

# Eastertide

Sunday, May 24, 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

### Greeting

Kathy Bragg

### Moment of Stillness and Quiet

*As we enter worship, let us invest in stillness and quiet, being present to the Divine Presence.*

### Song

*I Believe*

by Mark Miller, sung by SJBC Chancel Choir

### Call to Worship

Kathy Bragg

*ONE: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited;*

*ALL: But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even death on a cross.*

*ONE: Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend in heaven and on earth and under the earth;*

*ALL: And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

### Hymn

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

1. When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries,  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair; may Jesus Christ  
be praised!

2. Discordant humankind, in this your concord find, may  
Jesus Christ be praised! Let all the earth around ring  
joyous with the sound, may Jesus Christ be praised!

3. Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all that see his face;  
may Jesus Christ be praised! God's whole creation o'er,  
both now and evermore: may Jesus Christ be praised!

4. Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine; may  
Jesus Christ be praised! Be this the eternal song,  
through all the ages long: may Jesus Christ be praised!

## Reading from Scripture

Acts 1:1-11

Dan Redding, reader

*In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

## Hymn

*O Christ, When You Ascended*

LANCASHIRE

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

1. O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne;  
Your time on earth had ended — yet we weren't left alone.  
You reign o'er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.  
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.

2. We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:  
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.  
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;  
Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.

3. We're tempted. Lord, to leave you in stories nicely told;  
Sometimes we don't believe you and say your ways are old.  
Sometimes we feel so lonely and live in doubt and fear —  
But your ascension means, Lord, you're present with us here.

4. It's often quite a challenge to follow in your Way;  
We're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey.  
Sometimes we give you Sundays — an hour, maybe two —  
But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.

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

Joanne Compton

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.

*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*

*Congratulations to Nick and Hannah Lineberger in the birth of their daughter Foster Grey Lineberger. She was born on May 14th weighing 9 pounds and 6 ounces. Proud grandparents are Warren & Jane Lineberger and Laura Strickland is the proud aunt.*

*Sympathy to the family and friends of Alice Jordan who passed on May 13, 2020.*

## Offertory

*Revealing God's Grace*

written and sung by J. Kevin Gray

Transcendent God who reigns above, whose heart is justice, peace and love. You long to know and be made known, so you sent your servant son.

Through Christ we see your holy face, and hear your voice revealing Grace. And through this Grace we know that we are yours, sealed by Your Word, born out of love.

There may be days when faith is low and we wished Christ was still below, but then we see and we hear your voice, when neighbors love and live out your choice.

That choice you made was all of us, you chose the world and we rejoice. You see us each through loving eyes a love that lead to sacrifice.

## Theological Reflection

*To Infinity and Beyond*

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

## Anniversary Hymn

by Dr. Sharon Murray

HANOVER

1. We thank Thee, O God, for servants old,  
whose courage was great, whose vision was bold;  
Who faithfully, joyfully answered Thy call,  
and challenge us now to respond with our all.

2. As servants today, we pledge to renew  
our lives to the tasks we're called forth to do;  
to lovingly, willingly heed Thy command.  
To joyfully serve with our hearts and our hands.

3. With joy now we give our hearts and our minds  
to sharing the news, that others may find  
new life in Thy kingdom, new hope in this time,  
Thy grace and salvation, Thy love all divine.

4. We lift up our hearts and voices to Thee,  
in hope and in praise for things yet to be.  
Let Thy congregation continue to be  
committed to service, committed to Thee.

## Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

## Postlude

*Festive March*

by Rex Koury

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.