

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Gathering Music

In the Bleak Midwinter

Handbell Choir

Arr. Jason Krug

Musical Call to Worship

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Ensemble

Arr. J. Kevin Gray

**Congregation stand and join in when cued*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy
rays, stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Greeting

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Prayer of Submission

Dr. Foust

Song of Joy

Light the Candle

Chancel Choir

J. Kevin Gray

Light the candle of joy. Let its glow warm your heart till your praise
begins to grow. May we open our eyes to God's love in full view. Jesus
will be born, making all things anew.

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Joy Jarrett & the Follis Family

ONE: By waiting for the coming of the Christ, we become more
attentive to God at work in our world.

ALL: God's steadfast love for the world is everlasting.

ONE: Christ's saving work in our lives is expressed by our great joy.

**ALL: We welcome this One who brings healing to our
brokenness and renewed vision in the midst of our
despairing.**

*Carol of Praise

Chalice Hymnal No. 170 verses 1, 2, & 3

How Great Our Joy!

JUNGST

Family Dedication

Steven & Kimberly Follis present Joy Christine Follis

The Dedication Covenant

Rev. Allison Benfield

MINISTER: Do you, Steven & Kimberly, covenant together
to raise Joy in an environment of Christian love,
harmony and peace?

PARENTS: We do.

MINISTER: Do you covenant together to grant Joy the benefits of
communal fellowship by nurturing her within the
church, the corporate body of Christ?

PARENTS: We do.

MINISTER: Do you, congregation, covenant together as the
larger family of God to create an atmosphere
of support and guidance whereby Joy can come to
know and serve the Lord Jesus Christ?

CONGREGATION: We do.

MINISTER: Do you pledge to make your witness of such quality
as to instruct Joy in Christian discipleship?

CONGREGATION: We do.

MINISTER: Then, recognizing the covenant accepted this day by
Steven and Kimberly and by the congregation, I offer
Joy this certificate acknowledging her formal
introduction to this family of God.

Presentation of the Child

Dr. Foust

Prayer of Dedication

Dr. Foust

Readings from Isaiah

Phil & Sara Vavra

Music by J. Kevin Gray

Offertory Prayer

Dale Johnson

Offertory

Toccata on God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

J. Noel Lance

Arr. Jason D. Payne

*Doxology

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore Him.

O come, let us adore Him.

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord.

The Church at Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Rev. 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 & Celebrations

Shirley Ballard, Katherine Barr, John Bragg, Betty Fuller, Polly Hull,
Barbara Ledford, Tish Philemon, Gene & Carol Poole, Brad Sifford,
Carole Ann Simpson, Don Swofford, Elma Thomas, Dee Turner,
Johnathan (J.R.) Mullins (grandson of Betty Mullins)

Congratulations to Brandon and Kristen Johnson Fields on the birth of
their daughter and Dale and Carol Johnson on the birth of their
granddaughter, Elizabeth Fields, on Thursday, December 2.

On Friday, December 17, at 1PM, we will gather in the Sanctuary to
celebrate the life of Andrew Adair. The service will also be livestreamed
on our YouTube channel.

Making Space for Joy

Written by Kathy Bragg

Elizabeth Peacock

Meditation

Make Room

Jessica Borgnis

Matt Maher & Mark Hall

The Joy of Being Present

Written by J. Kevin Gray

Steve Hoffman

Meditation

Were You There

Chancel Choir

Natalie Sleeth

Childlike Joy

Written by Scott Hicks

Elizabeth Peacock

Meditation

Tranquil Chimings

Children's Choir

Sandra Eithum

Joy that Comes as a Surprise

Written by Mallory Brown

Steve Hoffman

Meditation

"Glory to God," from *Messiah*

Chancel Choir

George Frideric Handel

Joy in the Midst of Strife

Written by Dawn Anthony

Dawn Anthony

Meditation

Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child

Dawn Anthony

Traditional Spiritual

The Joy of Caring

Written by Rev. Lee Gray

Rev. Lee Gray

Meditation

Carol of the Bells

Handbell Choir

Arr. Jason Krug

The Joy of Telling

Written by Dr. Foust

Dr. Foust

Meditation

Mary, Go Tell It

Chancel Choir

Arr. Mark Hayes

*Carol

Chalice Hymnal No. 143

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let
every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and
heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat,
the sounding joy.

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, wonders of His love.

*Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

*Postlude

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Arr. John Innes

*During today's service, Jan Kerley will be actively painting during the
music and readings as an expression of worship.*

LIFE AT ST. JOHN'S

We are thankful for the guest musicians today in worship: Jessica Borgnis and Dawn Anthony (Vocalists), Judy Meister (Violin I), David Strassburg (Violin II), Elda Franklin (Viola), and Liz Burns (Cello).

Advent Yoga and Meditation on Tuesday, December 14 at 7PM

All are invited to a special Advent Yoga and Meditation led by Sara Vavra on Tuesday, December 14 at 7PM via Zoom. Participants can choose to move through the yoga and meditation on a yoga mat or can do everything while seated in a chair. The Zoom link can be found on Realm in your events list AND it will be sent out via email on December 14 for all who want to join.

Is the WDAV Lessons & Carols happening this year?

There will be no in-person service for the WDAV Lessons and Carols this year. HOWEVER, WDAV will be re-broadcasting the 10th-Anniversary service on both December 19 from 4-6PM and December 25 from 1-3PM. Tune in and listen on either day!

Christmas Eve Worship: Friday, December 24 at 4PM & 6PM

St. John's will offer two Christmas Eve worship services this Advent season. Pre-registration is required as seating will be limited for each service.

Today and next Sunday, after worship, there will be a team of people outside the Sanctuary by the church library to help you register for either service. You can also register through Realm, by scanning the QR code, or contact Mallory in the church office for assistance.



Cookies, Cocoa, and Charlie Brown on December 19

Cookies, Cocoa, and Charlie Brown is returning on Sunday, December 19 during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15) in Broach Hall. All ages are invited to join us Broach Hall for some sweet treats, a viewing of the holiday classic, and time for fellowship.

Christmas Cards for Neighbors are at the Main Entrance! Turn in cards to the boxes by December 19!

Stewardship 2022: Rooted in Love

If you have not pledged yet, you can do so by turning in your pledge card to Jacquelyn in the office, by pledging online through Realm, or by scanning the QR code. So far, we have received 129 commitments and have a total of \$788,391 pledged. Thank you so much for your financial faithfulness!



THE ST. JOHN'S PULPIT

Sunday, December 19, 2021 | Advent III
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Worship Theme: God's Good News Offers Love for Troubled Times
Message Title: *Extravagance at Christmas*
Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

GUEST CONNECTION

If you would like information on how you can become a part of St. John's, please fill out one of the "For Our Guests" cards found on the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate. Our church staff 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.

MOBILE GIVING AT ST. JOHN'S

You can text your contributions and offerings to St. John's! Text SJGIVE (not case sensitive) and the amount you would like to give (i.e. 10=\$10) to 73256 to give using your mobile device. When you receive a message, click on the link provided and follow the instructions. You will then receive a receipt to confirm your gift was received.

MINISTERS

Every participant in God's Servant Church

EQUIPPING MINISTERS

Minister for Spiritual Growth
Rev. Allison Benfield
Minister for Worship & Music
J. Kevin Gray
Minister for Congregational Care
Rev. Lee Gray
Senior Minister
Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

SUPPORT STAFF

Administrative Assistants
Mallory Brown & Derek Henson
Church Administrator
Jacquelyn McAbee
Custodial Staff
Chris Mullis & Debora Thon
Organist
J. Noel Lance
Weekday School Director
Lydia Olmstead
Children's Choir Director
Anna Ball

St. John's Baptist Church

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God's Good News Offers Joy for Troubled Times
Sunday, December 12, 2021, at 10:30AM

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA