

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

Active Involvement in God's Love and Logic

The Gathering Music Dr. Matthew Manwarren, Organist

The Words of Greeting Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Recognizing Life-giving Servants Charlie Harper, Mission Resource Team

Passing the Peace of Christ Congregation

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship Dr. Manwarren

Allegro Thomas Arne

Entrance of the Christ Candle Carried by **Matteo Aguilera**

The Prayer of Submission Rev. Foust

The Call to Worship

ONE: Welcome into another opportunity to accept God's invitation. In this hour, may you experience spiritual renewal as you allow God's love to spark new life within your soul.

ALL: We gather as people of God committed to The Way of Jesus who teaches us to express love to God and to other persons.

ONE: May your love of God and other persons compel you to make new investments in God's servant church, actively involved in building a better world through efforts of human unity through spiritual kinship.

ALL: May our worship renew us for our varied ministries in daily life that will be our pathways of service beyond this sanctuary. Amen!

***The Hymn of Praise, No. 450** *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

Chalice Hymnal HYFRYDOL

The Reading of Scripture Patti Klein

Gospel of Matthew 22:34-46 (Cotton Patch Version)

“When the church members found out that Jesus had cooked the liberals’ goose, they ganged up on him, and one of their bright boys, trying to get Jesus over a barrel, asked, “Doctor, what is the most important commandment in the Bible?” Jesus said, ““You shall love your Lord God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind.’ This is the greatest and most important commandment. Next to it is this’ one: ‘You shall love your fellow man as yourself.’ The whole Bible hinges on these two. The next time the church members met, Jesus asked them a question: “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They answered, “David’s.” “Then why did David refer to him as his spiritual master when he said, ‘The Master said to my master, “Sit at my right hand while I bring all who oppose you under your rule?’” If then David calls him ‘master,’ how can he be his son?” Not a soul could answer Jesus even one word, and from that day on nobody had the guts to put another question to him.”

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

All children are welcome to come forward.

The Church at Prayer Rev. Lee Gray

We pray for Jack Crymes, Joyce Ehrenberger, 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. 458** *Ours the Journey*

Chalice Hymnal OURS THE JOURNEY

The Offertory Prayer Deacon, Kevin Turner

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

Come Dwell in Solomon's Walls Randall Stroupe

When the final timbers lay 'gainst a measured stone, with the doorposts in their place, overlaid with gold, the Lord appeared to Solomon, blessing all the house, the temple of the ark of God, pure and whole. Come dwell in Solomon's walls, come and dwell in the house of the Lord where the humble bow down, seeking wisdom and strength, for the Lord dwells within and heals their land. Come dwell in Solomon's walls, come and dwell in the house of the Lord, where wisdom and righteousness, justice and holiness join at the feet of God. When the people of this house kneel and humbly pray, when they turn from dark to light and your well obey, O Lord of heaven and Lord of earth, show favor on this house, and heal, restore, forgive and bless, Lord we pray. Come dwell in Solomon's walls, come and dwell in the house of the Lord, where wisdom and righteousness, justice and holiness join at the feet of God.

***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. Foust

'Actively Faithful Faithfully Active: More Than a Slogan'

Portion of St. John's Church Covenant: Congregation

“We will be a servant church, recognizing the infinite worth of every person and believing that Christ has called us to active involvement in behalf of human brotherhood.”

The Postlude for Reflection and Commitment Dr. Manwarren

When Love is Found arr. A.D. Miller

***The Hymn of Vision, No. 609** *Take My Life*

Chalice Hymnal HENDON

Presentation of New Members

The Prayer of Benediction and Blessing Rev. Foust

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Martha Bryson by Tom Bryson, on the occasion of their 30th wedding anniversary.

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. What are your largest challenges in loving God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength?

2. Consider your Ministry in Daily Life as a member of God's servant Church. How do guard yourself against forgetting the 'infinite worth of every person?' How are you called to active involvement in behalf of human unity through spiritual kinship?

3. Consider how you are confronted with ethical challenges at work. How does your commitment to 'love God' and 'love your neighbor' guide you in your responses to ethical questions?

4. REFLECTION:

In *Fortune Magazine*, Marc Gunther wrote, (July 9, 2001, p. 61):

“Executives are in the vanguard of a diverse, mostly unorganized mass of believers – a counterculture bubbling up all over corporate America – who want to bridge the traditional divide between spirituality and work. Historically, such folk operated below the radar, on their own or in small workplace groups where they prayed or studied the Bible. But now they are getting organized and going public to agitate for change.”

5. PRAYER:

Servant God of a servant people, show me how to integrate my experience of Your Spirit with the ethics taught by Jesus to build a better world in my family and community through my vocation, relationships, volunteerism, and stewardship. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craft & Bake Sale Happening Next Sunday, 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.

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!

Sunday Night Live for Youth Needs Your Help!

Our weekly Sunday night youth program is in need of help with providing meals and second adults to help Haley as needed. Haley usually has an idea of how many will need to be fed a few days before Sunday Night Live. Please reach out to Haley at hblackwell@sjcharlotte.org or 704-333-5428 ex. 2013 if you are interested in helping!

Below are the dates when help is needed: 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/10, 12/17

On the Way: Wednesday, November 8 at Hawthorne's

Please join us for lunch on Wednesday, November 8 at 11:30 am at Hawthorne's (1701 E 7 Street) just down the street from the church. Parking is limited at Hawthorne's so let's plan on meeting in the church lot by Broach Hall and walk down and carpool down to Hawthorne's at 11:20am. We will make sure that anyone who would like a ride has one. While Hawthorne's does serve pizza they also serve a good variety of pasta dishes, sandwiches, and salads. Please let Lee Gray LGray@sjcharlotte.org know if you plan to join us by November 6.

Mercy Bags Available Now

Last week our younger church and two of our Weekday School classes prepared 76 mercy bags for the more than 2,600 people who experience homelessness in the Charlotte metro area. Is there anything we adults can do to help the children of God who struggle to eke out a brutal existence on our city streets, under bridges, in the woods, and on the doorstep of our church? We can do one thing. We can offer hope and mercy in a bag. You will find mercy bags in the Main Entrance and outside Kheresa's office.

We invite you to please take a few bags, keep them in your car, and the next time you see another child of God standing on a street corner with a sign that reads, "Please help," help. Roll down your window and offer hope and mercy in a bag.

Grant Writer Needed for SJBC Playground

We are hoping to update the playground at St. John's and need the help of an experienced grant writer! Do you have experience writing grants, particularly grants for early childhood education?

If so, please contact Kheresa.

St. John's Baptist Church

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

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: November 5, 2023

Scripture: Exodus 32:1-18 and Gospel of Matthew 22:15-22

Message Title: 'Beyond the Worship Wars'

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Oct. 29	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) Youth SNL
Mon., Oct. 30	10:00 am 11:30 am	Adventures in Learning (Broach Hall) Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
Tues., Oct. 31	10:30 am	Staff Meeting & Planning (Conference Room)
Wed., Nov. 1	10:0 am 5:30 pm 7:15 pm	Shepherd's Center Board Meeting (3 rd Floor) Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room) Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thurs., Nov. 2		
Friday, Nov. 3	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Nov. 4	6:30 am 10:00 am 8:00 pm	Benton Basketball (Gym) WOC Fall Retreat! (Bragg Farm) 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, October 29, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina