

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Please silence all electronic devices.

As you enter the Sanctuary, please notice the basin of water and hand towel marked ‘Servant’ on the Communion Table. Please reflect on your baptism; you may even come forward to touch the water as a sign of remembrance.

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

Greeting Haley Blackwell

Preparing our Hearts for Worship J. Noel Lance

Prayer of Submission Halley Blackwell

***Call to Worship** Haley Blackwell

ONE: Come, all who are thirsty, come to the water.

ALL: We come seeking the Lord, and this water that refreshes and revives us for the work of the Kingdom.

ONE: We have gathered by the banks of the river, eager to witness and remember.

ALL: During this sacred time, we renew our belief in the God who is eternally faithful, praise be to God!

***Hymn of Praise** *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*
Chalice Hymnal No. 23, Verses 1, 2 & 3 LAUDA ANIMA

Reading from the Epistle Kathy Bragg
Galatians 5:1,13-15

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

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 Wade in the Water

ONE: Wade in the water, wade in the water children, wade in the water, God’s gonna trouble the water.

ALL: Repeat

Ordinance of Baptism

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Jacob Goodson, Melanie Goodson, Caitlin Wallace,
David Wallace, Lauren Wallace, Caroline Wallace



***Hymn of Baptism** *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*
Chalice Hymnal No. 365, Verses 1 & 3 Beach Spring

Offertory Prayer Anna Cushman

Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir
Be Thou My Vision Carlton Young

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that Thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***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.

Reading from the Gospel Aidan Salmeron
John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

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.

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,
Margaret Falls, Marvin Carter

Meditation

Matthew 3:16: The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God’s Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “**This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life.**”

***Hymn** *Sweet, Sweet, Spirit*
Chalice Hymnal No. 261

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place

Message Dr. Foust
Freedom is Not Self-Indulgence

***Hymn of Discipleship** *Down by the Jordan*
Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette LOBEN DEN HERREN

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,
Taking your place among sinners, God’s lost sons and daughters.
Then with great love, God’s Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God’s Spirit.
Freed and forgiven, we’re welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?
This is God’s sign! This is how God says, “You’re mine!”
Let’s take the good news and share it!

Commissioning the Scattered Church Dr. Foust

Postlude J. Noel Lance

Remember that we have transitioned to reading the Gospel of Mark for the next 3 months. Brochures can be found in the literature stands around the church or in the church office. A link to listen to the readings will be in the Family News and will be sent at the beginning of each week.

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 February 26. Please plan to worship with us on these special Sundays.

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.

New Year, Study Guide Available

The Immigrant & Refugee Ministry Group encourage you to utilize the study guide, A Journey to Understanding Our Immigrant Neighbors, that was written and compiled in 2022. This guide is designed for a 4-5-week study for any class or study group within or outside of the church. This group is glad to assist you with an introductory session or in any other way that would be helpful to you and your group. If you would like hard copies or would like to contact the Immigrant and Refugee Ministry Group, please contact Amanda in the office at ext. 11 or amorrison@sjcharlotte.org.

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. The tree will remain up until next week. All contributions will be recorded in a permanent and ongoing book.

A Special Children's Sunday School Training TODAY!

Kheresa has several opportunities for YOU to join the ranks of the children's Sunday school teachers with a new curriculum and training opportunity this Sunday following worship TODAY. She writes, "This spring I will introduce a new Formation Hour curriculum, Shine from Brethren Press, publishing ministry of the Church of the Brethren, and MennoMedia, publishing ministry of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada. Training will be held on Sunday, January 8 in the church lounge immediately following worship (11:45ish). Teachers are needed!"

Please consider joining us right after worship in the lounge for this training or let Kheresa know you are interested in helping with children's Sunday school.

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 15
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Worship Theme: The Baptist Principle of Soul Freedom
Message Title: "Response-ability"
Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27, Joshua 24: 14-15

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Jan. 8	9:15 am	Mark 1:21-22	Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person)
	10:30 am		Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am		Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	11:30 am		Pre-K - Elementary Sunday School Volunteer Training (Lounge)
	5:00 pm		Youth SNL
Mon., Jan. 9	10:00 am	Mark 1:23-28	Adventures in Learning: Shepherd's Center (Broach Hall)
	2:00 pm		Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
Tuesday, Jan. 10	10:00 am	Mark 1:29-31	Shepherd's Center: A Matter of Balance Class (Lounge)
	10:45 am		Immigration & Refugee Ministry Group (Room 204)
	5:30 pm		Finance 2023 Budget Review Meeting (Broach Hall)
	6:00 pm		Women of the Church Board Meeting (Lounge)
	7:15 pm		Sherrill Basketball (Gym)
Wed., Jan. 11	6:00 pm	Mark 1:32-34	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
Thursday, Jan. 12		Mark 1:35-37	
Friday, Jan. 13		Mark 1:38-39	
Saturday, Jan. 14	6:30 am	Mark 1:40-45	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

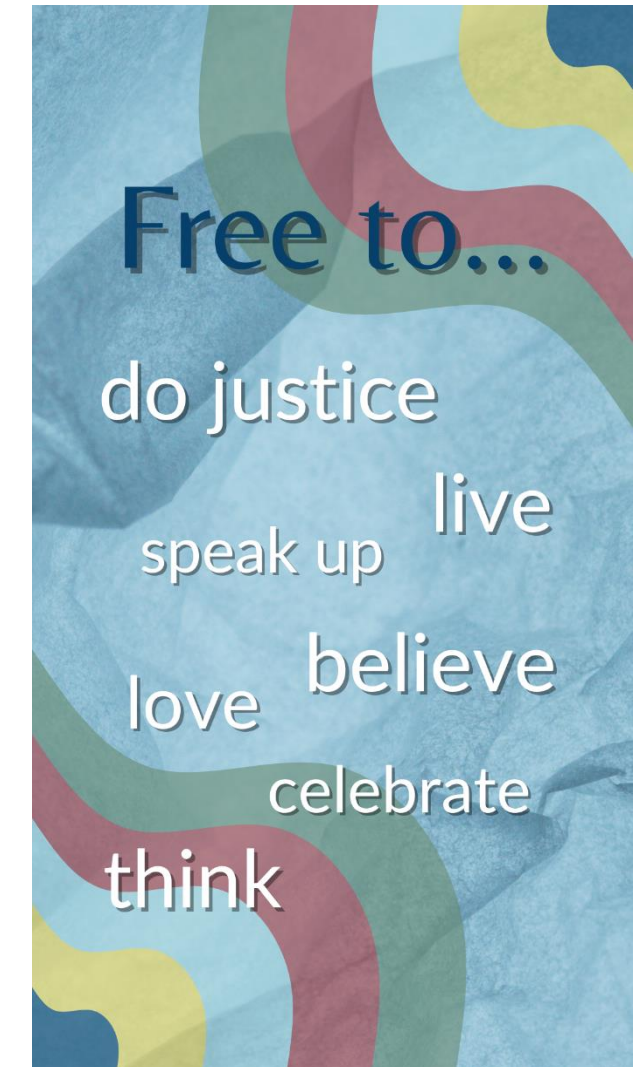
Every participant in God's Servant Church

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



Being Baptist Means Freedom

Sunday, January 8, 2023, at 10:30 AM

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