

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 with God by 'Knowing Christ' and 'Becoming Like Him'

The Gathering Music J. Noel Lance, Organist

The Words of Greeting Rev. Lee Gray

***The Passing of the Peace of Christ** Congregation

The Call to Worship Rev. Gray & Congregation

ONE: The Living God invites us into a relationship of acceptance, growth, and purpose.

ALL: We express our praise, thanksgiving, and commitment to God through the risen Christ.

ONE: Our relationship with God is not based on our genealogies, accomplishments, or religiosity but on God's love.

ALL: Let us renew our commitments to know Christ and to become like him. Amen.

The Prayer of Submission Rev. Gray

***The Hymn of Praise, No. 5** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*
Chalice Hymnal AZMON

The Reading of Scripture Philippians 3:4b-14
Karen Moegerle

"If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

The Hymn of Witness, No. 113 *Jesus Loves Me*
Chalice Hymnal JESUS LOVES ME

The Church at Prayer & the Lord's Prayer Rev. Haley Blackwell

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 pray for Colleen and Marc Cardella as they grieve the death of Colleen's father,
Gary Walsh, and for Tallon and Riley in the loss of their Papa.*

We pray for Deb Black as she grieves the death of her mother, Lorene Ledford.

***The Hymn of Discipleship, No. 606** *God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*
Chalice Hymnal NETTLETON

The Offertory Prayer Todd Stillerman

The Presentation of Tithes & Offerings Diaconate & Worshippers

The Chancel Choir Anthem by K. Lee Scott and directed by J. Noel Lance
Write Your Blessed Name

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart. There to remain so indelibly engraved, that no prosperity, that no adversity shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, and a faithful guide to the courts of heaven, through the many temptations and dangers of this life, O Jesu, my only Savior.

***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
"Opportunities for Responsibility & Privilege"

Portion of the St. John's Church Covenant Congregation

"United in the faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, revealed in history, disclosed in the Scriptures, and experienced in human life, we do solemnly and joyfully make this Covenant together:
We will be faithful to the public worship of God, gathering with the family of the Church to celebrate his glory and remember his grace.
We will take seriously the responsibility and privilege of personal Christian growth, diligently seeking to establish and maintain a Christian atmosphere in our homes."

***The Hymn of Vision, No. 517** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*
Chalice Hymnal BEECHER

The Commissioning 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. Write out your thoughts in response to this question: 'What does spirituality mean to you?'

2. How are you fulfilling these St. John's Church Covenant commitments? We will be faithful to the public worship of God, gathering with the family of the Church to celebrate his glory and remember his grace. We will take seriously the responsibility and privilege of personal Christian growth, diligently seeking to establish and maintain a Christian atmosphere in our homes.

3. Reflect on this verse of scripture from Philippians 3:10 - "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,..."

4. Marjorie Thompson, in Soul Feast, suggests two basic truths that help us engage in self-examination, so it contributes to our spiritual growth: (1) God loves you and is always offering you opportunities to experience the blessed life. (2) You are like every other human in that you are broken by sin, imperfect, and limited in your capacity to accomplish everything you can imagine. Each day, invest two minutes to embrace God's love of you and two minutes to confess your sins and ask God for power and courage to become more like Christ.

5. How do you understand connections between inward spiritual growth and outward expressions of faith? How is your life been enriched when you experience these connections?

6. Psalm 63:1-4 - O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

7. We hear much today about, "spiritual but not religious," "declining church," "moralistic therapeutic deism," "the secular age," and "the Nones." What do you think might happen if we changed our emphasis to focus on practices such as prayer, spiritual growth, renewal, and embodying the worship and ministry life of Jesus?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On the Way - Outings for St. John's Retirees & Friends

Our October outing will be a day trip to Mt. Airy on Thursday, October 12. We will meet at the church at 9:00am and then leave at 9:15am. We will have an early 11:00am lunch at Shelton Vineyards and go from there to downtown Mt. Airy. We should return home by 6:00 pm that evening. The cost is \$30 for transportation and admission into the Andy Griffith museum. Please let Lee Gray LGray@sjcharlotte.org know if you would like to attend by Monday, October 9.

Children 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.

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

We're headed to The Hunter Farm in Weddington on October 14 for seasonal festivities amongst pumpkins and baby goats and more! Register by October 7 (TODAY!) by clicking here. The cost is \$11 per person; children 2 and under are free. **Final payment is due by October 7.**

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.

If anyone needs financial assistance to attend the Retreat send an email to financeadmin@sjcharlotte.org. This request will be completely confidential.

Questions? Contact Kim Allen (704) 614-2770 or email kallen1994@aol.com

St. John's Baptist Church

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Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: October 15, 2023
Scripture: Philippians 4:1-9
Message Title: 'Beyond Separation to Synergy'
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Oct. 8	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. 9	8:00 am 11:30 am	Weekday School (WDS Area) Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
Tues., Oct. 10	8:00 am 10:30 am 10:45 am	Weekday School (WDS Area) Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room) Immigrant & Refugee Ministry Group (Room 204)
Wed., Oct. 11	8:00 am 10:00 am 5:30 pm 7:15 pm	Weekday School (WDS Area) Charlotte Family Housing Meeting (Room 305) Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room) Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thurs., Oct. 12	8:00am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Weekday School (WDS Area) Needle Ministry (Lounge) Thursdays on the Town (Offsite)
Friday, Oct. 13	8:00 am 8:00 pm	Weekday School (WDS Area) Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Oct. 14	6:30 am 10:00 am 8:00 pm	Benton Basketball (Gym) Fall Fun Day at The Hunter Farm (Offsite) 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



St. John's

BAPTIST

A SERVANT CHURCH

Sunday, October 8, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church Charlotte, North Carolina