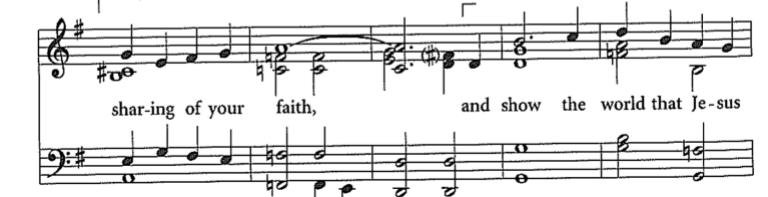
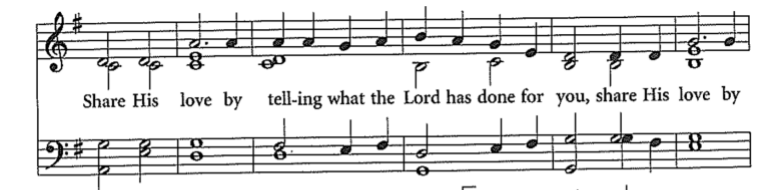
Day by Day, God's Truth We Prove

MESSAGE Repairing A Broken Concept About God Dr. Foust

***HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP** Share His Love
Congregation join on chorus SULLIVAN

The love of God is broader than earth's vast expanse,
'Tis deeper and wider than the sea
Love reaches out to all to bring abundant life,
For God so loved the world His only Son He gave

Chorus



We show the love of God each day we live,
Reveal Christ's presence in our lives;
And how the Holy Spirit guides us day by day
For God so loved the world His only Son He gave

Chorus

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Financial Ministry Plan 2020: Reaching Out

Amount Received as of January 10: \$904,497 - Commitments Received: 178
The Finance Resource Team will be meeting soon to work on finalizing the 2020 Financial Ministry Plan. Please turn your commitment card in this week to help us plan for ministries and missions in this new year. Cards can be mailed in, placed in the offering plate, or brought by the church finance office.

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/10c0d4caaae2eaafb6-room9>

Opera Carolina Presents: The 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 or at this link: <https://forms.gle/rmj3Gd2endPJPgnG7>

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 19, 2020 | Epiphany
Proclaimer: Rev. Dr. Al Cadenhead
Worship Theme: The God of Our Salvation

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, January 12	9:00 am	Middle School Discipleship
	9:15 am	Sunday School (Classrooms)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ Int'l Ministries (Chapel)
	1:30 pm	Memorial Service for Pete Johnson (Sanctuary)
	2:30pm	Reception (Lasater Hall)
	5:00 pm	Sunday Night Live (Gym, Lounge, 3rd Floor)
Monday, January 13	1:30 pm	Memorial Service for Bryan Thorn (Sanctuary)
	2:30 pm	Reception (Lasater Hall)
	5:45 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	6:30 pm	Administrative Deacon Panel (Lounge)
	6:30 pm	Ministries Deacon Panel (Conference Room)
	8:00 pm	AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, January 14	10:00 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	10:30 am	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
	11:45 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
	5:15 pm	SJBC Men's Basketball (Gym)
	6:15 pm	Young Voices of the Carolinas (Choir Room)
	6:30 pm	Nat'l Alliance on Mental Illness Support Groups (Rooms 114 & 116)
Wednesday, January 15	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:30 am	Yoga (Room 114)
	5:30 pm	WOC Board Meeting and Dinner (Broach Hall)
	6:00 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	Membership Resource Team (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
	6:00 pm	Handbells (Handbell Room)
	7:15 pm	Choir (Choir Room)
Thursday, January 16	12:00 pm	Novant Managers' Meeting (Broach Hall)
	7:30 pm	CBFNC Collegiate Ministry (Lounge)
Friday, January 17	6:30 am	Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Lounge/Gym)
	5:30 pm	Volunteers Serve at Men's Shelter (Offsite)
	8:00 pm	AA (Room 114)
Saturday, January 18	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 12, 2020

**10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY
THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF GOD**

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