

Welcome to the Worship of God

Please silence all electronic devices.

**Invites the congregation to stand*

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

Today, we are installing Rev. Kheresa Harmon as our Minister for Children and Their Families.

Words of Gathering Rev. Lee Gray

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship J. Noel Lance

As children of God, no matter what our age, we allow our children to lead us to God's heart.

Entrance of the Christ Candle: **Tallon Cardella**

***Hymn of Prayer No. 54** *Morning Has Broken*

Chalice Hymnal BUNESSAN

Prayer of Submission Rev. Gray

Reading of the Prophet Zebb Young

Isaiah 43:18-21 (International Children's Bible)

The Lord says, "Forget what happened before. Do not think about the past. Look at the new thing I am going to do. It is already happening. Don't you see it? I will make a road in the desert. I will make rivers in the dry land. Even the wild animals will be thankful to me. The wild dogs and owls will honor me. They will honor me when I put water in the desert. They will honor me when I make rivers in the dry land. I will do this to give water to my people, the ones I chose. These are the people I made. And they will sing songs to praise me."

Reading of the Gospel Timothy Harmon

Gospel of John 6:5-15 (International Children's Bible)

Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. He said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for all these people to eat?" Philip answered, "Someone would have to work almost a year to buy enough bread for each person here to have only a little piece." Another follower of Jesus was there. He was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. Andrew said, "Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people." Jesus said, "Tell the people to sit down." This was a very grassy place. There were about 5,000 men who sat down there. When Jesus took the loaves of bread. He thanked God for the bread and gave it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted. They all had enough to eat. When they had finished, Jesus said to his followers, "Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were not eaten. Don't waste anything." So they gathered up the pieces that were left and filled 12 large baskets with leftover pieces. The people saw this miracle that Jesus did. They said, "He must truly be the Prophet[a] who is coming into the world." Jesus knew that the people planned to come and take him by force and make him their king. So he left and went into the hills alone."

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 Love No. 113** *Jesus Love Me*

Chalice Hymnal BRADBURY

Moments with the Younger Church Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Prayers of the People Rev. Lee Gray

Martha Brown, Barbara McElwey, Anna Lynn Kearse, Emily Batts, Arnold Philemon, Jack Crymes, Jane Starnes

Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Installation:

What Were We Looking for in a Minister for Children and Their Families? Marc Cardella and Dan Redding

What Are We Already Seeing through Kheresa's Ministry Leadership? Notes from Children, Parents, Teachers, and Leaders read by Nancy Wilson

A Prayerful Litany for All Children Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Leader: God of all children, we thank You for how You reveal Yourself through these young lives as Love. Through children, we see You as sincere, vulnerable, kind, visionary, and forgiving. Through children, You reveal Your generous heart and Your desire to be helpful. Through the eyes of children, we see a better way of living available by following your will.

People: Lord, guide us to nurture active faith in the children you have entrusted to our church. As they learn to be servants, may they go forth into the world as people who love others in the way of Jesus.

Leader: Teach us to support these children and their families as investments and never as expenses. We renew our commitment to protect them with procedures and resources. Guide us to defend children's rights with the same fervor with which we care for our core values. Remind us how we should treat every person by the ways we relate with our children.

People: Encourage every person involved in our ministries with children and their families. Thank you for calling Rev. Kheresa Harmon to serve as an equipping professional minister and for preparing her spirit and gifts. Thank you for sending her to us. Guide us to support her ministry, our children, and families in every way possible.

Leader: Show us how to express compassion as we nurture all those children you entrust to our care. We also pray for all children who are suffering today as they live with disease, especially those who do not have adequate healthcare, those who are victims of exploitation and abuse, street children and children of war. We ask You to care for the children of Nyarweng Community School in South Sudan as well as all children who are denied opportunities for a good-quality education by adults making selfish decisions.

People: Help us impact the lives of children who are victims of political, economical, cultural, religious, and environmental discrimination. Show us how to build a better world in which children's voices are heard, a world fit for children, because a world fit for children is a world fit for everyone.

Leader: Shape our efforts as we continue to work for an end to the cycle of poverty and its far-reaching effects on generations of children. Show us how to invest in educational opportunities that give attention to the needs of all children. We pray for schools in which children can pursue learning in academics, human rights, peace-building and active citizenship.

ALL: And we thank You for our childhood memories that are blessings to us. Help us forgive those who hurt us in the past, for we are all Your children. Despite our different backgrounds, we share a need to live in peace and justice. Guide us to labor with You for the healing and salvation of the world, through Your vision of allowing all children to come to You. Amen.

Offertory Prayer Dr. Steve Harmon

"Unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Mt. 18:3

Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir
'I Will Be a Child of Peace' by: Elaine Hagenberg

O Holy Father I will be a child of peace and purity for well I know Thy hand will bless the seeker after righteousness.

***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.

Message 'It Takes a Church to Raise a Village' Dr. Foust

***Hymn of Devotion No. 452** *Here I Am, Lord*
Chalice Hymnal SCHUTTE

Presentation of Gift to Kheresa

Commissioning the Scattered Church for Ministry in Daily Life

Postlude J. Noel Lance

CONNECTING SUNDAY WORSHIP TO LIFE

To support your spiritual growth, we encourage you to invest in contemplation each day. These thoughts may help you in your reflections.

More than 80% of people active in churches today chose to follow Jesus before the age of 15.

Why do you think Jesus said, "Unless you change and become like children, you will never the kingdom of heaven?"

Please pray every day for our children and their families, Rev. Kheresa Harmon and her family, and our teachers and leaders in ministries with children.

Why is it important for St. John's to shape children so they touch the world on behalf of a compassionate God?

"You show love to children by listening to them, being present to them, making eye contact with them, providing physical contact that makes them feel safe and secure, and discipline that helps them feel valued - not shamed. As you allow Jesus' teachings to shape your living so your children see your spiritual growth, you present to them one of the greatest gifts they can receive." (From a sermon by Dennis Foust in The St. John's Pulpit entitled, 'Will Our Children Have Active Faith?')

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bill Leonard Our Guest on Leadership Vision Sunday

On Sunday, May 21, Dr. Bill Leonard, Founding Dean of Wake Forest Divinity School, will be our guest in The St. John's Pulpit. Bill is a good friend of St. John's. He will preach in worship, and he will lead a Lunch and Learn for Church Leaders in Broach Hall following worship. Bill is not only a world-renowned expert on Baptist principles as a Church historian; he is also an astute interpreter of what is happening in the Church today. Bill will focus on the implications of this changing twenty-first century and guide us to consider how local churches which expressing progressive theology can make an impact for God's vision revealed in Jesus Christ.

If you are involved in any church leadership role this year, or if you just want to join us for the Lunch and Learn, please contact Amanda in the office at amorrison@sjcharlotte.org.

Bounce Into Summer: Sunday, June 4 after Worship

Children and families, let's bounce into summer with a bounce house, bubbles, chalk art, ice cream sundaes, and more after worship on Sunday, June 4. Sign up on Realm today!

As a part of this event, we are receiving donations and assembling Mercy Bags for the homeless in the Charlotte Metro Area. Please consider donating one or more of the following items to help us fill our bags:

- 8 oz. bottles of water, peanut butter crackers, granola bars, individual packets of mixed nuts and/or trail mix, snack size boxes of dried fruit, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, travel size bottles of hand sanitizer, pocket size Wet Ones singles

Our children will receive donations through June 4. Please place your donations in bins in our Giving Nook.

Charlotte PRIDE Festival & Parade Leadership Needed

St. John's has been a regular participant in the Charlotte Pride Festival & Parade for many years, manning a booth at the festival and marching in the parade while chanting "God Loves Everyone!" The 2023 Festival and Parade are August 19-20, and we need assistance with planning and recruiting volunteers. If you would like to join the team that leads our Pride efforts, please contact Todd at stillerman@gmail.com or 704-763-6611.

Senior's Picnic Lunch: Sunday, June 25

If you are 75 years young or older, please mark your calendar to attend a summer picnic on Sunday, June 25 in Broach Hall. We will gather immediately after the worship service for lunch and fellowship. Registration details will follow in a few weeks. There is no cost as this is sponsored by Women of the Church.

St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: May 21
Proclaimer: Dr. Bill Leonard

This Week at St. John's

Sun., May 14	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Luke 9:1-17 Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., May 15	10:00 am 11:00 am	Luke 9:18-36 Adventures in Learning Shepherd's Center (Broach Hall) Faith Journey Book Study
Tuesday, May 16	8:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm	Luke 9:37-62 Finance Resource Team (Zoom) Sandwich Ministry (Lounge) Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room) Right Moves for Youth Ambassador Program (Broach Hall)
Wed., May 17	7:15 pm	Luke 10:1-24 Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thursday, May 18	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Luke 10:25-37 WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room) Right Moves for Youth Ambassador Award Ceremony (Broach Hall)
Friday, May 19	6:30 am 8:00 pm	Luke 10:38-11:13 Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge) Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, May 20	7:00 am 10:00 am 8:00 pm	Luke 11:14-54 Benton Basketball Jessica Borgnis Student Piano Recital 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..... Rev. Haley Blackwell
Interim Minister for Music and Worship.....Dr. Jared Daugherty
Senior Minister.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Minister for Congregational CareRev. Lee Gray
Minister for Children and Their Families..... Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Church Staff

Academy of the Arts Director.....Jessica Borgnis
Media CoordinatorMallory Brown
Children's Music DirectorChloe Hall
OrganistJ. Noel Lance
Associate Organist..... Dr. Matthew Manwarren
Custodian..... Chris Mullis
Ministry Coordinator..... Amanda Morrison
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted



Sunday, May 14, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina