

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

\*Invites the congregation to stand

**Words of Greeting** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**Moments of Preparation for Worship** Dr. Foust

ONE: "I was glad when they said unto me...,

**ALL: Let us go into the house of the Lord."**

**Preparing our Hearts** Dr. Matthew Manwarren

**\*Call to Worship** Haley Blackwell

ONE: From scattered pathways, we gather in this sanctuary connected in our journey of active faith.

**ALL: We are one in Jesus Christ and find inspiration in stories of people who embody active faith through vision, courage, sacrifice, and integrity.**

ONE: Your service in the world may not emerge from a prison cell or a cotton patch, but you still invest in God's vision by valuing all persons equally and serving human needs.

**ALL: Let us worship the God who calls us to be partners in this divine movement of justice and peace.**

**\*Prayer of Submission** Haley Blackwell

**\*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 Prophet** Rev. Kheresa Harmon  
Isaiah 1:10-17

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation— I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them.

When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

**Reading from the Gospel** Carol Injaychock  
Matthew 25:31-40/ Cotton patch gospel; translation

"When the son of man starts his revolution with all his band around him, then he will assume authority. And all the nations will be assembled before him, and he will sort them out, like a farmer separating his cows from his hogs, penning the cows on the right and the hogs on the left. Then the Leader of the Movement will say to those on his right, 'Come, you pride of my Father, share the Movement that was set up for you since creation; for I was hungry and you shared your food with me; I was thirsty and you shared your water with me; I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ragged and you clothed me, sick and you nursed me; I was in jail, and you stood by me.' Then the people of justice will answer, 'Sir, when did we see you hungry and share our food, or thirsty and share our water? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or ragged and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in jail, and stand by you?' And the Leader of the Movement will reply, 'When you did it to one of these humblest brothers of mine, you did it to me.'

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 of Response** Whatever You Do  
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette ST. DENIO

"Whatever you do to the least ones of these,  
I tell you in truth that you do unto me!"  
Lord Jesus, you taught us! May we learn anew  
That when we serve others, we also serve you.

When poor, waiting children pray hunger will end,  
When those long-forgotten cry out for a friend,  
When thirsty ones whisper, "O Lord, where are you?" —  
We hear, in their longing, that you're calling, too.

In prisons and jails, Lord, we find a surprise;  
We see you in people whom others despise.  
At hospital bedsides we offer a prayer  
And find, when we visit the sick, you are there.

When we reach to others in flood-stricken lands  
And offer our hearts there, and offer our hands —  
We notice, Lord Jesus, the gift of your grace:  
We see, in the crowds of the suffering, your face.

"Lord, when did we see you?" Your teaching is clear  
That when we serve others, we're serving you here.  
And when your church heeds you and helps those in pain,  
Then out of the chaos, hope rises again.

**The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer** Rev. Harmon

**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 & Martha Brown

**Solo** Renee Crawford  
Compassion Hymn Keith and Krysten Getty

There is an everlasting kindness You lavished on us  
When the radiance of heaven came to rescue the lost;  
You called the sheep without a shepherd to leave their distress  
For your streams of forgiveness and the shade of Your rest.

And with compassion for the hurting, You reached out Your hand  
As the lame ran to meet You and the dead breathed again;  
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow and shared in our tears,  
Heard the sigh of the weary, let the children draw near.

Chorus: What boundless love, what fathomless grace  
You have shown us, O God of compassion!  
Each day we live an offering of praise  
As we show to the world Your compassion.

How beautiful the feet that carry this gospel of peace  
To the fields of injustice and the valleys of need—  
To be a voice of hope and healing, to answer the cries  
Of the hungry and helpless with the mercy of Christ. --Chorus

**Message** Rev. Al Staggs  
The God Movement

**\*Hymn of Discipleship** Called As Partners in Christ Service  
Chalice Hymnal No. 453 BEECHER

**Offertory Prayer** Jeff LeVie

**Offertory** Chancel Choir  
Total Praise Arr. Dave Smallwood

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from You.  
Your peace You give me in time of the storm.  
You are the source of my strength.  
You are the strength of my life.  
I lift my hands in total praise to You. Amen.

**\*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. Matthew Manwarren  
Jubilate Gordon Young

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Craft Fair & Bake Sale TODAY!

Today, after worship, the Needle and Craft Ministry will be having their annual Craft Fair & Bake Sale in Lasater Hall. They always have such a wonderful assortment of handmade items and goodies. All proceeds will be donated to expand our Sunday school ministry to young children and to fight hunger by donating to Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays. Come on down to Lasater Hall after worship to browse and shop for good!

## It's not too late to join us for the CROP Walk!

The CROP Walk is this afternoon with a flexible start at 1:30pm (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. Register online or donate to our team by scanning this QR code.



## COVID-19 & Flu Shot Clinic TODAY from 11:30-1:30 PM in the Gym

Vaccines are made available at no cost by Mecklenburg County Public Health. Vaccines available are: First, Second, and Booster Doses for all available ages 6 months+, Flu Shots. Come one, come all!

## Basketball Clinics on October 17 & 24

Join us for kids' basketball clinics in the St. John's gym on Monday, October 17, and Monday, October 24. The clinics are open to children ages 8 and under and will cover fundamental basketball skills. The clinics last one hour each and start at 5:30 pm. The clinics are free and do not require registration. The clinics are excellent preparation for our 6-&-Under and 8-&-Under kids basketball teams. In the past, we've hosted kids as young as 4 for the clinics (it's a great way to determine if your child is ready for team play).

## Building a Better World: October 26 at 5:30pm

### Expanding our Partnership with Church World Service

As you know, St. John's has for many years provided office space for Church World Service's CROP Walk. You will see elsewhere in the Family News the notice about our continuing support of their work in the upcoming Crop Walk to feed those throughout the world affected by hunger and poverty.



Our longstanding support of the work of CWS is expanding beyond CROP to include two more of the CWS programs:

- The Home Study and Post Release Services program, which began in July 2022 and is now housed at St. John's, serves unaccompanied immigrant children and their sponsoring families.
- The Greater Charlotte Area Immigrant Solidarity Fund, which operates in collaboration with Comunidad Colectiva, a grassroots organization in Charlotte that advocates for and serves the immigrant community.

On Wednesday, October 26, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. we will learn more about these new programs, as three enthusiastic leaders will be with us for a meal in Broach Hall and a presentation about their work. Reservations for the meal should be made by noon on Friday, October 21. Cost is \$10.00 each, or \$30.00 per family. Reserve your meal on Realm or with Amanda in the office by next Friday! No reservation is needed for anyone choosing to attend the program only, from 6:00-7:00pm.

## 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 Oct. 23

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Worship Theme: The Gospel, God's Good News Revealed in Jesus

Sermon Title: "You Are Good News People in a Bad News World"

Scriptures: Matthew 24:1-14; Mark 8:31-38

## This Week at St. John's

Sun., Oct. 16	<b>Matthew 6:19-23</b> 9:15 am Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 am Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) 11:30 am COVID-19 & Flu Shot Clinic (Gym) 11:30 am Craft & Bake Sale (Lasater Hall) 1:30 pm CROP Walk 2022 (Memorial Stadium)
Mon., Oct. 17	<b>Matthew 6:24-34</b> 8:00 am Finance Resource Team (Zoom) 9:30 am Adventures in Learning - Shepherd's Center (Broach Hall) 11:00 am Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge) 2:00 pm Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
Tuesday, Oct. 18	<b>Matthew 7:1-5</b> 10:00 am Sandwich Ministry (Lounge) 6:30 pm NAMI "Family to Family" class (Lounge) 7:00 pm Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
Wed., Oct. 19	<b>Matthew 7:6-12</b> 6:00 pm Lewis - Basketball (Gym)
Thursday, Oct. 20	<b>Matthew 7:13-20</b> 10:00 am WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room)
Friday, Oct. 21	<b>Matthew 7:21-29</b> 6:30 am Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge) 5:30 pm Serving at the Men's Shelter (Offsite) 8:00 pm Eastway AA (Lasater)
Saturday, Oct. 22	<b>Matthew 8:1-4</b> 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 Children and Their Families ..... Rev. Kheresa Harmon  
Minister for Youth and Young Adults ..... Haley Blackwell  
Senior Minister ..... Rev. 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

# The Way of Jesus



## The Kingdom of God

Sunday, October 16, 2022, at 10:30 AM

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA