

Welcome to the Worship of God

Please silence all electronic devices.

**Invites the congregation to stand*

The Church Gathers to Worship the Living God
A Season of Spiritual Renewal
Renewing Our Connections by
Embodying a Joyful Witness and Influence

The Gathering Music J. Noel Lance, Organist

The Words of Greeting Rev. Kheresa Harmon

The Call to Worship Rev. Harmon

ONE: Welcome into sanctuary space where we proclaim, ‘the joy of the Lord is our strength.’

ALL: We do not cower in fear for God has set us free from despair.

ONE: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon you to proclaim God’s message of good news to the oppressed, announce forgiveness to those who are imprisoned by their guilt and shame, recovery of vision to those blinded by hopelessness, and freedom to the battered and burdened.

ALL: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!

The Call to Praise Handbells Directed by Jacquelyn McAbee
In Joyful Praise Douglas E. Wagner

The Prayer of Submission Rev. Haley Blackwell

***The Hymn of Praise, No. 420** *I Come with Joy*
Chalice Hymnal DOVE OF PEACE

Entrance of the Christ Candle: **Mabry Miller**

The Reading of Scripture David Allen
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (The Message)

“I, Paul, together with Silas and Timothy, send greetings to the church at Thessalonica, Christians assembled by God the Father and by the Master, Jesus Christ. God’s amazing grace be with you! God’s robust peace! Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you’re in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn’t just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions. You paid careful attention to the way we lived among you, and determined to live that way yourselves. In imitating us, you imitated the Master. Although great trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit!—taking the trouble with the joy, the joy with the trouble. Do you know that all over the provinces of both Macedonia and Achaia believers look up to you? The word has gotten around. Your lives are echoing the Master’s Word, not only in the provinces but all over the place. The news of your faith in God is out. We don’t even have to say anything anymore—you’re the message! People come up and tell us how you received us with open arms, how you deserted the dead idols of your old life so you could embrace and serve God, the Living God. They marvel at how expectantly you await the arrival of his Son, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescued us from certain doom.”

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 Preparation for Prayer Handbell Choir
The King of Love My Shepherd Is arr. Judy Endean

The Church at Prayer Rev. Lee Gray

We pray for Jack Crymes, Joyce Ehrenberger, Ethel Harris, Arnold Philemon, Mary Rickenbaker, Jane Starnes

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth and 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 Witness, No. 494** *They’ll Know We are Christians by Our Love*
Chalice Hymnal ST. BRENDAN’S

The Offertory Prayer Deacon, Phil Vavra

The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings Diaconate and Worshippers

As the offering plate is passed down the aisle, make sure you touch it. Trace the outer circle of the plate with your finger and contemplate the world that your gifts support. Observe the way that the plate reflects light, just as your gifts reflect your commitment. Rub the fuzzy felt inside the plate and think of a warm memory from the St. John’s community. Feel the weight of the plate in your hands and remember the impact your gifts have on our church, our community and our world.

The Chancel Choir Anthem Directed by Dr. Lillian Quackenbush
Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ arr. Bradley Ellingboe

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard. Jesus lives again earth can breathe again, pass the word around: loaves abound! Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live, to bless, love in word and in deed express. Jesus lives again earth can breathe again, pass the word around: loaves abound! Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share; God, Immanuel everywhere! Jesus lives again earth can breathe again, pass the word around: loaves abound!

***The Doxology** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen

The Message Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
‘Inviting Others to Consider Jesus’

Portion of St. John’s Church Covenant Congregation

“We will, with God’s help, so live our lives that others, seeing the joy of Christian living, may seek to know Jesus Christ our Lord.”

***The Hymn of Vision, No. 453** *Called as Partners in Christ’s Service*
Chalice Hymnal BEECHER

The Commissioning of CROP Walkers

Congregation: As you take each step today, we will be with you in Christ.

Walkers: Let us remember people nearby and around the world who walk long distances and stand in long lines to wait for small amounts of food and water as well as safety and employment.

Dr. Foust: If you are sponsoring a walker or you plan to do so today, please stand.

Walkers: We give thanks to God for the generosity of all our sponsors.

Congregation: May the funds that are raised and the ministries of our mission partner, Church World Service, minister to millions of people providing them with enough food to eat, clean water to drink, and a safe home. Amen.

The Prayer of Benediction and Blessing Dr. Foust

The Postlude J. Noel Lance

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.

1. Consider your public witness of joyfulness and influence. What makes you glad about the ways your public joyful witness of walking with Christ influences other people each week?

2. How are you fulfilling this St. John’s Church Covenant commitment?

“We will, with God’s help, so live our lives that others, seeing the joy of Christian living, may seek to know Jesus Christ our Lord.”

3. Reflect on this verse of scripture from 1 Thessalonians 1:6 –

“Although great trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit!—taking the trouble with the joy, the joy with the trouble.”

4. Prayer of Renewal – based upon John 15:11

God, teach me how to follow Jesus who, as he faced cruel suffering, torture, and death on a cross, said to his disciples, “I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” Shape my life so I can be a joyful witness reflecting your light on dark days. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY! Fellowship Sunday: Food Truck, Jason's Deli, & CROP Walk

Plan to enjoy some church-wide fellowship today after worship outside. Tables will be set up on the back church lawn and we will welcome the EZ Eats Food Truck and Jason's Deli. Everyone plan to come out and enjoy one another's company and support the EZ Eats Food Truck!

Following lunch, please join us down the street at Memorial Stadium for the CROP Walk. Walkers can arrive anytime between 1:30 - 2:30PM and begin walking when they are ready. You can support our St. John's CROP Walk Team by scanning the QR code.



Undie Sundays Happening NOW!

During the rest of this month, the Mission Resource Team will be collecting the following for Roof Above and Room in the Inn:

- men's undershirts, men's underwear and boxers, sheet sets, towels, washcloths, blankets, toiletries

Please drop off any donations at the Giving Nook at the Main Entrance on Sundays or anytime during the week through the end of October.

Craft & Bake Sale Happening November 5!

The Needle and Craft Ministry will be having a Craft and Bake Sale on Sunday, November 5 in Lasater Hall from 11:30 to 1:00. All proceeds will go to support the children's ministry playground fund. If you might be interested in participating with craft items or baked goods, please call/let Ruth Jackson or Tricia Miller know.

Women of the Church Fall Retreat: November 4 at Bragg Farm

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER!

Spiritual Director, Mary Apicella, will lead us in a 1-day retreat on November 4 on the theme of "Embodied Faith" through wellness and movement-based teaching.

Please register today!



Mary is an ordained clergyperson who believes in movement as a spiritual practice that helps us all heal and connect to a greater sense of meaning and purpose. Registration is \$50. Snacks, lunch, and all materials included. Register by October 22.

Children's Ministry Friendsgiving Picnic: Sunday, November 19

Food just tastes better when we eat it together. Join us for a Friendsgiving Picnic at Independence Park (the park down from the church) following worship on Sunday, November 19! Hawthorne's will bring the pizza. You bring your family's favorite side dish or dessert. Be creative! Friends share stories, so make sure that your side dish or dessert tells us something about the story of your family.

In addition to sharing food and fun, we will have an opportunity to meet Missy Wilson, KinderMusik educator, and her family. Missy provides KinderMusik for our Weekday School.

Register on Realm today!

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 29, 2023

Scripture: Gospel of Matthew 22:34-46

Message Title: 'Actively Faithful Faithfully Active: More Than a Slogan'

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Oct. 22	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 pm 1:00 pm	Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) St. John's Food Truck Lunch! (Broach Hall Parking Lot) CROP Hunger Walk 2023!
Mon., Oct. 23	10:00 am 11:30 am	Adventures in Learning (Broach Hall) Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
Tues., Oct. 24	10:30 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Staff Meeting & Planning (Conference Room) NAMI Family Support Group NAMI Peer Support Group
Wed., Oct. 25	5:30 pm 7:15 pm	MRT Meeting (Conference Room) Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thurs., Oct. 26		
Friday, Oct. 27	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Oct. 28	6:30 am 8:00 pm	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

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

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

2023

CROP HUNGER WALK

BUILDING *global* RESILIENCE

Sunday, October 22, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina