

# 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 Unity in Purpose through the Vision of God's Gospel*

**The Gathering Music** Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist

**The Words of Greeting** Rev. Haley Blackwell

**The Call to Service** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD & James Laney

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship** Dr. Manwarren  
Voluntary on 'OLD HUNDREDTH' Johann Pachelbel

Entrance of the Christ candle presented by Riley Cardella

**The Prayer of Submission** Rev. Blackwell

**\*The Hymn of Praise, No. 67** *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*  
Chalice Hymnal ST. ANNE

**The Reading of Scripture** Phil Vavra  
Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with 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.**

**Moments with the Younger Church** Rev. Kheresa Harmon

**The Offertory Prayer** Laura Sorrell

**The Presentation of Tithes and Offerings** Diaconate & 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. Manwarren  
*Many Gifts - One Spirit* by Allen Pote

Many gifts, many gifts, one Spirit, many songs, one voice, many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice. O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above. In our differences unite us in the circle of your love. O God, remind us we are not alone. Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne. Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand. We are members of one family growing strong by joining hands. O God, remind us we are not alone. Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne. Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul into the beauty of a rainbow. Give us life, Lord, make us whole.

**\*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 Church at Prayer & the Lord's Prayer** Rev. Lee Gray

**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**

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

We celebrate with Micah & Molly Belong in the birth of their daughter,  
Nico Alba May, on October 9. Walter is the proud big brother.  
The rose in the Sanctuary today is placed in honor of her birth.

**\*The Hymn of New Life in Christ, No. 518** *This Is a Day of New Beginnings*  
Chalice Hymnal BEGINNINGS

**The Message** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
*Beyond Separation to Synergy*

**Portion of St. John's Church Covenant** Congregation

**"We will love and encourage each other in the family of the Church and admonish each other as occasion may require. Our differences will not separate us but rather increase our understanding and strengthen the bonds of Christian love."**

**\*The Hymn of Oneness, No. 433**  
Chalice Hymnal

Blest Be the Tie That Binds  
DENNIS

**The Commissioning** Dr. Foust

**The Postlude** Dr. Manwarren  
March on OLD HUNDREDTH Brenda Portman

## 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. Write your thoughts in response to this question:  
'What does gentleness mean to you?'

2. How are you fulfilling these St. John's Church Covenant commitments?

*"We will love and encourage each other in the family of the Church and admonish each other as occasion may require. Our differences will not separate us but rather increase our understanding and strengthen the bonds of Christian love."*

3. Reflect on this verse of scripture from Philippians 4:8 -  
*"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."*

4. Prayer of Intercession - As the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Therefore, in that spirit, let us pray...

*God of gentleness, be near to us...*

*Where the earth is groaning for redemption...*

*Where war, strife, hatred, and suffering is prevailing...*

*Where the Church is struggling to be faithful...*

*Where families are locked in conflict...*

*Where people are yearning for freedom...*

*Where those who are impoverished are living in hopelessness...*

*Where loved ones are sick and suffering...*

*Wrap us in your gentle peace, O God. Gift to us your peace that surpasses our capacity to understand. Guard our hearts and minds through the love revealed to us in Christ Jesus. Amen*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Fellowship Sunday on October 22: Food Truck, Jason's Deli, & CROP Walk

Plan to enjoy some church-wide fellowship NEXT Sunday, October 22 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.

## Children Still Receiving Donations for Mercy Bags

Please consider donating one or more of the following items to help us fill our bags for our homeless neighbors:

- 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.

## 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 til 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

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. She is a certified personal trainer through the National Academy of Sports Medicine and is a Pre/Postnatal Fitness Specialist through PRONatal Fitness. Registration is \$50. Snacks, lunch, and all materials included. Register by October 22.

## 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:** October 22, 2023  
**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
**Message Title:** Inviting Others to Consider Jesus  
**Proclaimer:** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

### This Week at St. John's

Sun., Oct. 15	8:30 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 12:30 pm 1:00 pm 5:00 pm	Church Council (Conference Room) Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) Red Cross Training (Broach Hall) CWS: Art Workshop (Lasater Hall) Youth SNL
Mon., Oct. 16	8:00 am 10:00 am	Weekday School (WDS Area) Adventures in Learning (Broach Hall)
Tues., Oct. 17	8:00 am 8:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Finance Resource Team (Zoom) Weekday School (WDS Area) Sandwich Ministry (Lounge) Staff Meeting & Planning (Conference Room)
Wed., Oct. 18	8:00 am 7:15 pm	Weekday School (WDS Area) Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thurs., Oct. 19	8:00am 10:00 am 6:30 pm	Weekday School (WDS Area) WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room) Charlotte DOT Public Engagement Meeting (Broach)
Friday, Oct. 20	8:00 am 8:00 pm	Weekday School (WDS Area) Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Oct. 21	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

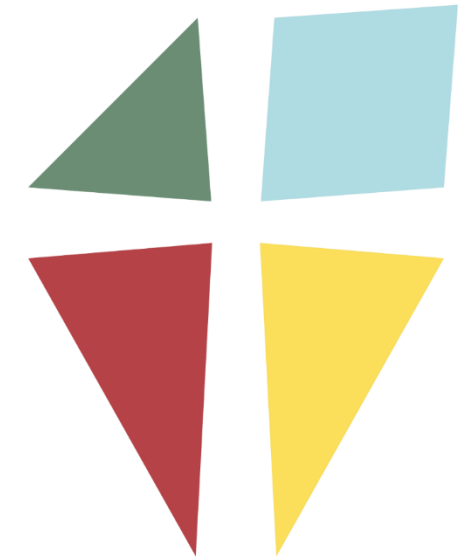
*Every participant in God's Servant Church*

### Equipping Ministers

Minister for Youth and Young Adults..... Rev. Haley Blackwell  
Senior Minister.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
Minister for Congregational Care .....Rev. 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 Coordinator .....Mallory Brown  
Children's Music Director .....Chloe Hall  
Organist .....J. Noel Lance  
Associate Organist..... Dr. Matthew Manwarren  
Custodian..... Chris Mullis  
Church Administrator..... Amanda Morrison  
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted



# St. John's

## BAPTIST

A SERVANT CHURCH

## Sunday, October 15, 2023

### 10:30 AM Worship

### St. John's Baptist Church

### Charlotte, North Carolina