

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

**Gathering Music** Dr. Matthew Manwarren  
*Nativity Suite* Wilbur Held

**Greeting** Rev. Kheresa Harmon

**Preparing our Hearts for Worship**  
1 Corinthians 13:12-13, The Message

"We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears, and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, and love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love."

**Prayer of Submission** Rev. Harmon

**Song of Love** Congregation  
*Light the Candle* J. Kevin Gray

Light the candle of love. Let its glow warm your heart bringing light from above. May we open our eyes to God's love in full view. Jesus will be born, making all things anew.

**Lighting the Candle of Love** Harmon Family

ONE: Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form. The Bible says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

**ALL: Love is patient, love is kind, and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, and it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true.**

ONE: There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends.

**ALL: We light this candle today to remind us of how God's perfect love is found in Jesus.**

**\*Carol of Praise** *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
Chalice Hymnal No. 155, Verses 1, 2 & 3 GLORIA

**Family Dedication**  
Ben & Sarah Harmon present Grace Rosemary Harmon

**The Dedication Covenant** Rev. Kheresa Harmon

MINISTER: Do you, Ben and Sarah, covenant together to raise Grace in an environment of Christian love, harmony, and peace?

**PARENTS: We do.**

MINISTER: Do you covenant together to grant Grace the benefits of communal fellowship by nurturing Grace within the Church, the corporate body of Christ?

**PARENTS: We do.**

MINISTER: Do you, congregation, covenant together as the larger family of God to create an atmosphere of support and guidance whereby Grace can come to know and serve the Lord Jesus Christ?

**CHURCH: We do.**

MINISTER: Do you pledge to make your witness of such quality as to instruct Grace in Christian discipleship?

**CHURCH: We do.**

MINISTER: Then, recognizing the covenant accepted this day by Ben and Sarah and by the congregation, I offer Grace this certificate acknowledging her formal introduction into this family of God.

**Presentation of the Child** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**Prayer of Dedication** Dr. Foust

**\*Song of Blessing** Congregation

Grace, Grace, God claims you;  
God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.  
We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be.  
Grace, Grace, God claims you;  
God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

**Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures** Hank Packman  
Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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.**

**\*Carol** *What Child is This*  
Chalice Hymnal No. 162, Verses 1 & 3 GREENSLEVES

**The Church at Prayer & 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 & Celebrations**

Tarsha Williams, Martha Brown, Barbara McElwey,  
Betty Herr, Margaret Falls

**\*Song** Youth Choir  
*Emmanuel is With Us* W ZLOBIE LEZY

Go tell it on the mountain, the one that we've been waiting for.  
The King of our salvation; born on this day, our savior Christ the Lord.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,  
That we can be forgiven, the weight of all our hurt He came to bear.

Refrain:  
Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel, King Jesus, the Savior of the world is born.  
Emmanuel, God with us, Emmanuel, King Jesus, the Savior of the world is born.

Go tell it on the mountain, humbly in a manger lay.  
Mercy sent from heaven, the angels fill the sky with highest praise.

Refrain

**Message** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
*Love never Fails*

**\*Carol** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
Chalice Hymnal No. 164, Verses 1 & 3 In Dulci Jubilo

**Offertory Prayer** Russell Norris

**Offertory** Chancel Choir  
*Advent Alleluia* Keith Christopher

**\*Doxology** ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

**Commissioning the Scattered Church** Dr. Foust

**Postlude** Dr. Manwarren  
*In dulci jubilo* J.S. Bach

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## Announcements

### 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. Contributions are welcomed and needed from everyone. Some members have given us vintage family ornaments and some have donated ornaments made by children in Sunday School.

### Christmas Cards for Friends & Neighbors due today!

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.

### Advent Yoga on Tuesday

Join us for Advent Yoga on Tuesday, December 20 at 5 PM in the McLeod Brown Sunday School Room. Sara Vavra will lead us in a yoga sequence that is gentle, calming, and accessible to all. Most of the class can be done seated in a chair. Come and unwind and enjoy some peace during this busy season. See you next Tuesday!

### Christmas Eve Worship

Join us for Christmas Eve Worship on Saturday, December 24 at 5 pm in the Sanctuary. Join us as we celebrate the Christmas Story through singing carols, hearing special readings, sharing communion, and lighting candles.

**Christmas Day and New Year's Day Worship will be ONLINE ONLY via our Facebook and YouTube pages. There will be no other activities in the building on these days. We will email you with links to these pre-recorded services the morning of each Sunday.**

### WDAV Charlotte Lessons & Carols

WDAV Charlotte Lessons & Carols will re-air on the radio at 5 pm this afternoon and at 1 pm on Christmas Day, but you can listen anytime on their website.

**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 December 25 (Pre-recorded Service) No in-person service on this day.**  
**Proclaimer:** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
**Worship Theme:** Rejoicing and Renewal of Vision  
**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-20

### This Week at St. John's

Sun., Dec. 18	<b>Matthew 25:31-46</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) 4:00 pm <b>Youth Christmas Party</b>
Mon., Dec. 19	<b>Matthew 26:1-13</b> 11:00 am Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge) 2:00 pm Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
Tuesday, Dec. 20	<b>Matthew 26:14-35</b> 8:00 am Finance Resource Team (Zoom) 10:00 am Sandwich Ministry (Broach Hall) 1:00 pm Gene & Carol Poole Memorial Service (Sanctuary) 5:00 pm Advent Yoga (McLeod Brown Classroom)
Wed., Dec. 21	<b>Matthew 26:36-56</b>
Thursday, Dec. 22	<b>Matthew 26:57 - 27:10</b>
Friday, Dec. 23	<b>Matthew 27:11-26</b>
Saturday, Dec. 24	<b>Matthew 27:27-44</b> 6:30 am Benton Basketball (Gym) 5:00 pm <b>Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)</b> 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



## Do you Hear the Love I Hear?

### Sunday, December 18, 2022, at 10:30 AM

## ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA