

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Forth Sunday of Advent

God's Good News Offers Love for Troubled Times

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

Greeting Rev.

Prayer of Submission Rev.

Song of Hope Chancel

Choir
Light the Candle J. Kevin Gray

Light the candle of hope. Let its glow warm your heart bringing light from above. May we open our eyes to God's love in full view. Jesus will be born, making all things anew.

Lighting the Candle of Hope Noel Lance & Chris Lavender

ONE: Jesus shows us God's perfect LOVE. He is God's LOVE in human form. The Bible says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

ALL: LOVE is patient, LOVE is kind and envies no one. LOVE is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. LOVE is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true.

ONE There is nothing that LOVE cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. LOVE never ends.

ALL: We light this candle today to remind us of how God's perfect LOVE is found in Jesus.

***Carol of Praise** *Angels from the realms of Glory*
Chalice Hymnal No. 149 verses 1,2&4 Regent Square

Reading from the Epistle ?
Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak." "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt."

And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

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.

Moment for reflection *Janet Jones, Angie Wheeler & J. Kevin Gray*
The First Noel

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 (back surgery in December), Betty Fuller, Polly Hull, Barbara Ledford, Tish Philemon, Gene & Carol Poole, Brad Sifford (back surgery in November), Carole Ann Simpson, Don Swofford, Elma Thomas, Dee Turner, Johnathan (J.R.) Mullins

***Carol** *What Child is This*
Chalice Hymnal No. 162 Greensleeves

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!

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!

Offertory Prayer Rev. Gray

Offertory Chancel Choir
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Arr. Michael Austin Miller

***Doxology** ADESTE FIDELES

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

***Carol** *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Chalice Hymnal No. 155 Gloria

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!

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!

Message Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
I Am Baptized

***Carol** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
Chalice Hymnal No. 167 Go Tell It On the Mountain

Commissioning the Scattered Church Dr. Foust

Postlude J. Noel Lance

LIFE AT ST. JOHN'S

Advent 2021: Good News for Troubled Times

Here is the full schedule for Advent at St. John's. We hope you will join us as we celebrate hope, peace, joy, and love this season.

- **Christmas Cards for Neighbors-** Our special Christmas card boxes have returned this year to the Main Entrance! Stop by and take a list of the names of recipients. Bring your cards back to the boxes by *Sunday, December 19* to be delivered to each recipient by their deacons with a poinsettia.
- **Sunday, December 5-** Advent 2 & Hanging of the Green Service during morning worship
- **Sunday, December 12-** Advent 3 & "A Journey of Joy" with orchestra and special music
- **Sunday, December 19-** Advent 4
- **ALSO on Sunday, December 19-** The 10th Anniversary Charlotte Lessons & Carols from St. John's special will air on WDAV from 4-6PM (no in-person service)
- **Friday, December 24-** Christmas Eve Service of Candles, Carols, and Communion in the Sanctuary at 4PM & 6PM, stay tuned for details
- **Saturday, December 25-** The 10th Anniversary Charlotte Lessons & Carols from St. John's special will air on WDAV from 1-3PM (no in-person service)

Have you made a commitment to the 2022 Financial Ministry Plan?



If you have not pledged yet, you can do so by turning in your pledge card to Jacquelyn in the office or by pledging online through Realm or by scanning the QR code. As of November 22, we have received 111 commitments and have a total of \$683,681 pledged. Thank you so much for your financial faithfulness!

Coats and Blankets for Immigrant and Refugee Families

As you zero in on your holiday preparations, don't forget that you can donate new or gently used coats (any size) or new blankets for ourBridge for Kids as they help immigrant and refugee families prepare for winter. You can leave your donations at the ourBridge location, just inside the entrance of Aldersgate at 3800 Shamrock Drive, or bring them to St. John's on Sunday, December 5, where we will have a one-day drive. Containers will be available for collection of these items at the Main Entrance on that day.

Tuesday Bible Study: Levine's *Light of the World* for Advent

The Tuesday Bible Study (TBS) begins a special emphasis on the Advent Season beginning this Tuesday, November 30. Amy-Jill Levine's *Light of the World*, published by Abingdon Press, will be our study guide. This invitation is open to everyone interested in a focused study of Levine's biblical reflection on "The Meaning of Memory, The Promise of Potential, The Journey of Joy, and The Gifts of the Gentiles." We meet for one hour each Tuesday at 11:00am on Zoom. Contact Steve Hoffman (704-604-9634) to receive the Zoom link as registration for the five sessions and book information.

THE ST. JOHN'S PULPIT

Sunday, December 5, 2021 | Advent II
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Worship Theme: God's Good News Offers Peace for Troubled Times
Message Title: *Peace for the Disinherited*
Scripture: Luke 1:5-25 & Luke 1:26-45

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

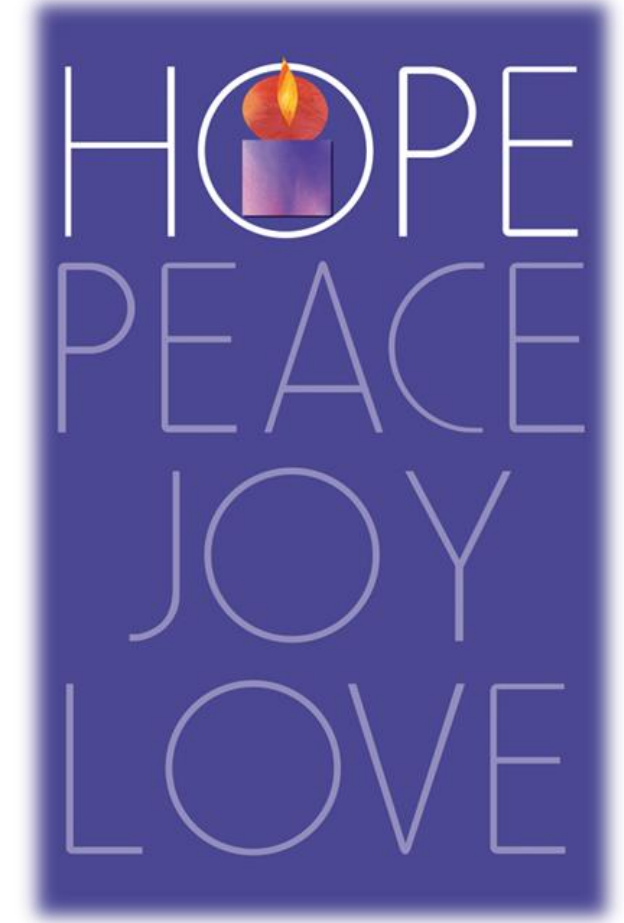
Children's Choir Director

Anna Ball

St. John's Baptist Church

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**God's Good News Offers Hope for Troubled Times
Sunday, November 28, 2021, at 10:30AM**

**ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**