

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

Please silence all electronic devices.

*Invites the congregation to stand

Gathering Music Kathy Alexander

Greeting Rev. Lee Gray

***Prayerful Call to Worship** J. Kevin Gray

ONE: Where ignorance, self-love and insensitivity have fractured life in community,

ALL: give Your light, O God of Love.

ONE: Where injustice and oppression have broken the spirit of peoples,

ALL: give Your light, O God who frees.

ONE: Where suspicion and hatred, conflict and fear have challenged Your goodness

ALL: give Your light, O God of peace,

ONE: Eternal God, open the eyes of the nations and peoples so that they may walk in the light of love; remove the ignorance and stubbornness of nations and peoples so that they may drink from the fountains of Your goodness.

ALL: Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** *God of Grace and God of Glory*
Chalice Hymnal No. 464 CWM RHONDDA

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Set our feet on lofty places; fill our lives that we may be
strengthened with all Christlike graces pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we fail our call from thee,
lest we fail our call from thee.

Reading from the Epistles Tricia Miller
1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now, we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even

as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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 *Called as Partners in Christ Service*
Chalice Hymnal No. 453, Verses 1 & 2 BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with fiend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Reflection *Outwitted*
Written by Edwin Markham

He drew a circle that shut me out-
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!

Hymn *Called as Partners in Christ Service*
Chalice Hymnal No. 453, Verse 3 BEECHER

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Joanne Compton

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, Kathleen Bumgardner, Tish Philemon, Tarsha Williams

Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir and Congregation
O God, Who Taught Us How to Love James Kevin Gray

O God, who taught us how to love through the words and deeds of Christ. The one who reached out to the weak and raised them into life. Teach us this same compassion Lord, let Your face shine full through ours. May we truly love and serve the world. May we live our lives like Christ.

There are many who are bound in chains, broken hearts that need to mend. Give us eyes that see and ears that hear the cries that rise from them. O God, who sent us Jesus Christ, help us set these captives free. Send us out with your anointing Lord, helping all who are in need.

Congregation:
When the day is done and night falls fast on our journey here below. May we hear You say, "My child, well done; come receive your just reward." You've fought for right and loved so well, changing lives along the way. Welcome now to your eternal home, built by grace and those who prayed.

Solo J. Kevin Gray
Love Can Build a Bridge Judd, Barlow & Overstreet

I'd gladly walk across the desert with no shoes upon my feet to share with you the last bite of bread I had to eat. I would swim out to save you in your sea of broken dreams. When all your hopes are sinking, let me show you what love means.

Chorus: Love can build a bridge between your heart and mine. Love can build a bridge; don't you think it's time?

I would whisper love so loudly, every heart could understand, that love and only love can join the trials of man. I would give my heart's desire so that you might see the first step is to realize that it all begins with you and me. Chorus

Bridge: When we stand together, it's our finest hour. We can do anything if we keep believing' in the power of love. Chorus



Message Rev. Gray
LOVE ONE ANOTHER: For God's Purpose

***Hymn of Discipleship** *They'll Know We Are Christians*
Chalice Hymnal No. 494 ST. BRENDAN'S

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: Refrain

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: Refrain

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: Refrain

***Commissioning the Scattered Church** Rev. Gray

***Postlude** Kathy Alexander

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE

Pentecost Sunday | June 5

Worship at 10:30 with Together in Christ International Ministries
Barbecue Lunch in Broach Hall Afterwards!

Clothing & Book Drive for ourBRIDGE for Kids

ourBRIDGE for Kids is collecting new or gently used summer clothing and books for ages preschool through 8th grade. A festive occasion at the ourBRIDGE location planned for June 8 will include a distribution of needed summer wear for the children of refugee and immigrant families who will be served in the ourBRIDGE summer programs.

If you would like to participate, please bring your donations to the lobby at the main entrance of St. John's. There will be a receptacle there through Sunday, June 5 to receive your donations, which will be greatly appreciated by these children and their families.

Centennial Celebration Sermons

Copies of Dr. Foust's sermons celebrating our Centennial can be found on the resource table across from the church offices.

Project Ruth

The Mission Resource Team recently voted to send \$1,000 of our Hunger Fund money to Project Ruth, sponsored by CBFNC. Project Ruth, a CBF partner ministry in Romania, is currently assembling and distributing food care boxes for Ukrainian families. A Care Box meets the caloric and protein needs of a family of four for seven days in war-torn Ukraine. Our specially selected box contains canned meats, grains, legumes, canned & dried vegetables, healthy fats, seasonings, and sucrose. The total nutritional value of each box weighs in at more than 50000 calories and 1750+ grams of protein with a total content weight of 16kg+.

SAVE THE DATE!

November 4-6, 2022 | St. John's Women's Fall Retreat | Blowing Rock, NC

The St. John's Women of the Church Spiritual Growth Team is overjoyed to invite you back to Blowing Rock Conference Center for our 2022 Fall Retreat. After prayerful group listening, we will offer the magnificent story of The Woman With The Alabaster Jar as our guide for the retreat. Following her example, we will explore how to cultivate deeper intimacy with The Divine and deeper connectedness with one another.

Please consider joining us! We will make travel arrangements for those that don't want to drive.

John 12:3 Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship on June 5
Worship Theme:
Pentecost Sunday
Proclaimer: Dennis W. Foust, PhD &
Rev. Brickson Sam
Sermon Title:
Unity Through Diversity
Scriptures: Act 2

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, May 29	9:15 am	Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
Monday, May 30	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
		Church Offices closed - Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 31	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
	2:00 pm	Staff meeting/worship planning (Conference Room)
Wednesday, June 1	7:00 am	Sherrill basketball (Gym)
	11:30 am	Weekday School End of Year Celebration (Broach Hall parking lot)
	6:00 pm	Team Hope (Gym)
	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, June 2	6:00 pm	Team Hope (Gym)
Friday, June 3	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, June 4	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:00 am	NAMI Board Retreat (Lounge)
	11:30 am	Communities in Schools Graduation (Broach Hall lobby/parking lot)
	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



LOVE ONE ANOTHER

ON PURPOSE,
WITH PURPOSE,
FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

JOHN 13:34-35

Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Sunday, May 29, 2022, at 10:30AM

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA