

Welcome to the Worship of God

Please silence all electronic devices.

**Invites the congregation to stand*

The Church Gathers to Worship the Living God

World maps are located on each side wall of the sanctuary. At any time during our expressions of worship today, please use the small stickers provided to locate a place on the map for which you are praying for peace.

The Gathering Music Dr. Matthew Manwarren
Variations on LASST UNS ERFREUEN Denis Bédard

The Words of Greeting and Gathering Rev. Lee Gray

***The Passing of the Peace** Congregation

As you pass the peace of Christ today, please name a situation or a place in our community, nation, or world where you are praying and working for peace.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship Dr. Manwarren
Entrance of the Christ Candle, presented by Alex Norris

The Call to Worship Rev. Haley Blackwell

ONE: Loving God, prepare us to receive the seed of Your Gospel.

ALL: We admit to you that we can be like stony fields, allowing the seed of Your Good News to wither within us while allowing weeds to flourish.

ONE: We ask that You cultivate our lives with Your merciful love.

ALL: Open the furrows of our desires and actions to receive again the seeds of Your Gospel of peace. Shine Your light into every dark place, shower us with Your grace and bring forth in us the harvest You desire for the world to receive through us as peacebuilders of Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen!

The Prayer of Submission Rev. Blackwell

***The Hymn of Praise, No. 725** *God of the Ages*
Chalice Hymnal NATIONAL HYMN

The Reading of Scripture Gospel of Mark 4:1-9 Rev. Richard Hester, PhD

Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on a path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." And he said, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"

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 Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Arnold Philemon, Jack Crymes, Joyce Ehrenberger,
Mary Rickenbaker, Warren Lineberger, 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.

***The Hymn of God's Peace, No. 683**

Chalice Hymnal

The Offertory Prayer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Deaconate and Worshippers

Choral Anthem

I Will Be A Child of Peace

Chancel Choir, Directed by Dr. Lillian Quackenbush

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.

The 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

The Message

'Roots for Peace'

Rev. Jason Smith

***The Hymn of Stewardship and Service, No. 677**

Chalice Hymnal

Let There Be Peace on Earth

WORLD PEACE

***The Commissioning**

Dr. Foust

The Postlude

Finale on LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Dr. Manwarren

Denis Bédard

CONNECTING SUNDAY WORSHIP WITH DAILY LIFE

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

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." (Jesus)

In what ways are you investing in peacebuilding?
How could you become a better peacemaker?
What prevents you from choosing peace rather than enmity and strife?

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." (Martin Luther King Jr.)

"When I say it's you I like, I'm talking about that part of you that knows that life is far more than anything you can ever see or hear or touch. That deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive. Love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over conflict, and justice that proves more powerful than greed." (Fred Rogers)

"God's gospel doesn't need a coalition devoted to keeping the wrong people out. It needs a family of sinners, saved by grace, committed to tearing down the walls, throwing open the doors, and shouting, 'Welcome! There's bread and wine. Come eat with us and talk.' This isn't a kingdom for the worthy; it's a kingdom for the hungry." (Rachel Held Evans)

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen" (A prayer by St. Francis of Assisi)

We welcome Rev. Jason Smith to the St. John's pulpit,

Executive Director of Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, BPFNA~Bautistas por la Paz. This global organization has been a Residential Partner in the facilities of St. John's for twelve years. Jason has been a part of churches, movements and small groups of people committed to changing the world throughout his life. After participating in the 2017 peace camp in Toluca, Mexico, and experiencing a truly spiritual moment with other peacemakers, he sensed God's calling to join BPFNA~Bautistas por la Paz as a peacemaker.



Previously Jason served remotely as director of strategic donations for Sojourners, working to strengthen relationships with major donors and building support for Sojourners. Before this Jason was a development specialist with the Alliance of Baptists; he also served as adjunct professor at the Sutton School of Social Sciences at the Ouachita Baptist University. Jason also works in ministry as a part-time pastor for the First Presbyterian Church, Arkadelphia, and preaching at the First Presbyterian Church, Gurdon, Arkansas.

Jason completed postgraduate studies at the Wesley Theological Seminary ('14, M.Div.) in Washington, D.C., where he focused on urban ministry. He was ordained at Calvary Baptist Church in D.C. in 2014. He's a member of the board of directors of Interfaith Arkansas. He's also served on the board of BPFNA~Bautistas por la Paz. He grew up in Costa Rica as the son of Baptist missionaries and continues participating in special collaborative projects with communities of faith in Latin America, including Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, and Panama.

He and his spouse, Myra, live in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, where Myra is an associate professor of history in the Baptist University of Ouachita with an emphasis in the legal and constitutional history of South Africa. They have four children and share their home with a dog and a cat. For fun, Jason travels, watches Ted Lasso, cheers on the Little Rock Rangers and tries to play the piano like Elton John.



BPFNA-Bautistas por la Paz

Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children Receiving Donations for Mercy Bags

Following worship on Sunday, October 22, our children will make mercy bags for our homeless sisters and brothers. Place all donations between today and October 20 in the Giving Nook at the Main Entrance. 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, Beef jerky (lunch pack size), Individual packets of mixed nuts, Snack-size boxes of dried fruit, Hand warmers
- If you would like to include a gift-card to McDonalds, Wendy's or another fast food restaurant for the mercy bags, please give them to Kheresa Harmon. Do not leave them in the Giving Nook. These gift cards might provide a place for our homeless neighbors to grab a bite to eat and enjoy the air conditioning or heat (depending on the weather) for just a bit.

Shred-A-Thon with the Shepherd's Center of Charlotte

Mark your calendars and join the Shepherd's Center Charlotte on September 23rd from 10:00am - 1:00pm for our Shred-A-Thon Event right on campus at St John's Baptist Church. There will be a shredder for all those important documents, food trucks, activities for children, community resources and much more. It will be a fun, intergenerational event for all ages!

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

Our September outing will be lunch at Las Margaritas 4426 East Independence Blvd on Friday September 29 at 11:30 am. You can meet everyone there at 11:30 or leave with Lee Gray from the church by 11:15am. Please let LGray@sjcharlotte.org know if you plan to attend and if you will meet at the church or at Las Margaritas.

PS - Edgar said they'd turn the music down for us so we can talk.

Children's Ministry Day at The Hunter Farm: Registration OPEN!

We're headed to The Hunter Farm in Weddington for seasonal festivities amongst pumpkins and baby goats and more! Registration has opened! Register by October 7 on Realm. The cost is \$11 per person; children 2 and under are free.

Thursdays on the Town

Parents of children, ages birth to 5th grade, Thursdays on the Town has returned! Please join us on Thursday, October 12 at 6PM at The King's Kitchen. Childcare is provided. Please register and reserve childcare by October 1 via Realm!

CROP Walk 2023

The 2023 Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, October 22 at American Legion Memorial Stadium. Walkers can arrive anytime between 1:30 - 2:30PM and begin walking when they are ready. Please register to join our team and/or donate by scanning the QR code. Micah Belong is coordinating our St. John's efforts, so feel free to contact Micah or James Laney with any questions.



St. John's Baptist Church

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

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: September 24, 2023
Scripture: Exodus 16:1-21 and Philippians 1:3-11
Message Title: 'Harvesting Friendship with God'
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Sept. 17	John 18:33-42 8:30 am Church Council Meeting (Conference Room) 9:15 am Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 am Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) 11:45 am Women of the Church Luncheon (Broach Hall)
Mon., Sept. 18	John 19:1-12 11:30 am Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
Tuesday, Sept. 19	John 19:13-16 8:00 am Finance Resource Team (Zoom) 10:00 am Sandwich Ministry (Lasater Hall) 10:30 am Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
Wed., Sept. 20	John 19:17-27 7:15 pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thursday, Sept. 21	John 19:28-37 10:00 am WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room) 4:30 pm Communities in Schools Event (Main Parking Lot) 6:00 pm Carolina Premier Practice (Gym) 6:30 pm Right Moves for Youth Event (Broach Hall)
Friday, Sept. 22	John 19:38-42 8:00 pm Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Sept. 23	John 20:1-9 6:30 am Benton Basketball (Gym) 10:00 am SHRED-A-THON (Broach Hall/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..... Rev. Haley Blackwell
Senior Minister.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Minister for Congregational CareRev. Lee Gray
Minister for Children and Their Families..... Rev. Kheresa Harmon
Interim Minister for Music and Worship.....Dr. Lillian Quackenbush

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
Church Administrator..... Amanda Morrison

Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted



Sunday, September 17, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church Charlotte, North Carolina