

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Epiphany Sunday

Please silence all electronic devices.

*Invites the congregation to stand

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

Greeting Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD

Call to Worship Dr. Foust

ONE: What joy we feel when we are called together to celebrate God's love.

ALL: God's love flows through our lives!

ONE: This is what it means to be the body of Christ!

ALL: This is what it means to be faithful witnesses to God!

ONE: Let us rejoice on this day!

ALL: Let us worship the Living God!

Prayer of Submission Dr. Foust

***Hymn of Praise** *Here We Gather as God's People*
NETTLETON

Here we gather as God's people with our friends from far and near; let our voices sound with praises knowing Christ has called us here. Now we seek and greet each other, now in joy approach our friends. Here we mingle, bound together, as to all our love extends.

God Jehovah, here we gather to commit our lives to You. Teach us how to love each other as Your words command us to. Let us never take for granted the worth You've placed on us. Rather give us eyes to see all as Your children here on earth

Reading from the Gospel Eric McCombs
Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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** *She Came to Jesus*
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
SLANE

Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace, she knew God's love was not bounded by place. Jesus, You listened, debated — then healed — for in her asking, her faith was revealed. God, You still bless those who seek You in prayer. You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare. In Christ, now risen, Your mercy extends: those on the outside are welcomed as friends.

Family Dedication
Blinn and Anna Cushman present
Alexandra Lawrence Cushman & Julien McLeod Cushman

The Dedication Covenant Rev. Allison Benfield

MINISTER: Do you, Blinn and Anna, covenant together to raise Alexandra and Julien in an environment of Christian love, harmony and peace?

PARENTS: We do.

MINISTER: Do you covenant together to grant Alexandra and Julien the benefits of communal fellowship by nurturing them 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 Alexandra and Julien can come to know and serve the Lord Jesus Christ?

CHURCH: We do.

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

CHURCH: We do.

MINISTER: Then, recognizing the covenant accepted this day by Blinn and Anna and by the congregation, I offer Alexandra and Julien this certificate acknowledging their formal introduction to this family of God.

Presentation of the Child Dr. Foust

Prayer of Dedication Dr. Foust

Song of Blessing Congregation

Alexandra, God claims you; God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too. We this day do all agree a child of God you will always be.

Julien, God claims you; God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too. We this day do all agree a child of God you will always be.

Offertory Prayer Lia Benton

Offertory Chancel Choir
I Am His Child Moses Hogan

***Doxology** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

The Church at Prayer & the Lord's Prayer Rev. Allison 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, Tamara Edwards, Betty Fuller, Caroline Godsey, Paul Lloyd, Tish Philemon, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Don Swofford, Elma Thomas, Dee Turner

We will gather in the Chapel today at 1:30PM to celebrate the life of Polly Hull. A reception will follow in Lasater Hall.

We will gather in the sanctuary on Tuesday, January 11, at 1PM to celebrate the life of Barbara Ledford. The service will live stream on our YouTube channel. Sympathy to Beth Jones in the passing of her father, John Dean.

A Time for Reflection Lee Gray
A Place at the Table William Carlos Williams

Do we wish to learn the meaning of God's love among us? Let us listen to the words of the Canaanite woman, who knew she had a place at the table. The clouds have paused their travelling to listen to the song, the song of faith Christ hears her sing in witness to the welcome of the table.

Send the letter to the cities, to the lonely high-rise dwellers, to the stranger, to the poor. Tell them they have places at the table. Dial the telephones of the hurting, the ill and the despairing; bring them in their neediness to the healing in the welcome of the table.

The birds have sung their praises to the beauty of the morning, of a new world beginning, rejoicing in the bounty of the table. The words are echoed in the blossoms, in the sunrise, in the starlight: the words that welcome us to our places at the table. Do we yearn to see the face of God, to know the nearness of the Beloved? We lift the blindfold from our eyes at the table.

Message Dr. Foust
The Day Jesus Was Re-Baptized by a Canaanite Woman

***Hymn** *All Are Welcome*
Marty Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions. All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Commissioning the Scattered Church Dr. Foust

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 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)

SNL Resumes Tonight!

All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to the first SNL of the year tonight from 5-7PM in the Lounge! Come enjoy dinner as we plan this semester and make care packages for college students.

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
- Registration will open soon on Realm!

Welcoming Rev. Jonathan Lee Walton, PhD February 20

Throughout our history, St. John's has enjoyed a close relationship with Wake Forest University. We are privileged to welcome the Dean of the School of Divinity at Wake Forest, Rev. Jonathan Lee Walton, PhD, into the St. John's Pulpit on Sunday, February 20. Walton is a social ethicist whose scholarship focuses on evangelical Christianity and its relationship to mass media and political culture. Dean Walton's work and insights have been featured in several national and international news outlets including the New York Times, CNN, and the BBC.



We look forward to welcoming Dean Walton to St. John's on February 20 and hope you will join us for worship!

THE ST. JOHN'S PULPIT

Sunday, January 16, 2022

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

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

Message Title: The Day Jesus Couldn't Control His Mother

Scripture: John 2: 1-12

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

St. John's Baptist Church

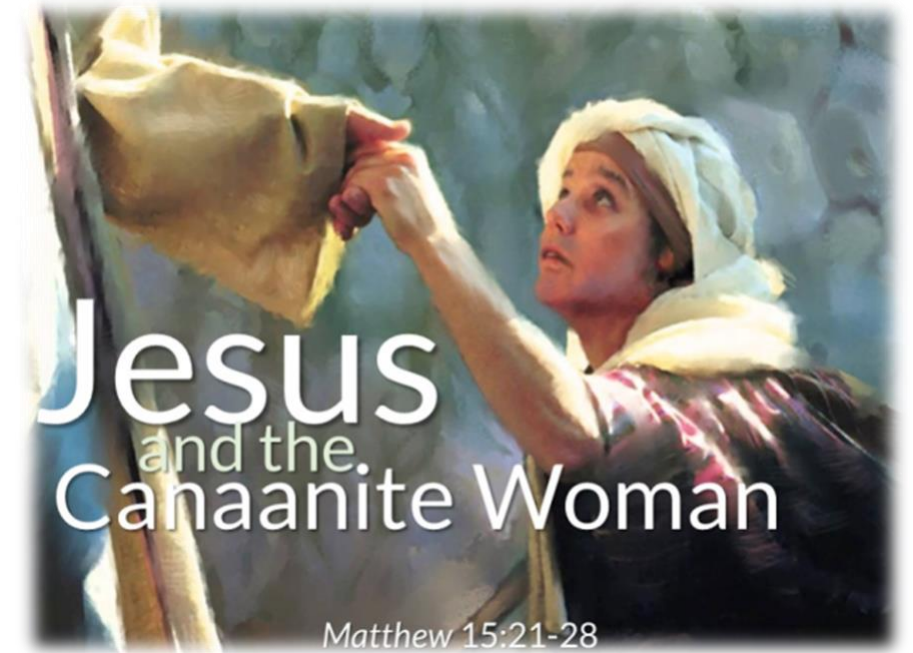
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**Isn't That Just Like a Woman?
Some Women Who Helped Jesus
Reveal the Mission of God**

**Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 10:30AM
ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**