

Welcome to the Worship of God

Please silence all electronic devices.

**Invites the congregation to stand*

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

Words of Gathering and Greeting Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Anthem of Praise Children's Choir
Chalice Hymnal No. 38 *Clap Your Hands*

Please join the children on the second verse.

Call to Worship Rev. Haley Blackwell

One: The Word of God is planted in our hearts like good seed in fertile soil.

All: May our hearts be receptive to the Word.

One: The Love of God rains down on us.

All: May our souls soak in the wonder of God's love.

One: The Breath of God blows softly within us.

All: May our minds be stirred by the power of God's spirit.

Prayer of Submission Rev. Blackwell

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

***Hymn of Praise No. 14** *Womb of Life, and Source of Being*
Chalice Hymnal IN BABILONE

Scripture Reading Mattie Stillerman
Genesis 25:19-34

“These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So, she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so, they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so, he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore, he was called Edom.). Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So, he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus, Esau despised his birthright.”

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.

Offertory Prayer

Offertory Anthem
Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be;
help me know Thy grace to see, I would be like Thee;
and, with words that help and heal, Thy life would mine reveal;
and, with actions, bold and meek for Christ my Savior speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be;
help me now Thy truth to see, I would be like Thee;
and, with wisdom kind and clear, Thy life in mine appear;
and, with actions sisterly, speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be;
show Thy mercy tenderly, make me more like Thee;
separate from sin I would and cherish all things good,
and whatever I can be give Him who gave me Thee.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be;
help me now Thy power to see, I would be like Thee;
'gainst all weapons hell can wield, be Thou my strength and shield;
let Thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

***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.

Prayers of the People Rev. Lee Gray

Barbara McElwey, Arnold Philemon, Jack Crymes,
Tommy Almond, Fan Watson

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.

***Hymn of Discipleship No. 695** *God of the Fertile Fields*
Chalice Hymnal ITALIAN HYMN

Scripture Reading Alexander Aguilera and Rev. Harmon
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

“That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were



Bert Green

Chancel Choir
K. Lee Scott

scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower.

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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.

Message Rev. Harmon
“Fertile Soil”

Our Response to God's Word, a Guided Prayer Experience
You Can Do This Hard Thing by Carrie Newcomer Chloe Hall

See green bulletin insert.

***Hymn of Assurance** *Holy Darkness*
By: Dan Schutte

See bulletin insert for music.

Refrain:

Holy darkness, blessed night, heaven's answer hidden from our sight.
As we await you, O God of silence, we embrace your holy night.

I have tried you in fires of affliction, I have taught your soul to grieve
In the barren soil of your loneliness, there I will plant my seed.

I've taught you the price of compassion; you have stood before the grave.
Though my love can seem like a raging storm, this is the love that saves.

Were you there when I raised up the mountains? Can you guide the morning star?
Does the hawk take flight when you give command? Why do you doubt my pow'r?

In your deepest hour of darkness, I will give you wealth untold.
When the silence stills your spirit, will my riches fill your soul.

As the watchman waits for morning, and the bride awaits her groom,
So we wait to hear your footsteps as we rest beneath your moon.

Commissioning of the Scattered Church Rev. Harmon

Postlude J. Noel Lance

Front Cover Artwork:
Date: 1973 Artist: JESUS MAFA
JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

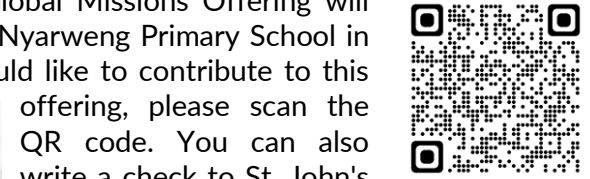
ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Summer's Preaching Schedule

- July 23 - Rev. Delbridge Narron
- July 30 - Dr. Steve Harmon
- August 6 - Rev. Sabrina Gilchrist (Right Moves for Youth)
- August 13 - Dr. Larry Hovis (Executive Coordinator CBFNC)

Global Missions Offering: Nyarweng Primary School, South Sudan

This year, our annual Global Missions Offering will again go to support the Nyarweng Primary School in South Sudan. If you would like to contribute to this offering, please scan the QR code. You can also write a check to St. John's with "Global Missions" in the memo line. All contributions made over and above our goal will go to support those in Sudan affected by current war and conflict.



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Goal: \$25,000 | Raised so far: \$26,975

Charlotte PRIDE Parade and Festival: Coming August 19 & 20

Mark your calendars and plan to join St. John's at the Charlotte PRIDE Festival & Parade in Uptown Charlotte on August 19 and 20. More details to come.

On the Way: St. John's Retired Adults & Friends

Our JULY outing will be lunch. On Tuesday, July 18 at 11:30 we will eat at the Midwood Smokehouse behind the Park Rd Shopping Center on 540-C Brandywine Rd. We have a private room reserved that can seat up to 20. You can leave with us from the church at 11:15 am or meet us there at 11:30 am but please let Lee Gray LGray@sjcharlotte.org know if you plan to attend. You will also have a chance to walk to Amelie's French Bakery for dessert after lunch.

Save the date for August Outing: For August, will have lunch at Captain Steve's Seafood in Harrisburg (5645 NC Hwy 49) on Wednesday, August 23 at 11:45am. You can either meet us at the church at 11:00am or at 11:40am at Captain Steve's.

Softball Continues!

Softball is going great! All games are at Providence Baptist Church, 4921 Randolph Road. The schedule for the next few weeks is as follows:

- Tuesday, July 18 @ 6:00 pm vs PBC White
- Wednesday, July 19 @ 6:00 pm vs St. Gabriel
- Monday, July 24 @ 7:10 pm vs PBC Grey
- Tuesday, July 25 @ 7:10 pm vs PBC Red

St. John's Baptist Church

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

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: July 23
Scripture: Genesis 28:10-19a; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
Title: 'The Baby Jesus has Broke Loose'
Proclaimer: Rev. Delbridge Narron

This Week at St. John's

Sun., July 16	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	John 2:12-22 Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., July 17		John 2:23-25
Tuesday, July 18	10:00 am 10:30 am 10:45 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	John 3:1-21 Sandwich Ministry (Lounge) Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room) Immigrant & Refugee Ministry Group (Room 204) Mixed Metaphors Productions Practice (Room 226) Leadership Meeting (Zoom)
Wed., July 19	2:00 pm 6:30 pm	John 3:22-30 Wonderful Wednesday @ NASCAR Hall of Fame Mixed Metaphors Productions Practice (Room 226)
Thursday, July 20	10:00 am 12:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	John 3:31-36 WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room) Shepherd's Center Beltone Lunch & Learn (Lounge) Carolina Premier Practice (Gym) Mixed Metaphors Productions Practice (Room 226)
Friday, July 21	8:00 pm	John 4:1-26 Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, July 22	6:30 am 8:00 pm	John 4:27-38 Benton Basketball (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.

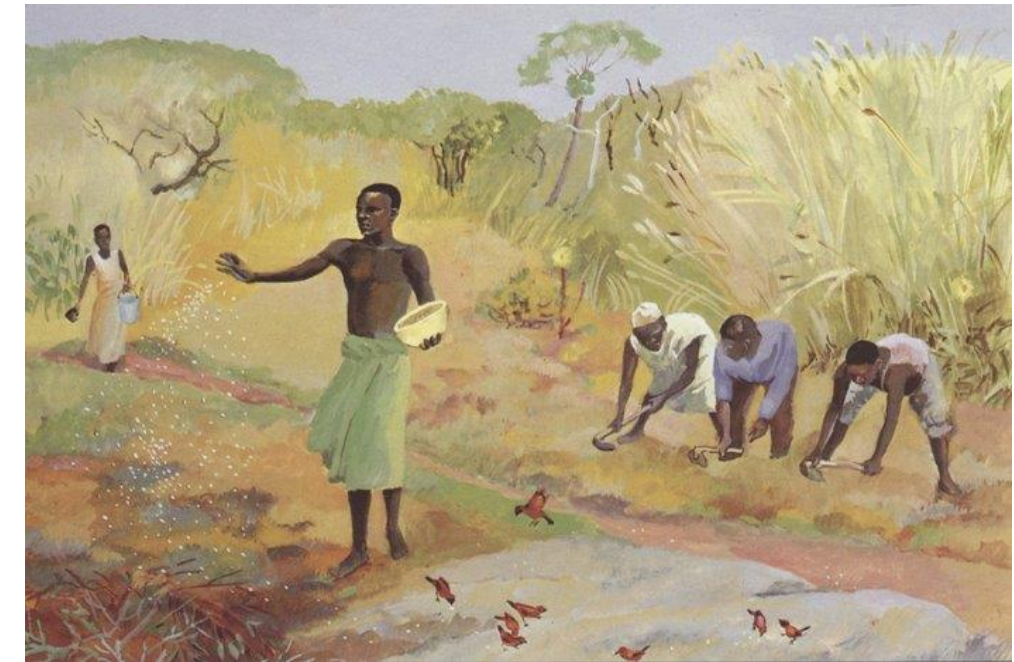
Ministers

Every participant in God's Servant Church

Equipping Ministers	Church Staff
Minister for Youth and Young Adults..... Rev. Haley Blackwell	Academy of the Arts Director..... Jessica Borgnis
Senior Minister..... Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD	Media Coordinator..... Mallory Brown
Minister for Congregational Care..... Rev. Lee Gray	Children's Music Director..... Chloe Hall
Minister for Children and Their Families..... Rev. Kheresa Harmon	Organist..... J. Noel Lance
	Associate Organist..... Dr. Matthew Manwarren
	Custodian..... Chris Mullis
	Church Administrator..... Amanda Morrison
	Weekday School Director..... Lydia Olmsted

Volunteers for Next Sunday, July 23

Offertory Deacons	Ushers	Nursery
Chris Lavender	Phil Vavra	Charlie Harper
Daniel Redding	Jim Keese	Phillips Bragg
David Allen	Becky Skidmore	Melissa Holloway
Elizabeth Peacock	Volunteer Needed	
Ellen Smith		
Gearlene Hoffman		



Sunday, July 16, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina