

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Please silence all electronic devices.

*Invites the congregation to stand

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

Greeting J. Kevin Gray

*Prayerful Call to Worship

ONE: God, you have lovingly gathered us, giving us a holy purpose.

ALL: Lord, we hear you, we see you, transform our lives. Amen

***Hymn of Praise** Praise to the Living God
DIADEMATA

Praise to the living God, the God of Love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where 'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart, God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as Love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the way, O source, and goal of life.

Reading from the Gospel Natalie Bailey
Mark 15: 33-39

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

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.

Spoken Reflection Kathy Bragg

Hymn Father Forgive Them
Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette ADELAIDE

"Father!" You cried out, praying to God,
"Into your hands my spirit I give."
Then on the cross, as love's final Word,
You died so all God's children might live.

The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer Haley Blackwell

**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

Tarsha Williams, Arnold Philemon, Martha Brown,
Joyce Ehrenberger, Rob Peacock, Sierra Leone

Reading from the Gospel Jason Benton
Luke 10: 25-37: The Good Samaritan

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance, a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

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** Who Is My Neighbor
Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette LOBE DEN HERREN

"Who is my neighbor?" A lawyer asked Jesus, to test him.
So Jesus told him a story to answer his question:
Lonely the way ...
Lonely the traveler one day ...
Robbers attacked him and left him.

First down the road came a priest who just chose to ignore him.
Next came a Levite who wouldn't do anything for him.
Then one despised,
Hated in everyone's eyes,
Knelt down to heal and restore him.

Tending the wounds of the man, the Samaritan labored.
He was the one with compassion, the one in God's favor.
Not by a creed,
But by responding to need,
He proved to be the good neighbor.

Message Rev. Lee Gray
You Can Answer with Your Life

Song of Reflection Come Sunday
Duke Ellington

Lord, dear Lord above, God almighty,
God of love, please look down and see your people through.

I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky.
I don't mind the gray skies,
'Cause they're just clouds passing by.

Heaven is a goodness time.
A brighter light on high.

Do unto others as you would have them do to you.

And have a brighter by and by.

Lord, dear Lord above, God almighty,
God of love, please look down and see your people through.

I believe God is now, was then and always will be.
With God's blessing, we can make it through eternity.

Lord, dear Lord above, God almighty,
God of love, please look down and help us see each other through.

Offertory Prayer Scott Hicks

Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir
With a Voice of Singing Martin Shaw

***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. Gray

***Song of Sending** Just a Closer Walk with Thee
Congregation/when cued Clarinet/ Aidan Salmeron

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be dear Lord let it be.

***Postlude** J. Noel Lance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craft Fair & Bake Sale on Sunday, October 16

The Needle and Craft ministry will be having a Craft Fair & Bake Sale this fall on October 16 after the worship service. Our proceeds will be donated to two worthy causes: expanding our Sunday ministry for young children & hunger (Loaves & Fishes)

We need your help with any craft items or baked goods you could donate to sell. We also need some help with sewing some items we would like to offer. We have some fabric and can cut the items out if you could help us with sewing them.

Please call Tricia Miller (704-562-4818) if you can help. Looking forward to having this annual event up and running in 2022.

Salt Shakers: Are you registered?

At St. John's we have few occasions to get together informally and meet new members or get better acquainted with people we pass in the hall or see in the Sanctuary. Salt Shakers is a church-wide effort to provide a setting for this fellowship...an opportunity to get to know one another a little better! Sponsored by the Ministry Panel, Salt Shakers is designed to provide four evenings of dinner and conversation for any adult who wants to participate. Each dinner is hosted in a different home and attended by a different group of seven or eight people.



Scan this QR code for more info!

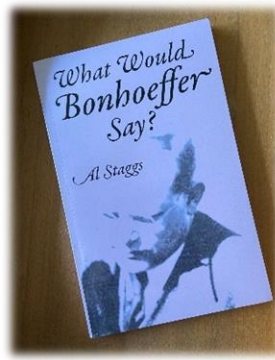


Scan this QR code to register online!

Al Staggs: October 15, 2022



This fall, two years after our original plan with Al Staggs, we finally have him coming to St. John's to present his dramatic play from the Sanctuary on Saturday, October 15 at 6PM. This play, "A View from the Underside," brings the life of one of the great heroes of the twentieth century, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, to the



stage. The audience is brought into the prison cell where Bonhoeffer awaits execution and listens to his struggles with evil, injustice, and God.

Join us as Al Staggs presents his depiction of Bonhoeffer. On Sunday morning, October 16 during worship, Al will present his depiction of Clarence Jordan. Purchase your \$10 tickets TODAY through Eventbrite. Scan the QR Code here to purchase your tickets today.



Books available for sale in the church office: \$15 per book.

Join us for the Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 16!

The Walk has a flexible start at 1:30 p.m. (each group can begin walking as soon as they are ready). We are walking around the field at Memorial Stadium, so you can walk as little or as much as you like or come sit in the stands and cheer on the walkers. Micah Belong is our team captain and you can reach them at e-mail micahbenjibelong@gmail.com or by text or phone at 541-210-1357.

Links to the signup page coming soon!

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 Oct. 9

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Sermon Theme: God Who Welcomes Our Commitments to God's Will

Sermon Title: "Your Commitment Creates Your Reality"

Scriptures: Luke 4:1-13; 22:39-44

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Oct. 2	<p>9:15 am Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person)</p> <p>10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)</p> <p>10:30 am Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)</p> <p>5:00 pm Youth SNL</p>
Mon., Oct. 3	<p>9:30 am Adventures in Learning - Shepherd's Center (Broach Hall)</p> <p>11:00 am Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)</p> <p>2:00 pm Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)</p>
Tuesday, Oct. 4	<p>6:30 pm NAMI "Family to Family" class (Lounge)</p> <p>7:00 pm Sherrill Basketball (Gym)</p>
Wed., Oct. 5	<p>11:30 am Joy Class Lunch (Lounge)</p> <p>6:00 pm Lewis - Basketball (Gym)</p> <p>6:00 pm Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)</p>
Thursday, Oct. 6	<p>10:00 am Needle Ministry (Lounge)</p>
Friday, Oct. 7	<p>Matthew 5:13-20</p>
Saturday, Oct. 8	<p>6:30 am Benton Basketball (Gym)</p> <p>8:00 pm Together We Rise NA (Lasater Hall)</p>

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
Minister for Children and Their Families.....Kheresa Harmon
Minister for Youth and Young Adults..... Haley Blackwell
Senior MinisterRev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Church Staff

Custodians.....Chris Mullis, Debora Thon
Church Administrator.....Jill Rackley
Media Coordinator Mallory Brown
Ministry Coordinator.....Amanda Morrison
Organist J. Noel Lance
Associate Organist.....Dr. Matthew Manwarren
Children's Music Director..... Chloe Hall
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted



Sunday, October 2, 2022, at 10:30 AM
ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA