

# 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

**Call to Service** Todd Stillerman

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship** J. Noel Lance

Entrance of the Christ Candle: **Kayleigh Mac Whipple**

**Call to Worship** Rev. Harmon

**All: The kingdom of God is here and coming.**

One: A mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

**All: The kingdom of God is here and coming.**

One: Yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all was leavened.

**All: The kingdom of God is here and coming.**

One: Treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then joyfully sells all he has and buys the field.

**All: The kingdom of God is here and coming.**

One: A merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one of great value, sells all of his possessions and buys the pearl.

**All: The kingdom of God is here and coming.**

One: Let all who have ears, hear.

*Source: © Katherine Hawker, on her Outside the Box website*

**Prayer of Submission** Rev. Harmon

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 450** *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*  
Chalice Hymnal HYFRYDOL

**Reading of the Scripture** Steve Carter  
1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people? It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life

of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

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** Lynn Erdman

**Offertory Anthem** Chancel Choir  
*I Believe* by: Mark Miller

I believe in the sun; I believe in the sun  
Even when, even when it's not shining.

I believe in the sun; I believe in the sun  
Even when, even when it's not shining.

I believe in love; I believe in love  
Even when, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in love; I believe in love  
Even when, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in love; I believe in love  
Even when, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in love; I believe in love  
Even when, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God; I believe in God  
Even when, 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.

**Prayers of the People** Rev. Haley Blackwell

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.**

**Reading of the Scripture** Caroline Wallace  
Romans 8:26-39

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.

And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 No. 658** *Restless Weaver*  
Chalice Hymnal BEACH SPRING

**Reading of the Scripture** Rev. Steve Harmon, PhD  
Matthew 13:31-33 and 44-52

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'  
He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'  
'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

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** Dr. Harmon  
'The Theologian-hood of the Believer'

**\*Hymn of Response No. 586** *Open My Eyes, That I May See*  
Chalice Hymnal OPEN MY EYES

**Commissioning of the Scattered Church** Rev. Blackwell

**Postlude** J. Noel Lance

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## This Summer's Preaching Schedule

- August 6 - Rev. Sabrina Gilchrist (Right Moves for Youth)
- August 13 - Dr. Larry Hovis (Executive Coordinator CBFNC)

## Charlotte PRIDE Parade and Festival: Coming August 19 & 20

Want to tell Charlotte that "God Loves Everyone"? Come volunteer at the St. John's booth at Charlotte Pride on Saturday or Sunday. You can also join us in shouting it on the parade route on Sunday. Time slots for volunteering at the booth are as follows:



- Saturday Aug. 19: 11:30 to 3:00; 3:00 to 6:30; 6:30 to 10:00
- Sunday, Aug. 20: 12:00 to 3:00; 3:00 to 6:00

Sign up to volunteer by August 1 on Realm or scan QR code and get a free tie-dye "God Loves Everyone" t-shirt.

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

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 11:00 am or at 11:40 at Captain Steve's. Please let Lee Gray LGray@sjcharlotte.org know if you plan to attend, and if you will join us at the church or meet us at the restaurant.

## Softball Continues!

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

- Monday, July 31 6:00 pm vs PBC Blue
- Wednesday, August 2 @ 7:10 pm vs PBC White
- Monday, August 7 @ 6:00 pm vs PBC Red
- Wednesday, August 9 @ 7:10 pm vs PBC White

## Wonderful Wednesday Finale: Big Air Trampoline Park!

All children, let's jump for joy at Big Air Trampoline Park (2408 Sardis Rd N, Charlotte, NC 28227) on Wednesday, August 9 at 4:00 p.m.! Register on Realm, or contact Kheresa, by August 2. The cost is \$23.00 per jumper, which includes Big Air reusable socks.

## A Special Breakfast for Kindergarteners and 1st Graders

Rising kindergarteners, first graders, and their families are invited to a breakfast in their honor on Sunday, August 20 at 9:15am in Broach Hall. Breakfast is free, but reservations are required. Please register on Realm by August 17.

## Save the Date: St. John's Women's Retreat

Saturday, November 4, 2023, at Bragg Farm

Fitness trainer and Spiritual Director Mary Apicella to lead us in "Embodied Faith." Watch for more details to come! You won't want to miss out!

## St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204  
704.333.5428 | [www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org)

## The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: August 6  
Proclaimer: Rev. Sabrina Gilchrist

## This Week at St. John's

Sun., July 30	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	<b>John 7:14-24</b> Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., July 31		<b>John 7:25-31</b>
Tuesday, Aug. 1	10:30 am 6:30 pm	<b>John 7:32-36</b> Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room) Mixed Metaphors Productions Practice (Room 226)
Wed., Aug. 2	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	<b>John 7:37-44</b> Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room) Mixed Metaphors Productions Practice (Room 226)
Thursday, Aug. 3	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	<b>John 7:45-52</b> Carolina Premier Practice (Gym) Mixed Metaphors Productions Practice (Room 226)
Friday, Aug. 4	8:00 pm	<b>John 8:1-11</b> Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Aug. 5	6:30 am 1:00 pm 8:00 pm	<b>John 8:12-20</b> Benton Basketball (Gym) <b>Youth Charlotte Immersion Trip</b> 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, Aug. 6

Offertory Deacons	Ushers	Nursery
Kevin Turner	Jeff Almond	Bobbie Hinson
Lynn Bishop	Bobbie Hinson	Kimberly Allen
Lynn Erdman	Don Hinson	Lindsay Wilson
M.C. Sorrell	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	
Mark McNeill		
<b>Volunteer Needed</b>		



Sunday, July 30, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina