

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Second Sunday of Christmastide

Please silence all electronic devices.

*Invites the congregation to stand

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

Greeting Rev. Lee Gray

Prayerful Call to Worship

ONE: Open our eyes, Lord,

ALL: that we may see Your light.

ONE: Open our eyes,

ALL: that we may see Your image in ourselves and others.

ONE: Open our eyes,

ALL: that Your light can shine into and through our living. Amen!

***Carol of Praise** *O Thou Joyful*
Chalice Hymnal No. 169 O SANCTISSIMA

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful grace revealing Christmastide!
Jesus came to win us from all sin within us; glorify the Holy Child!

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful love revealing Christmastide!
Loud hosannas singing and all praises bringing: may Thy love with
us abide.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Nancy Fuller
Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

For everything there is a
season, and a time for
every matter under
heaven:

a time to be born, and a
time to die;
a time to plant, and a
time to pluck up what is
planted;

a time to kill, and a time
to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the
business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has
made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense
of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what



God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is
nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as
long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and
drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God
does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything
taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe
before him.

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.

***Hymn** *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*
Chalice Hymnal No. 75 WATERLIFE

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you
on; you were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now
belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your
hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till
rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've
begun. When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary
eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Reading from the Gospel Elizabeth Rodden
John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things
came into being through him, and without him not one thing came
into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life
was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness did not overcome it.

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 Centering J. Kevin Gray
Shine on Us Michael W. Smith and Deborah Smith

Lord, let your light, light of Your face, shine on us.
That we may be saved, that we may have life
to find our way in the darkest night;
let your light shine on us.

The Church at Prayer & the Lord's Prayer J. Kevin Gray

**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, Caroline Godsey,
Polly Hull, Barbara Ledford, Paul Lloyd, Tish Philemon, Brad Sifford,
Carole Ann Simpson, Don Swofford, Elma Thomas, Dee Turner

Sympathy to Linda Finger in the passing of her brother, Paul Tew, on
December 27 in Tucson, AZ.

Sympathy to Buster Ledford in the passing of his wife and long-time
St. John's member, Barbara Ledford, on December 30.
Arrangements will be announced soon.

Message Rev. Lee Gray
The Particular and the Universal

Offertory Prayer Tricia Miller

Offertory J. Kevin Gray
Whenever God Shines His Light on Me Van Morrison

***Doxology** ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord

***Hymn** *In This Very Room*
Chalice Hymnal No. 295, verses 1&3 IN THIS VERY ROOM

In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me,
and in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me,
and there's quite enough hope, and quite enough power to chase
away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.

In this very room there's quite enough love for all the world,
And in this very room there's quite enough joy for all the world,
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power to chase
away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.

Commissioning the Scattered Church Rev. Lee Gray

***Sending Forth** *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (x3)
Let it shine (x3)

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine (x3)
Let it shine (x3)

Postlude J. Noel Lance

LIFE AT ST. JOHN'S

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. Thank you so much for your financial faithfulness!



An Epiphany Sermon Series

ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE A WOMAN?

Some Women Who Helped Jesus Reveal the Mission of God

January 9: The Day Jesus Was Re-Baptized by a Canaanite Woman (Matthew 15:21-28)

January 16: The Day Jesus Couldn't Control His Mother (John 2:1-12)

January 23: The Day Jesus Almost Got Killed Over a Phoenician Woman (Luke 4:14-30)

January 30: The Day Jesus Transformed a Community through a Trusted Woman (John 4:1-42)

February 6: The Day Jesus Silenced a Mob on Behalf of a Victimized Woman (John 8:2-11)

Youth Sunday: February 13

Every year, we celebrate the young people of our church on Youth Sunday. This year, Youth Sunday will be on February 13 during morning worship. Their commitments and dreams inspire us as they reveal their commitments to God's vision for the world.

Women's Retreat: March 4-5, 2022

- Retreat Title - *The Wholeness of God: God Beyond Gender*
- Facilitator - Rev. Martha D. Kearse, D.Min.
- Location - St. John's Baptist Church
- Dates - Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, March 4-5

THE ST. JOHN'S PULPIT

Sunday, January 9, 2021 | Epiphany

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Worship Theme: Isn't that Just Like a Woman?

Message Title: The Day Jesus Was Re-Baptized

by a Canaanite Woman

Scripture: Matthew 15:21-28

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

Church Administrator

Jacquelyn McAbee

Custodial Staff

Chris Mullis & Debora Thon

Organist

J. Noel Lance

Weekday School Director

Lydia Olmstead

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Sunday, January 2, 2022, at 10:30AM
ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA