

# Welcome to the Worship of God

*Please silence all electronic devices.*

*\*Invites the congregation to stand*

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

A Season of Spiritual Renewal

*Renewing Our Commitments to be Stewards of Our Faith in Jesus Christ*

**The Gathering Music** J. Noel Lance, Organist

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

**Passing of the Peace** Congregation  
*“The peace of Christ be with you. And also, with you.”*

**The Call to Worship** Rev. Blackwell

ONE: Expressing our freedom to worship God, we gather in this sacred space.

**ALL: We are united in the faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, revealed in history, disclosed in the Scriptures, and experienced in human life.**

ONE: We bring our doubts and our beliefs to touch God's resurrection life.

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

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship** J. Noel Lance

Entrance of the Christ Candle: **Hannah Harmon**

**The Prayer of Submission** Rev. Blackwell

**\*The Hymn of Praise, No. 272** *The Church's One Foundation*  
Chalice Hymnal AURELIA

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

**The Reading of Scripture** Karen Moegerle  
Gospel of John 20:24-31 (The Message)

“Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with the other disciples when Jesus came to them on the evening of the resurrection. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.” But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.” Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” Then Jesus focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and place it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.” Thomas said, “My Master! My God!” Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.” Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.”

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** J. Noel Lance

**The Church at Prayer** Rev. Lee Gray

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

Sympathy to Lydia Olmsted, SJBC Weekday School Director, and her family for the passing of her Mother-in-Law Elaine Olmsted, who passed on ahead of us on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**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. 601** *I Am Thine, O Lord*  
Chalice Hymnal I AM THINE

**The Offertory Prayer** Deacon, Jordan Benton

**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  
*Jubilate Deo* Richard Purvis

O be joyful, joyful in the Lord all ye lands! Serve the Lord with gladness. And come before His presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord, He is God. It is He that hath made us and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

O go your way into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Be thankful unto Him and speak good of His name. For the Lord is gracious, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!

**\*The Doxology** OLD HUNDRETH

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** ‘Living Your Best Life’ Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**Portion of 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.”*

**\*The Hymn of Vision, No. 612** *O Jesus, I Have Promised*  
Chalice Hymnal ANGEL'S STORY

**The Commissioning**

**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. Thomas had doubts about the resurrected Christ. However, once he saw the nail holes in Jesus' hands and placed his hand in the wound in Jesus' side, his doubts gave way to belief. Consider how you have been wounded in this life. How does society encourage you to hide your wounds? What might happen if you follow Christ in your discipleship by inviting others to explore your wounds and how your new life in Christ is bringing healing in your life?

2. PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

“God of truth and understanding, we pray today for those who are behind closed doors, trembling with fear, innocent victims hiding from unjust people with authority only because of their beliefs. We pray for those who are consumed by doubts because all they see is disappointment, devastation, and despair. We pray for those who miss out on the blessing of Your presence because they are not participating in the life of a spiritual community. We pray for those who will cross our paths and be encouraged by how You are healing our wounds as we live our best life. Amen.”

3. Reflect on this verse of scripture from The Gospel of John 20:30-31

“Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.”

4. In what ways does your belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God contribute to you living your best life?

## Covenant of St. John's Baptist Church

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.

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.

We will be faithful stewards, as God has prospered us, contributing our financial support for the Church and its ministries and offering ourselves for God's work in the world.

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.

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.

In the spirit of this Covenant, we pray together:

Almighty God, Father of us all, witness this Covenant which we make with each other and with Thee. Guide us as we try to do that which pleases Thee, to the glory of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Adopted March 22, 1922  
Revised June 10, 1973

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Children's Ministry Friendsgiving Picnic: Sunday, November 19

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. Please reach out to Haley at [hblackwell@sjcharlotte.org](mailto:hblackwell@sjcharlotte.org) or 704-333-5428 ex. 2013 if you are interested in helping! Below are the dates when help is needed: 11/12, 11/19, 12/10, 12/17

## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Join us for the 9th annual Seniors' Christmas Gathering on Dec. 7 in Broach Hall from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM. Your Pastoral Deacon will be contacting you before Thanksgiving. Watch the mail for your invitation and be sure to put this fun event on your calendar. *Sponsored by Women of the Church*

## Winter Drive for Church World Service

As you're digging into your closet to pull out a suitable coat when the cold weather decides to stay, are you finding gently used coats, sweaters, gloves, scarves, or hats? Church World Service is having a winter coat drive for the unaccompanied immigrant children they serve (ages 2-17). Adult sizes are a help, too, as some kids' sponsors express a need and teens can often wear adult sizes. You're welcome to drop any donations in the giving nook by the main entrance. We're collecting now through December 3.

## The Great ADVENTure: Sunday, December 3

Advent is our time of waiting. During Advent, we wait and we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent is our great ADVENTure! On Sunday, December 3, immediately following worship, children and their families are invited to experience the SJBC Great ADVENTure in Broach Hall.

Registration for The Great ADVENTure has opened. Sign up today! You'll receive your "passports" soon.

## WDAV Lessons & Carols LIVE from St. John's: Tuesday, December 5 at 7pm

Join us for the annual WDAV Lessons and Carols LIVE from the St. John's Sanctuary at 7pm on Tuesday, December 5. There will be a reception afterward with light refreshments. Admission is FREE and open to the public. We can't wait to see you!

## 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:** November 19, 2023  
**Scripture:** Gospel of John 17:1-5, 6-19, and 20-26  
**Message Title:** 'The Church that Prays Together'  
**Proclaimer:** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

## This Week at St. John's

Sun., Nov. 12	8:30 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm	Church Council (Conference Room) Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) Room in the Inn Meeting (Conference Room) Youth SNL
Mon., Nov. 13	10:00 am 11:30 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Adventures in Learning (Broach Hall) Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114) Administrative Deacon Panel (Conference Room) Ministries Deacon Panel (Room 204) Pastoral Deacon Panel (Lounge) ALL Deacon Meeting
Tues., Nov. 14	10:30 am 10:45 am	Staff Meeting & Planning (Conference Room) Immigrant & Refugee Ministry Group (Room 204)
Wed., Nov. 15	11:30 am 7:15 pm	Residential Partner Lunch! (Broach Hall) Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thurs., Nov. 16	10:00 am	WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room)
Friday, Nov. 17	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Nov. 18	6:30 am 10:00 am 8:00 pm	Benton Basketball (Gym) CFH Jubilee (Broach Hall) 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



**Sunday, November 12, 2023**

**10:30 AM Worship**

**St. John's Baptist Church**

**Charlotte, North Carolina**