

# Eastertide

Sunday, May 17, 2020

St. John's Baptist Church | Charlotte, NC

While we are distancing ourselves physically during this time, we hope you will join us for this virtual worship experience. Follow along here and on the St. John's Facebook page, website, or YouTube.



## Gathering Music

Chancel Choir

*Make His Praise Glorious*

by Richard Williamson

## Greeting

Rev. Brickson Sam, Together in Christ International Ministries

## Call to Worship from Psalm 67

Annie Sam, Together in Christ International Ministries

## Prayer of Submission

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

## Hymn

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

ST. PETER

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.
3. Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be;  
all children of the living God are surely kin to me.

## Song

*Who Will Be a Witness?*

J. Kevin Gray

## Reading from Scripture

Acts 17:16-21

Rev. Lee Gray, reader

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace[a] every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

## Song

*Who Will Be a Witness?*

Hank Packman

## Reading from Scripture

Acts 17:22-34

Rev. Allison Benfield, reader

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

## Hymn

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

ST. PETER

4. In Christ now meet both east and west in him meet south and north;  
all loving hearts are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

## Moment for Meditation

*For God So Loved the World*

J. Noel Lance

based on the text from John 3:17

## The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

James Laney, deacon

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*

*Andrew Adair, Emily Batts, Byron Bullard, Mary Chilton (mother of Amy Chilton), Carol Drye, Teri Franklin, Don Furr, Camille Green, Polly Hull, Maddie and Domhnall Minogue and baby Cian, Gene Poole, Elma Thomas, Alison Zieglmeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott); Parker Jackson, military; Chip Wilson, assigned to the Pentagon for COVID-19*

*Sympathy to Bill and Mary Jo Breckenridge in the death of Bill's mother and long-time St. John's member, Edith Breckenridge, on May 10. Edith was a mere 58 days away from her 103rd birthday. Arrangements will be made at a later date.*

*Sympathy to Morgan and Jane Newman in the death of Morgan's stepfather, Al Ross, on May 13. Al leaves behind his wife, Alethia Ross, Morgan's mother and long-time member of St. John's.*

## Hymn

### *Believers All, We Bear the Name*

1. Believers all, we bear the name  
Of Christ our living Lord  
As Christians in the world today  
We hold fast to the Word  
From simple trust to growing faith  
Our pilgrimage we trace  
T'ward full maturity in Christ  
Led there thro' God's good grace

2. Believers all, our common task  
Is service in His name  
As we in word and song and deed  
God's saving grace proclaim  
Yet ministry has broader aims  
So we pursue the goal  
Of meeting persons' fuller needs  
Of body mind and soul

3. Believers all, in unity  
We follow God's commands  
Diverse in gifts but one in Christ  
We offer outstretched hands  
To all within the bonds of faith  
To those outside faith's call  
That thro' our love the world may know  
Our God as Lord of all

## Offertory

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

J. Noel Lance

*"There will be no peace among the nations without peace among the religions. There will be no peace among the religions without dialogue among the religions."*

-Hans Küng, Catholic Theologian

## Theological Reflection

*Beyond Us-Them*

Dr. Foust

## Choral Anthem

*So They In Turn Like Christ May Live*

Chancel Choir

words and tune written by J. Kevin Gray

Tune: YOUNGSTUNE in honor of Rev. Robert T. Young

How great the love that God doth give; God gives it freely that we might live and sends us forth on paths below so we might serve some hurting soul, by showing them what Christ doth give so they in turn like him may live.

God has us pray with heart and tears not just with words or lofty tongue, so when we touch a needy soul, down in their heart God's love they'll know, by showing them what Christ doth give so they in turn like him may live.

A church is not a building made by hands of man with stone or wood. Instead we are the hands of Christ who offer all eternal life, by showing them what Christ doth give so they in turn like him may live.

*Congregation invited to join in singing final verse:*

For in this gift does heaven wait as sure as sun and moon above, and in God's grace our sins shall die, and to our Lord our spirits rise. How great God's Love that we now give so they in turn like Christ may live.

## Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

## Postlude

*Praise Him! Praise Him!*

by Lana Kelley

J. Noel Lance



*Click the box to the left to give to St. John's online!*

*You can also mail your tithes to the church at this address:*

*St. John's Baptist Church  
Attn: Jacquelyn McAbee  
300 Hawthorne Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28204*

Text SJGIVE to 73256 to give to the BUDGET using your mobile device.

Standard text message rates do apply.