

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 stickers provided to locate a place on the map for which you are praying for peace as friends of God.

The Gathering Music	J. Noel Lance, Organist
The Words of Greeting and Gathering	Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
*The Passing of the Peace	Congregation
Preparing Our Hearts for Worship	J. Noel Lance
The Prayer of Submission	Dr. Foust

The Call to Worship

ONE: Jesus said, *"I have called you friends."*

ALL: We gather in confident faith as friends of God.

ONE: Friends, express your worship to God with trust and honesty.

ALL: Then we shall scatter in the world to minister as friends of God.

*The Hymn of Praise, No. 23	<i>Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven</i>
Chalice Hymnal	LAUDA ANIMA

The Reading of Hebrew Scripture	Exodus 16:1-21	Jeff Almond
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The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim and came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

'In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning, there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?"¹ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer per person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents." The Israelites did so, gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed. And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over until morning." But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it became wormy and rotten. And Moses was angry with them. Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed, but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

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.

Moments with the Younger Church	Rev. Kheresa Harmon
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The Choral Anthem	Chancel Choir and Children's Choir
<i>Look at the World</i>	by John Rutter

Look at the world, everything all around us: Look at the world, and marvel every day. Look at the world; so many joys and wonders, so many miracles along our way.

Refrain: Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation, give us thankful hearts that we may see all the gifts we share, and every blessing, all things come of thee.

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower; look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain; look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, valley and flowing river, field and plain. Refrain

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer bringing the harvest before the winter's cold. Everything grows, everything has a season, 'til it is gathered to the Father's fold. Refrain

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish comes from the Lord in token of his love; we are his hands, stewards of all his bounty; his is the earth, and his the heavens above. Refrain

The Reading of Christian Scripture	Philippians 1:3-11	Rev. Lee Gray
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"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete^[a] it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise 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.

The Church at Prayer	Rev. Gray
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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 Divine Friendship, No. 566	<i>Be Still, My Soul</i>
Chalice Hymnal	FINLANDIA

The Message	<i>'Harvesting Friendship with God'</i>	Dr. Foust
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*The Hymn of Faithfulness, No. 86	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>
Chalice Hymnal	FAITHFULNESS

The Offertory Prayer	Matt Comer
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The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings	Deaconate and Worshippers
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The Offertory	J. Noel Lance
<i>Dear Lord and Father of Mankind</i>	arr. Maureen Howell

*The Doxology	OLD HUNDREDTH
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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 Commissioning	Dr. Foust
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The Postlude	J. Noel Lance
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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.

"When friendship is properly practiced, it in large part describes God's relationship to the world." (Frederick W. Norris)

"God's declaration, in Genesis, that it is not good for us to be alone is a merciful word because God knows what is best for us." (Elizabeth Achtemeier)

"In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." (2 Corinthians 5:19)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Red Cross AED, CPR, First Aid Training

We are currently seeking out 8-12 church members who are active in the church and often in the building to participate in a Red Cross AED, CPR, and First Aid Training on October 15 from 12:30-3:30pm. The first 8 to sign up are FREE and the last 4 (up to 12) would be \$107 per person for the training. If the registration on Realm is full with 8 people, please email Tom Blackmon (contact below) to register. Those who sign up must be 16 years of age or older. If you have questions, please contact Tom Blackmon at tombblackmon@carolina.rr.com OR 704-533-2718. Sign up by scanning QR code or on Realm.



Children Receiving Donations for Mercy Bags

Following worship on Sunday, October 22, our children will make mercy bags for our homeless sisters and brothers. 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

Our children will receive donations from now through Friday, October 20. Please place your donations in bins in our Giving Nook at the Main Entrance.

Young Adult Brewery Night: September 29

Come and join the St. John's young adults at Olde Mecklenburg Brewing (4150 Yancey Rd, Charlotte, NC 28217) on September 29 from 6:30-8:30pm. If you have questions, please contact Haley at hblackwell@sjcharlotte.org.

On the Way: Outings for St. John's Retirees 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.

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: October 12

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 on Realm and reserve childcare by October 1!

St. John's Baptist Church

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

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: October 1, 2023 – World Communion Sunday
Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-4:6
Message Title: 'A Visionary Prayer for the Church in the World'
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Sept. 24	John 20:10-18 9:15 am Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 am Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Sept. 25	John 20:19-23 11:30 am Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
Tuesday, Sept. 26	John 20:24-29 10:30 am Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room) 5:30 pm MRT Meeting (Conference Room) 6:30 pm House & Grounds Meeting (Room 204) 6:30 pm NAMI Family Support Group 6:30 pm NAMI Peer Support Group
Wed., Sept. 27	John 20:30-31 7:15 pm Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thursday, Sept. 28	John 21:1-14 6:30 pm Elizabeth Community Association Annual Meeting (Broach Hall)
Friday, Sept. 29	John 21:15-19 6:30 pm Brewery Night (Olde Meck Brewery) 8:00 pm Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Saturday, Sept. 30	John 21:20-25 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 24, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church Charlotte, North Carolina