

Welcome to the Worship of God

Please silence all electronic devices.
**Invites the congregation to stand*

A Season of Spiritual Renewal

The Gathering Music	J. Noel Lance
Words of Greeting	Rev. Haley Blackwell
Passing of the Peace	Congregation
Thanksgiving Call to Worship	Alexander Aguilera

ONE: Give thanks.
ALL: We give thanks for the harvest.
ONE: Give thanks.
ALL: We give thanks for the blessings of family and friends.
ONE: Give thanks.
ALL: We give thanks for the blessings of our faith.
ONE: for the steadfast love of our Father in Heaven,
for the faithfulness of the son Jesus Christ,
and the renewing of the Holy Spirit who can make us One people.

ALL: Give thanks.

Prayer of Submission	Rev. Blackwell
*Hymn of Praise No. 718 Chalice Hymnal	<i>Come Ye Thankful People</i> ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

Entrance of the Christ Candle: **Kayleigh Mac Whipple**

The Church at Prayer	Rev. Kheresa Harmon
Micah Belong, Nancy Burgess, Jack Crymes, Jan Kerley, Johnnie Morcock, Cindy Osborne, Arnold Philemon, Mary Rickenbaker, Annie Sam, 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 Reading of Scripture

Luke 15:11-24 Kevin Benton

Then Jesus said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So, he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So, he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.



Luke 15:25-32 Ken Benton

‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”’

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.

***Hymn of Assurance No. 565**
Chalice Hymnal

If You Will Trust in God to Guide You
WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

Sermon Rev. Lee Gray
‘What Story Do You Tell Yourself?’

***Hymn of Commitment No. 480**
Chalice Hymnal

I Love to Tell the Story
HANKEY

Offertory Prayer Whitney Crowder

Choral Anthem Chancel Choir
I Will Arise arr. Susan Byler

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in in His arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, oh, there are ten thousand charms.
Come ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.
Come ye thirsty, come and welcome God’s free bounty, glorify.
True belief and true repentance, every gift that brings you nigh.

***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

Benediction Rev. Gray

Postlude J. Noel Lance

2023 Financial Update

2023 Full Year Budget	\$	1,153,000
Income received thru November 20	\$	972,436

Note: Please direct any stock donation inquiries by December 10 to:
FinanceAdmin@sjcharlotte.org or 704-333-5428; ext 2021

2024 Draft Budget

2024 Draft Budget Goal	\$	1,211,000
2024 Pledges Goal	\$	900,000
123 Pledge Commitments received to date	\$	781,880

NOTICE: The Neighbors and Friends Christmas Mailboxes are now set up in the Main Entrance Lobby. If you need cards to send, they will be available on the table near the mailboxes. Please be careful to put cards in the appropriate box.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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***

Join St. John's Young Adults for a Brewery Night Christmas Market!

Where? Olde Mecklenburg Brewery
When? Friday, December 1 from 6pm-8pm (Christmas Market closes at 7pm)

Contact Haley (620-515-3558) with questions.

Holly Jolly Parents' Night Out

It's a jolly time of year, and SJBC wants to make it even more jolly for parents and kids! Parents, drop your kids off at church at 6:00pm on December 15 for a jolly evening of slime-making, game-playing, cookie-decorating, and movie-watching! Childcare for babies - two years of age will be provided by Mon Aye and Rosa Matos, WDS teachers. They will be accompanied by SJBC youth. SJBC youth, Haley, and Kheresa will be having a jolly time with children 3 years of age through 5th grade. The cost of the event is \$10 per child, which will help cover the costs associated with dinner, snacks, and supplies. The merriment concludes at 9:00pm. Register on Realm.

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!

Youth Delivering Poinsettias to Neighbors: December 3 after Worship

The youth will deliver poinsettias to our neighbors on Sunday, December 3 after worship. Please RSVP in Band or text Haley if your youth will be attending.

DRIVERS ARE NEEDED! Please let Haley know if you would be willing to drive. Lee will be contacting deacons to drive as well but we need to get numbers so we can make sure we have enough cars. This is always such a wonderful time for our youth and members who cannot get out as much as they used to. We hope to see you December 3!

St. John's Baptist Church

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

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: December 3, 2023, HANGING OF THE GREEN
Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; & Mark 13:24-37
Message Title: 'Living Between Belief and Experience'
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Nov. 26	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person) Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Nov. 27	11:30 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
Tues., Nov. 28	10:30 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Staff Meeting & Planning (Conference Room) NAMI Family Support Group (114) NAMI Peer Support Group (104)
Wed., Nov. 29	5:30 pm 7:15 pm	Mission Resource Team (Room 204) Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thurs., Nov. 30		
Friday, Dec. 1	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Dec. 2	6:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm 1:15 pm 2:15 pm 3:15 pm 8:00 pm	Benton Basketball (Gym) 6 & Under Co-Ed (Gym) 8 & Under Boys (Gym) 18 & Under Girls @ Mt. Harmony 8 & Under Girls (Gym) 10 & Under Boys (Gym) 10 & Under Girls 1 (Gym) 10 & Under Girls 2 (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



Sunday, November 26, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina