

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Please silence all electronic devices.

Gathering Music J. Kevin Gray, Janet Jones, and Aidan Salmeron
Woke Up This Morning Spiritual

Woke up this morning with my mind set on Jesus. x3
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
There is great freedom in Christ. x3
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Greeting Haley Blackwell

Preparing our Hearts for Worship Dr. Manwarren
Prelude on THAXTED Charles Callahan

Procession of the Christ Candle: **Mason Banker**

Prayer of Submission Haley Blackwell

***Call to Worship (Based Upon Ephesians 4:1-16)** Haley Blackwell

ONE: God calls us to live in a way that is worthy of the calling to which we have been called.

ALL: Today, we renew our commitments to live in relationship with The Living God and one another with humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

ONE: God calls us to speak the truth in love, growing up in Christ, promoting the growth of this body.

ALL: We gather to worship The Living God, the Divine Parent of us all who is above all and through all and in all. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise** *Your Love, O God*
Chalice Hymnal No. 71, Vs 1, 2 & 4 VICAR

Family Dedication Rev. Kheresa Harmon

**Elizabeth & John Whipple present
John Crawford (Jack) & Liam McQueen Whipple**

The Dedication Covenant Rev. Kheresa Harmon

MINISTER: Do you, Elizabeth and John, covenant together to raise Jack and Liam in an environment of Christian love, harmony, and peace?

PARENTS: We do.

MINISTER: Do you covenant together to grant Jack and Liam the benefits of communal fellowship by nurturing Jack and Liam 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 Jack and Liam 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 Jack and Liam in Christian discipleship?

CHURCH: We do.

MINISTER: Then, recognizing the covenant accepted this day by Elizabeth and John, and by the congregation, I offer Jack and Liam this certificate acknowledging their formal introduction into this family of God.

Presentation of the Children Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Prayer of Dedication for Jack Dr. Foust

Song of Blessing Congregation

Jack, Jack 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.
Jack, Jack God claims you;
God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

Prayer of Dedication for Liam Dr. Foust

Song of Blessing Congregation

Liam, Liam 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.
Liam, Liam God claims you;
God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.

Reading from the Epistle Kelli McCombs
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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** *The Church's One Foundation*
Chalice Hymnal No. 272, Vs 1 & 2 AURELIA

Preparing for Prayer

In the great quiet of God, my troubles are but pebbles on the road, my joys are like the everlasting hills. So it is when I step through the gate of prayer from time into eternity. When I am in the consciousness of God, my brothers and sisters are not far off and forgotten, but close and strangely dear. They shine, as if a light were glowing within them. Even those who frown on me and love me not seem part of the great scheme of God.

- Walter Rauschenbusch

Song *Loving God, Through Your Spirit*
BEACH SPRING

Loving God, Through Your Spirit, You have chosen me to be,
You have drawn me to Your wonder, You have set your sign on me.
Father, Mother in Your closeness I am known and held and blessed: in Your promise is my comfort, in Your presence I find rest.

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
Martha Brown, Barbara McElwey, Betty Herr

Message Dr. Foust
'Free to Follow the Spirit of God - TOGETHER'

***Hymn of Discipleship** *God Is Here*
Chalice Hymnal No. 280, Vs 1 & 4 ABBOT'S LEGH

Offertory Prayer Becky Skidmore

Offertory Chancel Choir
A Prayer of Healing Joseph M. Martin

For the healing of the world, Lord, we lift a fragile prayer. Kneeling, pleading, Lord, we yearn, speak Your peace to our despair. In the shadows of this time, shine on us Your light divine. Help us trust Your grand design. Lord of life, Lord of grace, Lord of all, we pray to You. For the healing of this wrong, Lord, we whisper in the night. We are listening for Your song. Sing until the morning light. In the silence help us hear words of hope and promise clear. Teach us not to live in fear. Lord of life, Lord of grace, Lord of all, we pray to You. For the healing of the heart, Lord, we seek Your touch of grace. Let Your work of mercy start; Help us find our hiding place. Humbly Lord, we lift our cry, wounded sparrow seeking sky. Teach us once again to fly. Lord of life, Lord of grace, Lord of all, we pray 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.

Postlude Dr. Manwarren
Festival Flourishes Ovid Young

Commissioning the Scattered Church Dr. Foust

Announcements

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 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.

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! Sign up on Realm by February 20 so that we have an accurate count for pancakes. Donations will be accepted at the door, and all funds raised will be given to Habitat for Humanity.

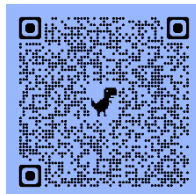
Atlanta Trip for Youth: March 3-5

During February, the youth will work through a Yale Institute of Youth Ministry curriculum that will help our students dialogue with issues surrounding race. To follow up this series they will take a trip to Atlanta, GA on March 3-5. Youth will visit the National Civil and Human Rights Museum, The King Center, and Ebenezer Baptist Church. Please let Haley know if you would like to chaperone this trip with the youth. Youth can register on Realm today or talk to Haley. Cost is \$130 and includes all travel, meals, museum tickets, and lodging for the weekend. There is some scholarship available, contact Haley for more information on that.

Elizabeth Communities of Faith Lenten Services

The Elizabeth Communities of Faith will begin the 2023 Lenten Services on Ash Wednesday, February 22 at St. Martin's Episcopal and continue each Wednesday in March in the Sanctuary at St. John's with lunch afterwards in Lasater Hall. The theme for the services this year is "Journey to the Cross." We will partner with Hawthorne Lane UMC, St. Martin's Episcopal, Caldwell Presbyterian, and the area hospital chaplains for each service.

For more information about any of the above opportunities and more, please subscribe to our Family News by scanning the QR code here. We send one newsletter per week throughout the year.



St. John's Baptist Church
300 Hawthorne Lane
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: February 5

Worship Theme: The Baptist Principle of Religious Freedom for All People

Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22

Message Title: 'At the Corner of State Street and Church Avenue'

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Jan. 29	Mark 4:21-25 9:15 am Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 am Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) 5:00 pm Youth SNL
Mon., Jan. 30	Mark 4:26-29 10:00 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, Jan. 31	Mark 4:30-34 10:00 am Shepherd's Center: A Matter of Balance Class (Lounge) 7:15 pm Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
Wed., Feb. 1	Mark 4:35-41 7:15 pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thursday, Feb. 2	Mark 5:1-17 6:30 pm NAMI Peer-to-Peer Class (Lounge)
Friday, Feb. 3	Mark 5:18-20 8:00 pm Eastway AA
Saturday, Feb. 4	Mark 5:21-24 6:30 am Benton Basketball (Gym) 9:00 am Children's & Youth Basketball Games (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 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 Local Church
Autonomy and Servant-Oriented
Collaboration**

Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 10:30 AM

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