

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Please silence all electronic devices.

*Invites the congregation to stand

Gathering Music Dr. Matthew Manwarren

Living God, as we enter these moments of worship, help us discover how to be answers to the prayers of other persons who are looking for Your loving embrace, Your voice of care. Teach us how to make a real difference in a world that needs the light of your wisdom and the touch of Your grace.

Greeting Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD

***Call to Worship** Haley Blackwell

ONE: People of God, arise! Lift your hearts.

ALL: Lift your eyes.

CHOIR: Lift your voices.

ONE: Reach out to each other as our God reaches out to us.

ALL: Let us worship God!

Prayer of Submission Haley Blackwell

***Hymn of Praise** *All Creatures of Our God and King*
Chalice Hymnal No. 22, vs. 1, 3, & 4 LAST UNS ERFREUEN

Reading from the Gospel Micah Belong
Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Song *Up on the Mountain*
Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette SLANE

Love those who hate you and pray for them, too.
God's mercy reaches out far beyond you.
Seek, as God's people, God's wholeness each day
So you can witness to God's perfect way.

Mark 12:28-31 Nora Frances Benton

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Song **Help Us Accept Each Other**
Chalice Hymnal No. 487, vs. 1 & 3 ACCPETANCE

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Reading from the Epistle *Kenn Compton*
1 Corinthians 13:1-13



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.

Moment for Reflection

Why is it sometimes difficult to love?

Song *The Gift of Love*
Chalice Hymnal No. 526, vs. 3 GIFT OF LOVE

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship and are freed.

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

Tarsha Williams, Arnold Philemon, Martha Brown,
Joyce Ehrenberger, Sue Veach, Sierra Leone, Virginia Allen

Choir Anthem Chancel Choir
Where There Is Love Arr. Douglas Nolan

Where there is love, doors are opened, hope restored, and fears released. Where there is love, the path is clear. Oh, let the light of love live in me. Where there is love, hearts are mended, grace bestowed, and souls redeemed. Where there is love, we can begin. Oh, let the light of love live in me. Oh, let God love flow through me, like the air I breathe, every word that I say be a testament of grace. In my song, through my prayer, love will flourish there, love will heal and restore. Let me shine loves light evermore. Where there is love, chains are broken, spirits soar, and hearts set free, where there is love, all things are possible. Oh, let the light of love live in me.

Message Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD
Love Never Fails- But Love is Hard Labor

***Hymn of Discipleship** *You Have Called Us to Your Service*
Words by J. Kevin Gray BEACH SPRING

You have called us to Your service, sent us out into the world.
We have heard You Lord and follow, we will heal and spread Your love.
Give us ears to hear them praying, hear them crying out in need.
Give our hands the strength to reach out breaking chains till all are free.

Through Christ Jesus, You have shown us what compassion really means.
Love is not just for those like us, those who give us what we need.
You have called us far beyond love that's self-serving, small and trite.
You have sent us out with lanterns bringing light to darkest night.

Offertory Prayer Phillips Bragg

Offertory Anthem Dr. Manwarren
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Paul Manz

***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** Dr. Foust

Postlude Dr. Manwarren
Toccata on "Old Hundredth" Michael Burkhardt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, September 11

On Sunday, September 11 from 5-6 PM, we are hosting our Fall Kick-Off Party to celebrate a new year in the life of our community.



We will hear from several different ministries and areas of the church and learn about the events and emphases for this fall and Advent seasons. During this time together, Kevin will present a host of songs on our new baby grand piano, purchased in memory of Dee Turner and Don Swofford.

We hope you'll join us (all ages and stages) for some time together (snacks included) as we begin a new year together.

At 6 PM, all youth will have their first Sunday Night Live gathering for the semester!

Women of the Church Luncheon

The Women of the Church Luncheon will be held in Broach Hall on Sunday, September 18 at 11:45 AM. We are excited to gather again for food, fun, and fellowship, and to celebrate the history of the WMU in the life of Baptist women here at St. John's.

Reservations are REQUIRED. You may sign up via Realm (scan QR code) or by submitting the paper form and a check for \$12.00 to Amanda Morrison or Nancy Wilson by September 11. Nancy Wilson will be available to receive reservations from 10:00 - 10:25 AM outside the Church Office on Sunday, September 11. Reservations received after Sept. 11 are limited and will require a \$15 payment at the door. In the spirit of WMU, we will be collecting donations of feminine hygiene products, lotion, and deodorant at the door.



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 a worthy cause, not yet determined. Please put this date on your calendars and plan to come and purchase crafts and baked goodies for a cause. 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 Is Back!

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!

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 Sept. 11

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD

Sermon Theme: Servant Church: Ordination of Deacons & Installation of Leaders for New Church Year

Sermon Title: 'Could You Bake and Deliver Brownies?'

Scriptures: Colossians 3:12-15

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Sept. 4	9:15 am	Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Sept. 5	All Day	Church offices closed in observance of Labor Day
Tuesday, Sept. 6	8:00 am	Weekday School - First Day of School
	2:00 pm	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
	6:30 pm	NAMI "Family to Family" Class (Room 114)
	7:00 pm	Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
Wed., Sept. 7	6:00 pm	Personnel Resource Team
Thursday, Sept. 8	10:00 am	Needle Ministry
Friday, Sept. 9		
Saturday, Sept. 10	4:00 pm	Drama Theater Banquet for New Emmanuel UCC (Broach Hall)
	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	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
Minister for Youth and Young Adults..... Haley Blackwell
Senior Minister.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Church Staff

Custodians.....Chris Mullis, Debora Thon
Media Coordinator Mallory Brown
Ministry Coordinator.....Amanda Morrison
Organist J. Noel Lance
Associate Organist.....Dr. Matthew Manwarren
Children's Music DirectorChloe Hall
Weekday School Director..... Lydia Olmstead



Sunday, September 4, 2022, at 10:30 AM
ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA