

Sunday Worship

September 13, 2020

Order of Worship



Words of Gathering

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Call to Worship

Casey and Gabe Perkins

What does it mean to worship God?

To recognize and proclaim the worth of God

How do we recognize the worth of God?

By being still and understanding the value of service, courage and love

– all characteristics that come from God

How do we proclaim the worth of God?

By speaking and acting out of service, courage, and love

Let us be still together now

-that we might worship God together in the days to come.

Hymn

“Anniversary Hymn”

HANOVER

Dr. Sharon Murray

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

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.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Nate Dove

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Scripture Reading

Jeff Almond

Acts 6:1-7

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word."

What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Hymn

“The Voice of God Is Calling”

MEIRIONYDD

The voice of God is calling to women and to men;
The voice one heard in Zion resounds on earth again:
whom shall I send to succor my people in their need?
Whom shall I send to loosen the bonds of shame and greed?

Litany of Commitment

Rev. Lee Gray, Guide

Reader: Living God, we thank You for the gifts You have entrusted to Your people. Today, we set apart these deacons and other leaders for our 99th church year. We ask You to bless them with vision, courage and wisdom as they guide us in Your mission.

Leaders: As part of our commitment to You, we dedicate ourselves to pursue the spiritual health and vitality of St. John's as we devote our lives to leading by example.

People: **As members of St. John's, we renew our commitments to You and to the ministries of Your Church. We will work alongside these leaders, support Your mission and seek to strengthen the ways Your Church offers redemptive grace in this world.**

Deacons: We will pursue spiritual growth and devote ourselves to exemplary service in our community. As deacons in the life of St. John's, we ask You to guide us in the Way of Jesus.

ALL: **We offer this prayer through Jesus Christ, who is the head of the Church. Amen.**

The Ordination of Deacons

Presentation of New Deacons

Renee Hutchison, Jim Keesee, Jimmy Kimball,
Chris Lavender, Eric McCombs, Laura McGuire,
Becky Skidmore, Debbie Stillerman, Sara Vavra

Ordination Prayer

Sally Young, Deacon Chair

Hymn "The Voice of God Is Calling" MEIRIONYDD

From ease and plenty save us; from pride of place absolve;
Purge us of low desire; lift us to high resolve;
Take us, and make us holy; teaches us your will and way.
Speak, and, behold! We answer; command, and we obey!

A Word About the Joy of Giving Joy Jarrett

Offertory Anthem "The Disciples Prayer" James Kevin Gray
Chancel Choir

Message "During Those Days" Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Hymn of Discipleship "We Call Ourselves Disciples" LANCASHIRE

We call ourselves disciples, as pilgrims on the way.
We seek the truth in wisdom, and beauty in each day.
As women, men, and children, we serve, Christ's path to clear.
In joyful expectation we see God's reign draw near.

So now the vision brightens, the light of Christ burns still
in hearts of all disciples to be the church God wills.
From quiet meditation, and joyous hymns of praise,
we go to do God's mission! Christ, lead us all our days!

Commissioning the Scattered Church Rev. Allison Benfield

Postlude "Postludium III" arr. Ron Void
J Noel Lance, organist

St. John's Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

DRIVE THROUGH ORDINATION CELEBRATION: Please participate in our Drive-Through Celebration for these nine new deacons this afternoon on the church parking lot beginning at 1pm and concluding by 2pm. Boxes will be provided for you to drop in your notes to these willing servants. Enter the parking lots off of Fifth Street and exit onto Hawthorne Lane. We hope to see you there.