

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Please silence all electronic devices.

*Invites the congregation to stand

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

Greeting Rev. Lee Gray

***Call to Worship** Rev. Gray

ONE: Children of God: welcome!

ALL: Welcome to this place of love and grace,

ONE: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

ALL: God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

ONE: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

ALL: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

ONE: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

***Prayer of Submission** Rev. Gray

***Hymn of Praise** *Your Love, O God*
Chalice Hymnal No. 71, Vs 1&2 Vicar

Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.
You leave us free to seek you or reject you,
you give us room to answer 'yes' or 'no'.

We long for freedom where our truest being
is given hope and courage to unfold.
We seek freedom space and scope for dreaming,
and look for ground where trees and plants can grow.

Reading from The Epistle Karen Moegerle
Galatians 5:1-15

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. Once again, I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. I am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case, the offense of the cross has been removed. I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves!

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

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 and Meditation J. Kevin Gray
Legacy Nichole Nordeman

I don't mind if you've got something nice to say about me, and I enjoy an accolade like the rest. And you can take my picture and hang it in a gallery of all the "who's who's" and "so-and-so's" that used to be the best at such-and-such; it wouldn't matter much. I won't lie; it feels all right to see your name in lights. We all need an "atta-boy" or "atta-girl". But in the end, I'd like to hang my hat on more besides the temporary trappings of this world.

Chorus: I want to leave a legacy. How will they remember me? Did I choose to love? Did I point to You enough to make a mark on things?

I want to leave an offering, a child of mercy and grace who blessed Your name unapologetically and leave that kind of legacy.

I don't have to look too far or too long a while to make a lengthy list of all that I enjoy. It's an accumulating trinket and a treasure pile where moth and rust, thieves and such will soon enough destroy.

Chorus

The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Rev. Lee 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
Kathleen Bumgardner, Tish Philemon, Tarsha Williams, Ethel Harris, Gabriel Farhadian

***Hymn** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use me*

ONE: I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.
I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.

**ALL: I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.
I'm gonna live so God can use me anytime and anywhere.**

Message Rev. Steve Harmon, PhD
Standing Firm for Freedom

***Hymn of Discipleship** *God of Freedom, God of Justice*
Regent Square

God of freedom, God of justice, You whose love is strong as death, You who saw the dark of prison, You who knew the price of faith touch our world of sad oppression with Your Spirit's healing breath.

Make in us a captive conscience quick to hear, to act, to plead;
Make us truly sisters, brothers of whatever race or creed teach us to be fully human, open to each other's needs.

Offertory Prayer Sally Young

Offertory J. Noel Lance
Faith of Our Fathers arr. James Mansfield

***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.

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

***Postlude** J. Noel Lance

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today, we welcome Rev. Steve Harmon, PhD to the St. John's pulpit. Dr. Harmon is the Professor of Historical Theology at the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University. We look forward to welcoming him and his family, wife Kheresa and son Timothy, back to St. John's for the day!

Free Concert TONIGHT! | July 3 | 7 PM | Sanctuary

Join us for an evening of music tonight in the Sanctuary at 7 PM! This concert is sponsored by the American Guild of Organists and St. John's and will feature two incredible organists, David Wilcox and Annette Martin, playing mostly patriotic music.

2022 Global Missions Offering

Our goal for this year's annual Global Missions Offering is \$25,000. As of now, we have received just \$2,555 towards this goal.

Where will this offering go?

\$20,000 will go to support our friends at the Nyarweng School, South Sudan. \$5,000 will go to Project Ruth to support those affected by the war in Ukraine. You can give towards this goal today by donating online and specifying Global Missions or by writing "Global Missions" in the memo line on your check.

Carillon Installation

This month, a digital carillon will be installed at St. John's. It will strike the hour throughout the day. At noon, it will play a selection of hymns for several minutes.

We need your help! We would like to have the carillon play hymns that are favorites of YOU! If you have a favorite hymn, please email, mail, or drop a note to Kevin Gray with a list of your top five favorite hymns.

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 July 11
Proclaimer: Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Worship Theme: An iMessage on Awakening
Sermon Title: A Rip Van Winkle Church
Scriptures: Revelation 3:1-6

This Week at St. John's

Sun., July 3	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 7:00 pm	Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) AGO Concert (Sanctuary)
Mon., July 4	ALL Day 8:00 pm	Church offices closed - Independence Day Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Tuesday, July 5	8:00 am 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	Weekday School Summer Session Staff Meeting (Conference Room) Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
Wed., July 6	8:00 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm	Weekday School Summer Session Team Hope Basketball (Gym) Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
Thursday, July 7	8:00 am 11:00 am 6:00 pm	Weekday School Summer Session Immigration & Refugee Ministry Group (Lounge) Team Hope (Gym)
Friday, July 8	8:00 am 8:00 pm	Weekday School Summer Session Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, July 9	6:30 am 8:00 pm	Benton Basketball (Gym) 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

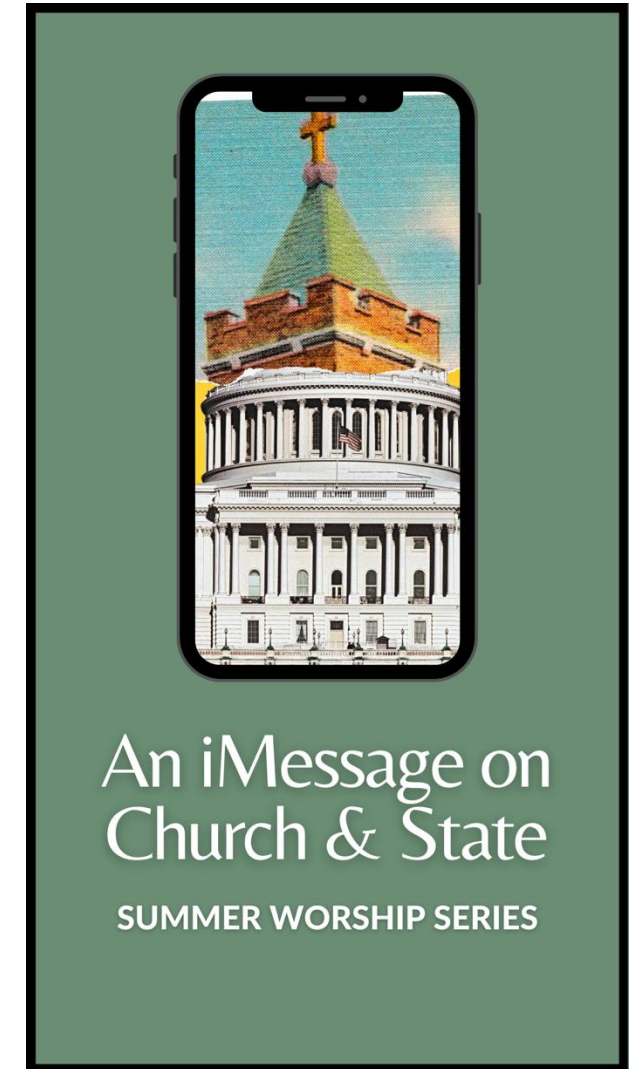
Every participant in God's Servant Church

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 and Communications Support Mallory Brown
Church Administrator Jacquelyn McAbee
Custodians Chris Mullis, Debora Thon
Ministry Coordinator Amanda Morrison
Organist J. Noel Lance
Weekday School Director Lydia Olmstead



Sunday, July 3, 2022, at 10:30 AM
ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA