

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 11, 2021

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance
Christmas Miniatures arr. Mark Hayes

Greeting Rev. Lee Gray

Prayer of Submission Rev. Gray

Song of Joy Congregation
Light the Candle J. Kevin Gray

Light the candle of joy. Let its glow warm your heart till your praise begins to grow. May we open our eyes to God's love in full view. Jesus will be born, making all things anew.

Lighting the Candle of Joy Stillerman Family

ONE: By waiting for the coming of the Christ, we become more attentive to God at work in our world.

ALL: God's steadfast love for the world is everlasting.

ONE: Christ's saving work in our lives is expressed by our great joy.

ALL: We welcome this One who brings healing to our brokenness and renewed vision in the midst of our despairing.

***Carol of Praise** *How Great Our Joy!*
Chalice Hymnal No. 170 verses 1, 2, & 3 JUNGST

Reading of the Hebrew Scriptures Jeff Almond
Isaiah 35:1-5 (Simplified Living Bible Text for Children)

God's Spirit brings life. Even the wilderness and desert will rejoice in those days. The desert will blossom with flowers. Yes, there will be many flowers and much singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains. They will be as lovely as pastures and meadows. For the Lord will show God's glory there. Everyone will see the greatness of God. With this good news, bring joyful cheer to everyone who is discouraged. Encourage those who are afraid. Tell them, "Be strong! Don't be afraid! God is a saving God." God can help the blind person to see and unstop the ears of the deaf."

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.

Message Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Ears of the Deaf Unstopped

***Carol** *There's a Song in the Air!*
Chalice Hymnal No. 159 CHRISTMAS SONG

Offertory Prayer Anna Cushman

Offertory J. Noel Lance
Festive Carol Suite III arr. Don Phillips

***Doxology** ADESTE FIDELES
O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

The Church at Prayer & the Lord's Prayer Rev. 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, Martha Brown, Barbara McElwey,
Betty Herr, Margaret Falls



Artwork by Jan Kerley

Reflections on the Christ Child and the Joy He Brings

Wonder Scott Hicks
Written by Kathy Bragg

Meditation Chancel Choir
O Come, Emmanuel Elan Hagenberg

A Star, A Sign Kimberly Follis
Written by Janet Jones

Meditation Blankenship Family & Chancel Choir
Beautiful Star of Bethlehem Adger M. Pace & R. Fisher Boyce

A Mother and Child Kimberly Follis
Written by Haley Blackwell

Meditation Chancel Choir
Song of Mary Faye Lopez

A Proclamation of Joy J. Kevin Gray
Written by J. Kevin Gray

Meditation Chancel Choir
Gloria / Et in Terra Pax from *Gloria* Antonia Vivaldi

A Gift to Humankind Kheresa Harmon
Written by Kheresa Harmon

Meditation Chancel Choir
And the Glory of the Lord from *Messiah* George Frideric Handel

Let us Share the Gift Scott Hicks
Written by Scott Hicks

***Commissioning the Scattered Church** Dr. Foust

***Carol** *Joy to the World*
Chalice Hymnal No. 143 ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

***Postlude** J. Noel Lance
Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts Camille Saint-Saëns

We are thankful for the guest musicians today in worship: Peter Devries (Violin I), Sarah case (Violin II), Ann Bellino (Viola), and Mira Frisch (Cello).

Announcements

Room in the Inn: We need your help!

Room in the Inn hosting at St. John's will begin on Friday, December 16, 2022, and run through Friday, March 17, 2023.



Right now, we need 1 more person to help on December 16!

Scan the QR code to sign up today! Please contact Dale Johnson at 704-454-8931 or Alice Wirz at 704-222-6208 if you have any questions on any of these tasks. Thank you for your support for Room in the Inn at St. John's!

The Mailboxes are Back!

The annual Christmas Mailbox for St. John's Neighbors and Friends is located at the main entrance in the gym foyer. There you will find a mailbox with boxes for each recipient, new blank Christmas Cards, and a list of friends and seniors to whom you can write.

Please place your cards in the community mailbox by worship on Sunday, December 18. The collection of cards for each senior will then be delivered by a pastoral deacon, a staff member, or other volunteers during the next week. Out-of-town recipients will have their cards mailed in one bulk envelope.

Light the Knights Festival on December 17

All children, youth, and families are invited to meet Haley and Kheresa for the 2022 Light the Knights Festival at Truist Field on Saturday, December 17 at noon. The outfield is now an ice-skating rink and snow-tubing hill. There will also be light shows, live entertainment, holiday treats, Christmas trees, shopping, Santa, snow, and more! We will MEET AT TRUIST FIELD (324 S Mint St, Charlotte, NC 28202-1465) at 12 pm on Saturday, December 17. All attending can buy tickets at Truist Field upon arrival. Register on Realm.

Place your family's ornament on the tree!

Have you and your family turned in your Christmas ornament for the Centennial Christmas tree? Please bring a Christmas ornament related to the Christmas story with your family name and individual names written on it, the year 2022, and place it on the tree. The ornaments will be kept and used for future Second Century Christmas celebrations with any additional ornaments added by new (or current) members.

Face Masks in the Nursery

We are, as Paul so eloquently penned in his letter to the church in Colossae, holy and beloved children of God, who are clothed with compassion and kindness. We are compassionate people committed to caring for all of God's children, especially for the most vulnerable of ones. Some of the most vulnerable children in our congregation are our infants and toddlers.

In a compassionate effort to ensure the health and well-being of infants and toddlers in this season of sharing, we will resume wearing face masks in our nursery during Formation Hour and Worship Care, beginning Sunday, December 11. Disposable face masks will be available for volunteers who serve with our children.

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 December 18

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Worship Theme: Do You Hear the Love I Hear?

Message Title: Love Never Fails

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Dec. 11	<p>Matthew 22:1-22 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 Children on Mission: Baby Bundles (Broach Hall) 5:00 pm Youth SNL</p>
Mon., Dec. 12	<p>Matthew 22:23-46 11:00 am Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge) 2:00 pm Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room) 6:30 pm Ministries Deacon Panel (Room 204)</p>
Tuesday, Dec. 13	<p>Matthew 23:1-39 10:45 am Immigration & Refugee Ministry Group (Room 204)</p>
Wed., Dec. 14	<p>Matthew 24:1-35 8:00 am Weekday School Winter Celebration (Broach Hall) 6:00 pm Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)</p>
Thursday, Dec. 15	<p>Matthew 24:36-51 10:00 am WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room)</p>
Friday, Dec. 16	<p>Matthew 25:1-13 6:30 am Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge) 5:30 pm Serving at the Men's Shelter Evening Room in the Inn Starts</p>
Saturday, Dec. 17	<p>Matthew 25:14-30 6:30 am Benton Basketball (Gym) 10:00 am Jessica Borgins' Student Piano Recital 12:00 pm Light the Knights Festival Fun Day (Truist Field) 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 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



Artwork by Jan Kerley

Do You Hear What I Hear
Sunday, December 11, 2022, at 10:30 AM

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA