

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Please silence all electronic devices.

Greeting Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD

Preparing our Hearts for Worship J. Noel Lance

Procession of the Christ Candle: **Addison Norris**

Call to Worship Rev. Kheresa Harmon

ONE: Through God's forgiveness we are loved, valued, and remembered.

ALL: God, in turn, is calling us to remember the forgotten ones.

ONE: Let us search them out, extending a hand to hold and arms to embrace.

ALL: And in this work, we rejoice, for this is the Kingdom of God.

Prayer of Submission Rev. Harmon

***Hymn of Praise** *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*
Chalice Hymnal #4 NICEA

Reading from the Gospel Tallon Cardella
John 1:19-34

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

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** *Down by the Jordan*
Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette LOBE DEN HERREN

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!
Surely God's new day is rising!"

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!

Announcement of the Community and State Mission Offering Dr. Foust

Offertory Prayer Bobbie Hinson

Offertory Chancel Choir
I Believe Mark Miller

I believe in the sun—even when it's not shining;
I believe in love—even when I don't feel it;
I believe in God—even when God is Silent.

***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.

Prayer of Confession Rev. Lee Gray

ONE: Most holy and merciful God: We confess to You, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

ALL: Have mercy on us, Lord.

ONE: We have been deaf to Your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

ALL: Have mercy on us, Lord

ONE: We confess our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

ALL: We confess to You, Lord.

ONE: We are often negligent in prayer and worship, and we fail to embody the faith that is in us,

ALL: We confess to You, Lord.

ONE: We ask that you accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

ALL: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Words of Assurance Rev. Gray

Song of Forgiveness Congregation



1. "For - give our sins as we for - give," You
2. How can your par - don reach and bless The



taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can
un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and



grant us grace To live the words we say.
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?



Reflections

Haley Blackwell

Choral Anthem O Love
Elaine Hagenberg

O love. O Love. O Love, that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee.
I give thee back the life I owe
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O joy, O Joy, O Joy, that seeks me through pain, O
I cannot close my heart to Thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

O love. O Love. O Love, that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee.
I give thee back the life I owe
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

Message Dr. Foust
Do You Change the World Through Forgiveness?

***Hymn of Discipleship** *Grace that is Greater than All Our Sin*
Additional words by J. Kevin Gray

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace freely bestowed on all who believe, all who are longing to see God's face, will you this moment God's grace received?

Refrain: Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within.
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin.

Here in our parting our call begins, to transform the world through grace and God's love. Go now and seek out the ones who need to hear God's called them to be God's own.

Refrain

Recognition of Kevin Gray Dr. Foust & Ed Turner

Commissioning of the Scattered Church Dr. Foust

Postlude J. Noel lance

Save the date for St. John's Baptist Church's

Heritage Sunday!

Join us on Sunday, March 19th as we celebrate our second century here at St. John's. Following worship there will be a catered lunch in Broach Hall available, you can register for the lunch in Realm or by contacting the church office. There will also be a Mission Fair in the gym after worship, where you can explore all the ways to truly be a Servant Church.

Announcements

Celebrating Kevin Gray

For the past 8 years, we have been able to enjoy Kevin Gray's musical talents. As Kevin concludes his ministry among us today, we give thanks for his kindness, positive spirit, breadth of musical appreciation, connections in the community, desire to help us experience joy through his musical abilities, compassionate service to the choir, solos, and performances. As we gather for worship today, let us be in prayer for him as he provides worship leadership for the last time in the St. John's Sanctuary as Minister for Worship and Music. **Following worship today, we will express our gratitude to him and then gather for a reception in Lasater Hall. All are welcome.**

Snapshot Sundays

Don't have a picture in Realm? No problem! **Each Sunday in March** before Sunday School OR after Worship, stop by the Main Entrance and we will take your picture and upload it for you.

Lent for Littles | Sunday, March 5 from 11:30-1:30 in Broach Hall

Join us on Sunday, March 5 for Lent for Littles. Come to Broach Hall immediately following worship for lunch and an immersive and sensory "journey" through the season of Lent. Register on Realm or contact Kheresa.

Artful Lent | Sunday, March 26 at 11:30 am in Broach Hall

Our Kindergarten-5th grade children are invited to Artful Lent on Sunday, March 26 at 11:30 am in Broach Hall. Through art, our children will illustrate their understanding of "The Last Seven Words of Jesus from the Cross." Register on Realm or contact Kheresa.

Youth Mission Auction | Coming April 30!

We are now accepting donations for our 2023 Youth Mission Auction which will take place on April 30! You may fill out an online form (scan the QR code) or you will find paper forms in the church office. You may drop your paper form off in the box outside Haley's office labeled Youth/Haley Blackwell.



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: March 5

Worship Theme: Jesus' Attitude and Actions of Humility Expressed in Commitment and Prayer

Scripture: Luke 18: 9-14

Message: 'How Does Humility Help You Succeed?'

Proclaimers: Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Feb. 26	<p>Mark 10:13-16</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person)</p> <p>10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)</p> <p>10:30 am Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)</p> <p>11:30 am Reception for Kevin Gray (Lasater Hall)</p> <p>5:00 pm Mission Resource Team (Room 204)</p> <p>5:00 pm Youth SNL</p>
Mon., Feb. 27	<p>Mark 10:17-31</p> <p>10:00 am Shepherd's Center/AARP Tax Assistance Program (Parking Lot)</p> <p>11:00 am Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)</p> <p>2:00 pm Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)</p>
Tuesday, Feb. 28	<p>Mark 10:32-45</p> <p>10:00 am Shepherd's Center: A Matter of Balance Class (Room 222)</p> <p>10:00 am Shepherd's Center/AARP Tax Assistance Program (Parking Lot)</p> <p>6:30 pm NAMI Family Support Group</p> <p>6:30 pm NAMI Peer Support Group</p>
Wed., Mar. 1	<p>Mark 10:46-52</p> <p>10:30 pm CWS Staff Meeting (Lounge)</p> <p>12:00 pm Elizabeth Communities of Faith Lenten Service & Soup Lunch (Lasater Hall)</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>
Thursday, Mar. 2	<p>Mark 11:1-11</p> <p>6:30 pm NAMI Peer-to-Peer Class (Lounge)</p>
Friday, Mar. 3	<p>Mark 11:12-19</p> <p>5:30 pm Youth Atlanta Weekend Immersion</p> <p>8:00 pm Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)</p>
Saturday, Mar. 4	<p>Mark 11:20-26</p> <p>ALL DAY Youth Atlanta Weekend Immersion</p> <p>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

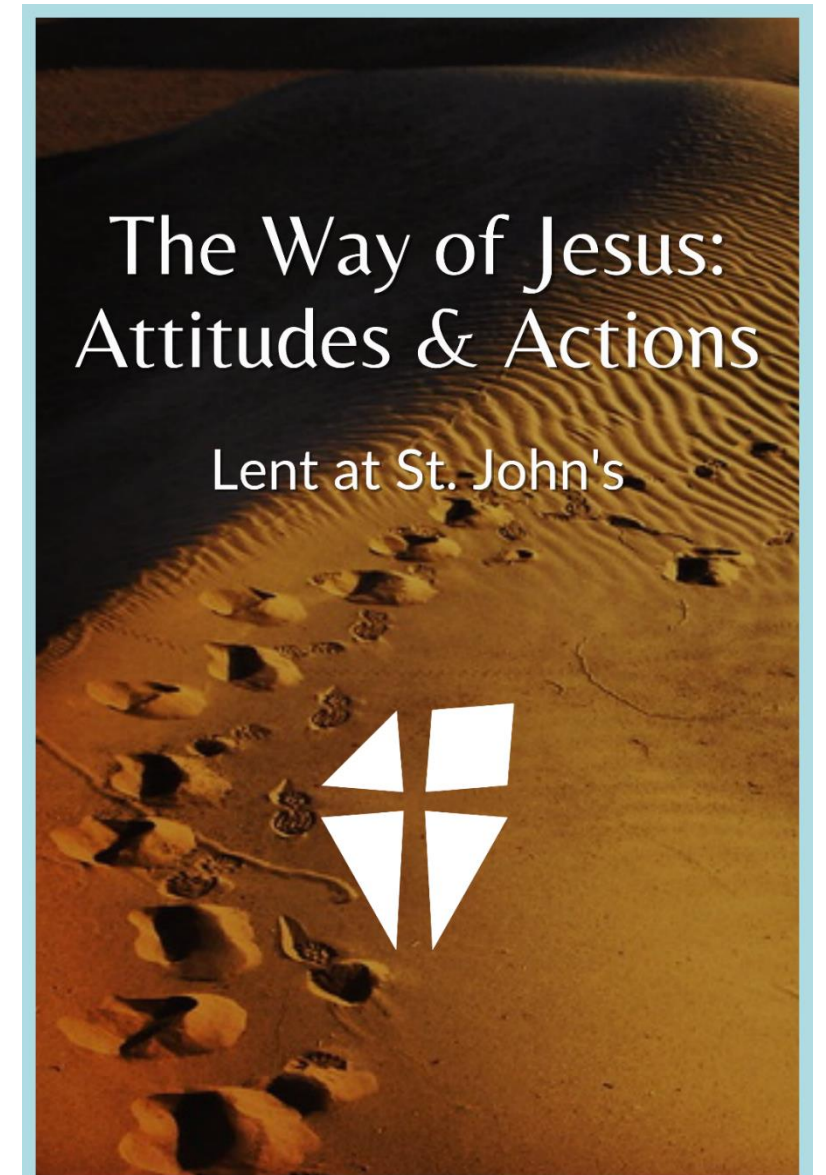
Every participant in God's Servant Church

Equipping Ministers

Minister for 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



Jesus' Attitude and Actions of
Forgiveness Bring Redemption

Sunday, February 26, 2023, at 10:30 AM

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA