

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Please silence all electronic devices.

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

Greeting Rev. Lee Gray

Preparing our Hearts for Worship J. Noel Lance

Prayer of Submission Rev. Gray

***Call to Worship** Rev. Gray

ONE: We gather from far and wide, one family, one God, reflecting the diversity of creation.

ALL: Let us freely give praise for the blessings of life and the goodness of God, who's love and mercy endures forever.

ONE: We rejoice in the Spirit of Christ, whose life and dedications to God's Holy mission is the pattern of our lives.

ALL: We lift our voices for the opportunity that God has given us, and the freedom allowed to choose it! Praise be to God!

***Hymn of Praise** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*
Chalice Hymnal No. 4 NICEA

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Sara Vavra
Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

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.

Song of Response *All Creatures of Our God and King*
Chalice Hymnal No. 22, Verse 1 LASST UNS ERFRUEN
(At this time children are invited to come to the front.)

Moments with the Younger Church

What are some of your favorite creatures or natural wonders?

What have you created or made over the years that brought you great joy?

Song of Response *All Creatures of Our God and King*
Chalice Hymnal No. 22, Verse 2 LASST UNS ERFRUEN

The Church at Prayer & 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

Martha Brown, Barbara McElwey, Betty Herr,
Margaret Falls, Marvin Carter, Charles Gordon

***Hymn** *Choose This Day the One You'll Follow*
Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette W ZLOBIE LEZY

"As for me and those in my house, we'll serve God, and God alone!"
Lord, these words of challenge meet us in our families and our homes.
For the values all around us, often trouble and confound us.
Can we live as you have shown?

In a world that finds its pleasure in the things that money buys,
We are called to different treasure as we hear your people's cries.
May our families find in serving those the world calls undeserving
Bread that truly satisfies.

In a world where recreation tempts our families from the pews,
May we ponder what the faith means as we help our families choose.
By example, are we leading —Or are other things impeding
How we live your wondrous news?

In a world of war and violence, may we follow Christ each day.
Where oppression meets with silence, may our families act and pray.
May we find in faith and practice
How our homes can be a witness
As we follow Jesus' way.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Bert Green
Joshua 24:14-15

Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

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.

Song J. Kevin Gray, John Bragg, & Nora F. Benton
As For Me and My House Adamek, Shirley & Ryan

Let our foundation be built on your majesty.
Let every word you speak fill this home
Jesus our cornerstone, the anchor for our souls,
Your glory will be shown by our love
As for me and my house we will serve you
There's no turning back now
We will serve you
We stand on holy ground, this is where lost get found,
Your goodness Lord, is all around it's pouring out.
Your presence is new wine, the old is left behind
There's nothing but new life to be found here.
This is a house where idols fall. This is a house with love for all.
This is a house where freedom calls. Can you hear it?

Message Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD
'Response-Ability'

***Hymn of Discipleship** *Believers All We Bear the Name*
EDGE

Believers all, we bear the name of Christ, our living Lord;
As Christians in the world today, we hold fast to the Word.
From simple trust to growing faith our pilgrimage we trace
T'ward full maturity in Christ, led there thro' God's good grace.

Believers all, our common task is service in His name
As we, in word and song and deed, God's saving grace proclaim.
Yet, ministry has broader aims, so we pursue the goal
Of meeting persons' fuller needs of body, mind, and soul.

Believers all, in unity we follow God's commands;
Diverse in gifts, but one in Christ, we offer outstretched hands
To all within the bonds of faith, to those outside faith's call,
That thro' our love the world may know our God as Lord of all.

Offertory Prayer Daniel Redding

Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir
O, That I Had a Thousand Voices Johann Mentzer & Jay Althouse

O, that I had a thousand voices,
And with a thousand tongues could tell
Of Him in whom the earth rejoices,
Who all things wisely does and well.

O, that I had a thousand praises,
And with a thousand hymns could sing
Of Him, whom all mankind upraises,
One God of ev'ry living thing.

God of the wind and waters,
and of the stars and sky,
Creator of the earth and heavens,
Praise the Lord most high.

***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 J. Noel Lance

Announcements

Family Dedications Upcoming

We will celebrate the family dedication of the Bailey family on January 22, the Whipple family on January 29, and the Crawford family on March 12. Please plan to worship with us on these special Sundays.

Winter Coat Drive for Crisis Assistance Ministries

Our children are partnering with the Mission Resource Team to collect winter coats for adults and children served by Crisis Assistance Ministries starting this week and concluding on January 29. Donations may be dropped off in our little collection bins in the Giving Nook at the Main Entrance. Contact Kheresa Harmon for questions at kharmon@sjcharlotte.org.

Valentine's Party on February 5

Children, birth - 5th grade, and their families are invited to join us on Sunday, February 5 in Broach Hall immediately following worship for the sweetest Valentine's Day Party in the history of SJBC! Rumor has it that the playdoh will be chocolate, that games will be played, relays will be raced, cookies (all allergen-free options available) will be decorated, and a piñata will be exploded! Oh, no worries about lunch. We shall eat, too! Register to attend on Realm or let Kheresa know you will attend.

Thursdays on the Town

Parents of children birth to 5th grade are invited to join us on Thursday, February 9 from 6-8PM for dinner at Chuy's on Waverly Walk Avenue. Childcare is provided at the church at no cost. Register on Realm or let Kheresa know you plan to attend.

Join the Faith Journey Book Study: New Study Starts January 23

The Faith Journey Book Study meets on Mondays at 11 am in the church lounge. This vibrant group invites you to their new study starting January 23 of *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen, join in for discussion of this book starting January 23! See you then!

It's Not Too Late!

Thank you to all who contributed an ornament to the Centennial Christmas tree this year! You can still donate your ornament to the office anytime. All contributions will be recorded in a permanent and ongoing book.

Save the Date! Fat Tuesday on a Friday!

Come join us for Fat Tuesday on Friday, February 24th @ 6:00 pm in Broach Hall. A George Brooks pancake dinner will be served and there will be games for the whole family to enjoy! Music entertainment will be provided by our very own Minister for Music and Worship, Kevin Gray. You don't want to miss this amazing opportunity for fun and fellowship! Stay tuned for more details!

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 January 22

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Worship Theme: The Baptist Principle of Soul Competency to Live Freely in God's Spirit

Message Title: 'Free to Follow the Spirit of God'

Scripture: John 16:12-13

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Jan. 15	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm 5:00 pm	Mark 2:1-12 Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) Mission Resource Team Meeting (Room 104) Youth SNL
Mon., Jan. 16	ALL DAY	Mark 2:13-14 Church Offices Closed for MLK Day
Tuesday, Jan. 17	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm 7:15 pm	Mark 2:15-17 Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Off-site) Shepherd's Center: A Matter of Balance Class (Room 222) Sandwich Ministry (Lounge) Right Moves for Youth Ambassador Program (Lasater Hall & Room 114) Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
Wed., Jan. 18		Mark 2:18-22
Thursday, Jan. 19	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Mark 2:23-28 WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room) NAMI Peer-to-Peer Class (Lounge)
Friday, Jan. 20	6:30 am	Mark 3:1-6 Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
Saturday, Jan. 21	6:30 am 9:00 am 8:00 pm	Mark 3:7-12 Benton Basketball (Gym) Children's & Youth Basketball Games (Gym) 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

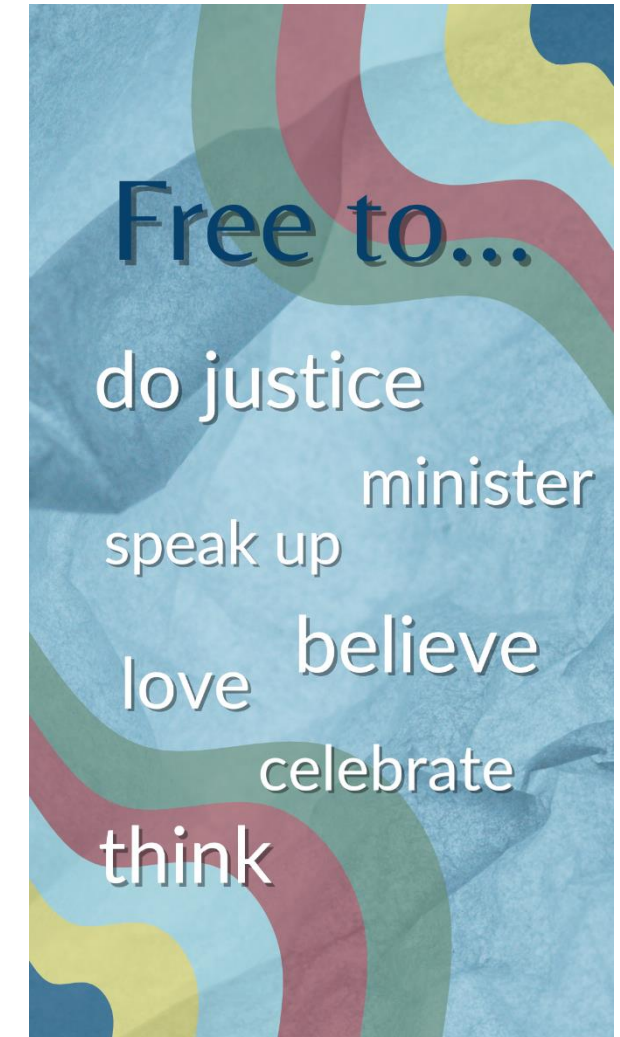
Every participant in God's Servant Church

Equipping Ministers

Minister for Youth and Young Adults..... Haley Blackwell
Senior Minister.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Minister for Worship and Music..... J. Kevin Gray
Minister for Congregational CareRev. Lee Gray
Minister for Children and Their Families..... Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Church Staff

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



The Baptist Principle of Soul Freedom

Sunday, January 15, 2023, at 10:30 AM

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