

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## Holy Humor Sunday

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

\*Invites the congregation to stand

### Gathering Music

J. Noel Lance

### Greeting

David Allen

### Prayer of Submission

David Allen

### \*Call to Worship

David Allen

ONE: God raised Jesus from the dead and restored life to all!

**ALL: Let us give thanks with our singing!**

ONE: God has taken our mourning and turned it into laughter!

**ALL: Let us praise God, with our boundless joy!**

### \*Hymn of Praise

*Praise Him! Praise Him!*

Chalice Hymnal No. 93, verses 1 & 3

JOYFUL SONG

Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Sing, O Earth, his wonderful love proclaim!  
Hail him! hail him! highest archangels in glory!  
strength and honor give to his holy name!  
Like a shepherd Jesus will guard his children,  
in his arms he carries them all day long:

*Refrain:*

Praise him! praise him! tell of his excellent greatness;  
praise him! praise him ever in joyful song!

Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Heavenly portals loud with hosannas ring!  
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever;  
crown him! crown him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!  
Christ is coming! over the world victorious,  
power and glory unto the Lord belong: Refrain

### Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Phillips Bragg

Psalms 126:1-3

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then  
it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

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

*Marching to Zion*

Chalice Hymnal No. 707, verses 1 & 4

MARCHING TO ZION

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord  
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

*Refrain:*

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;  
we're marching thru Emmanuel's ground, we're marching thru Emmanuel's  
ground to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high: *Refrain*

\*During the singing of the last refrain children may come down to the front.

### Moments with the Younger Church

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

### Joyful Reflections

Scott Kerley

### The Church at Prayer and 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 & Celebration

Shirley Ballard, Martha Brown, Stan Brown, Kathleen Bumgardner, Caroline Godsey,  
Tish Philemon, Jerry Stephens, Don Swofford, Dee Turner, Gerald Vaughn

Sympathy to the family of Jo Moore in her passing on April 19.

A visitation will be held today from 3-5pm at J.B. Tallent Funeral Home on  
N. Sharon Amity Road. A graveside service will be held at Sunset Memory Gardens  
on Monday, April 25 at 3PM and will be officiated by Rev. Lee Gray.

### \*Hymn

*Give to Us Laughter*

Text by Walter Farquharson

SLANE

Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.  
Laughter can banish so much of our strife!  
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.  
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.



### Litany of Laughter

Kevin & Natalie Turner

ONE: How do you know that atoms are Catholic? They have mass.

**ALL: Wocka, wocka!**

ONE: What did the lawyer ask when someone started talking about God's  
will? "Was it notarized?"

**ALL: Wocka, wocka!**

ONE: Where was Solomon's Temple located? On the side of his head.

**ALL: Wocka, wocka! Praise be to God!**

### Offertory Prayer

Kevin Lynch

### Offertory

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Chancel Choir

James Mulholland

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; here by thy great help I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

### \*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.

### \*Hymn

*Give to Us Laughter*

Text by Walter Farquharson

SLANE

Even in sorrow and hours of grief,  
laughter with tears brings us healing relief!  
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,  
joy of your promise among us increase.

### Message

Dr. Foust

*The Best Medicine*

### \*Song of Transformation

*Mourning into Dancing*

Tommy Walker

**ALL: You've turned our mourning into dancing again, you've lifted our  
sorrows: we can't stay silent; we must sing for your joy has come.**

SOLO: Where there once was only hurt, you gave your healing hand; Where  
there once was only pain you brought comfort like a friend. We feel the  
brilliance of your love piercing the darkness; we see the bright and  
morning sun as it ushers in a joyful gladness!

**ALL: You've turned our mourning into dancing again, you've lifted our  
sorrows: we can't stay silent; we must sing for your joy has come.**

### \*Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

### \*Postlude

J. Noel Lance

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Have you purchased your tickets for Karen González?

St. John's is hosting a community event on Saturday, April 30 at 6PM featuring Rev. Karen González, the author of *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong* (Herald Press, May 2019). Karen has lived the experience of being an immigrant, having arrived with her family in this country from Guatemala at the age of 9. In *The God Who Sees* she weaves together her own story and those of other immigrants with stories of immigrants in the Bible. She is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary and works for World Relief in Baltimore, an organization that serves immigrants and refugees.

We invite you to join us on April 30 for a time of fellowship and learning. The evening will begin with a reception (light refreshments), followed by Karen's talk at 6:30, Q & A, and a book signing. The event will be held in Broach Hall.

If you have any questions about purchasing tickets or would like to pay with check/cash, please let Mallory Brown know at [mbrown@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:mbrown@sjcharlotte.org) or Jacquelyn McAbee in the office. Purchase your tickets for Saturday night with the QR code here or with this link: <https://tinyurl.com/sjbcgonzalez2022>



### Youth Mission Trip to Chicago

St. John's middle and high school students are invited to serve and learn on our Mission Trip to Chicago on June 19-25. On this trip, we will participate in Experience Mission's ministry in Chicago and partner with Sunshine Gospel Ministries (through the BridgeBuilders program) for an experiential service-learning opportunity. This trip seeks to connect people from different backgrounds to promote a shared understanding of the challenges facing inner-city communities.

The total cost will be \$525 per youth. This will include airfare, meals, and lodging. Please pay \$125 online when you register. You may pay your balance at any time via your Realm account. Plane tickets will be finalized on Tuesday, May 10, so we need you to register by Monday, May 9. Register through Realm today and be sure to follow all the directions on the registration page!

### Strangers to Neighbors: Refugee 101 Orientation at St. John's

On May 18 at 11:30 in the church lounge, Refugee Support Services will hold their one-hour Refugee 101 session for anyone interested in working with the clients served by RSS. Participation in their volunteer orientation is required along with a background check. Plan to come to the lounge, bring a sandwich for lunch, and learn the latest about refugees arriving in Charlotte and how we can help extend a welcome to them. Please email either Nina Phillips ([ninacarl@gmail.com](mailto:ninacarl@gmail.com)) or Beverly Hester ([beverlyrhester@earthlink.net](mailto:beverlyrhester@earthlink.net)) to let them know that you will be there.

### St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane,  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204  
704.333.5428 | [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

#### The St. John's Pulpit

Worship on May 1  
Guest Proclaimer - Karen Gonzalez  
Author, 'The God Who Sees'

#### This Week at St. John's

Sunday, April 24	9:15 am	Sunday School/Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ Int's Ministries Worship (Chapel)
Monday, April 25	5:00 pm	Sunday Night Live (Lounge, Gym, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor)
	8:00 am	Finance Resource Team (Zoom)
	9:30 am	Shepherd's Center Adventures in Learning (Broach Hall & Room 226)
	11:30 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tuesday, April 26	2:00 pm	Staff meeting/ worship planning (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	Team Hope (Gym)
	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
	11:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study (Zoom)
	1:00 pm	Soccer Shots/ WDS (Gym)
	7:00 pm	Sherrill basketball (Gym)
Wed., April 27	7:30 pm	Search Team/ Minister for Children & Young Families (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	Team Hope (Gym)
	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, April 28	5:30 pm	Handbells (Room 225)
	6:00 pm	Team Hope (Gym)
Friday, April 29	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, April 30	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	7:00 am	Elizabeth 8k parking (parking lot)
	12:00 pm	Luncheon/ Karen Gonzalez & Immigration Team (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	Lecture/ Karen Gonzalez (Broach Hall)
	8:00 pm	Together We Rise NA (Lasater Hall)

### Membership and Ministry

If you would like information on how you can become a member of St. John's, please call the church office (704.333.5428) or fill out one of the "For Our Guests" cards found on the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate. One of our ministers 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.

#### Ministers

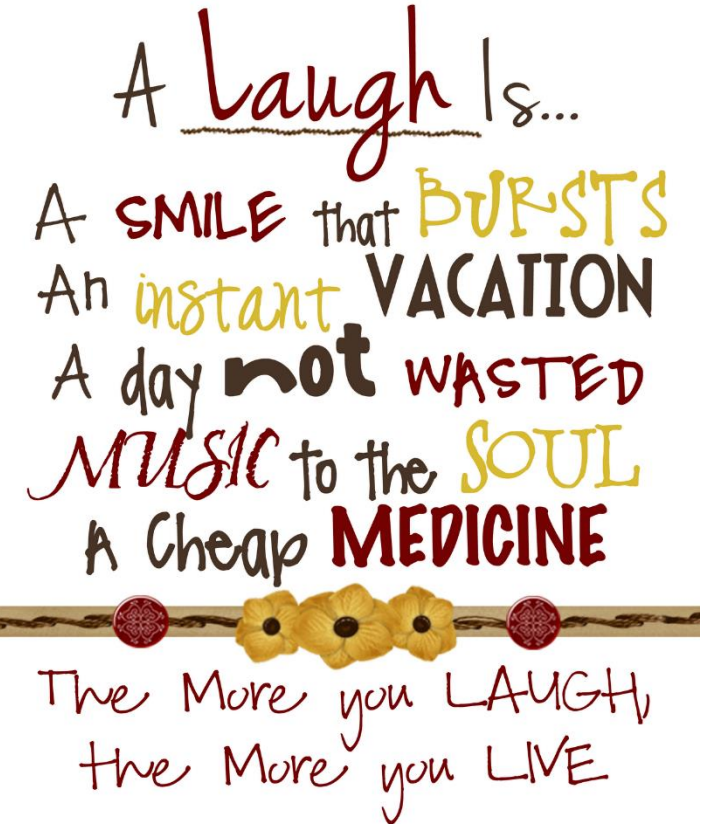
*Every participant in God's Servant Church*

#### Equipping Ministers

Minister for Worship and Music.....J. Kevin Gray  
Minister for Congregational Care..... Rev. Lee Gray  
Senior Minister.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

#### Church Staff

Administrative Assistant.....Jenny Godfrey  
Administrative and Communications Support.....Mallory Brown  
Church Administrator..... Jacquelyn McAbee  
Custodians.....Chris Mullis, Debora Thon  
Organist..... J. Noel Lance  
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmstead



Quote by Mary H. Waldrip

First Sunday of Eastertide

Holy Humor Sunday

Sunday, April 24, 2022, at 10:30AM

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA