

Welcome to the Worship of God

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Please turn off all electronic devices

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

The Gathering Music

J. Noel Lance, Organist

The Words of Greeting  
& Announcements of Church Life

Rev. Haley Blackwell

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Natalie Turner, Piano  
'O Little Town of Bethlehem'

Call to Worship

Rev. Blackwell

ONE: You are here today, at least partially, because you are experiencing glimpses of the peace of God.  
ALL: God’s peace bestows light upon our path.  
ONE: As you open your life to God’s peace, you become more confident that God is already at work in you.  
ALL: Let us worship the God who brings peace in the world by nurturing peace within us. Amen!

The Advent Wreath and Candles

Leslie, John, and Phillips Bragg  
Kathy and Frank Bragg

One Candle is Lit (Advent Wreath Musical Prayer)

Cradle Song

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.

\*Hymn of Advent, No. 142

The Chalice Hymnal

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST’  
BESANCON

Moments with the Younger Church

Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Reading of the Prophet

Dr. Raleigh Godsey

Isaiah 40:1-5

“Comfort, O comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

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.

Musical Reflections

Handbell Choir

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST’  
Arranged by Jason Krug

Reading of the Gospel

Amanda Morrison

Gospel of Mark 1:1-8

“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 Advent, No. 165

The Chalice Hymnal

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY’  
IRBY

Preparation for Prayer

Handbell Choir

THE FIRST NOEL’  
Arranged by Kevin McChesney

The Church at Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray

Ted Bywater, Jack Crymes, Cindy Osborne, Mary Rickenbaker, Annie Sam, Jane Starnes, Jerry Stephens

We express sympathy to the family of Marian Charles, who passed on ahead of us on December 4<sup>th</sup>.  
The Lord’s Prayer  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as 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 Offertory Prayer

Kimberly Follis

The Presentation of Tithes Plus Offerings

Deaconate and Congregation

The Chancel Choir Anthem

Directed by Dr. Lillian Quackenbush

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

Arranged by Andre Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.  
Children don’t get weary, the time is drawing nigh.  
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing 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

The Homily

‘IS THERE AN EXPRESS LANE TO REACH GOD’S PEACE?’  
Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

\*Hymn of Advent, No. 12

The Chalice Hymnal

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O MIGHTY GATES’  
TRURO

The Church Conference

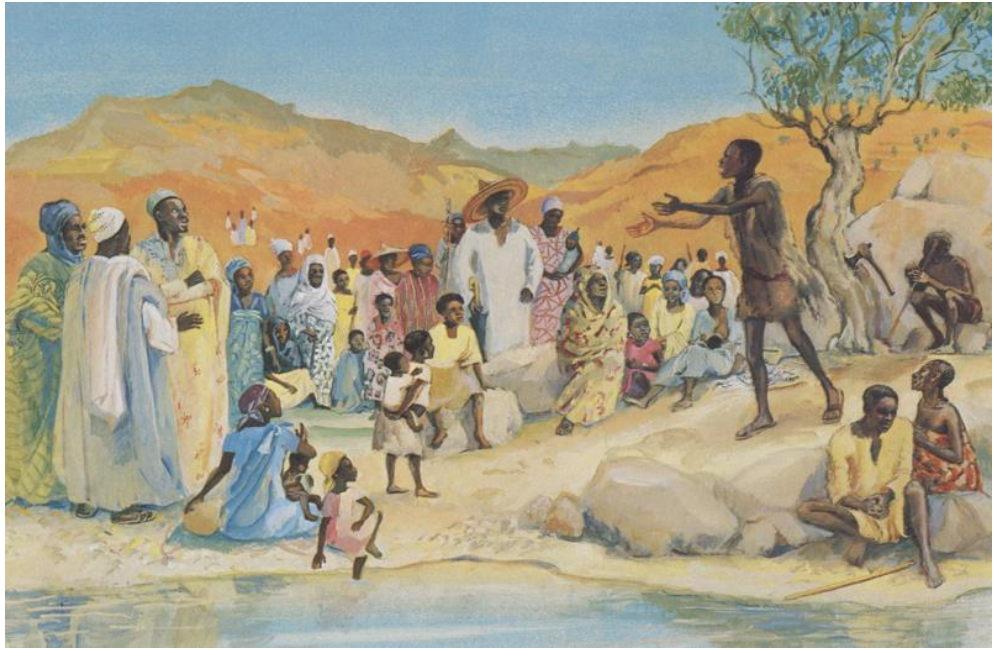
Russell Norris, Chair of Deaconate

The Commissioning

Dr. Foust

The Postlude

J. Noel Lance



Title: John the Baptist preaching in the desert  
Artist: JESUS MAFA

Daily Readings & Prayer Focus List

Monday, December 11, 2023: Psalm 123

Kevin Lynch and Hope Chapel Ministry

Tuesday, December 12, 2023: Psalm 126

NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Wednesday, December 13, 2023: Isaiah 61:1-4

Heart Math Tutoring

Thursday, December 14, 2023: Isaiah 61:8-11

Youth Ministries of St. John’s

Friday, December 15, 2023: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

Roof Above

Saturday, December 16, 2023: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-23

Our Bridge for Kids

Sunday, December 17, 2023 – 3rd Sunday of Advent: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Lee Gray



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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. 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.

## From the Heritage Room: Christmas Traditions

If you did not donate a Nativity-themed ornament last year, please plan to donate one this year. Even if you or your family donated one last year, if you wish to donate another, please do so. The ornament should be related to the Christmas Story and be identified with your name(s) and the year 2023 on the ornament in some way. You may put your ornaments in a basket to be located beside the tree or give them to Fredda, Linda, or Amanda.

## Room in the Inn 2023-24

St. John's will serve as a RITI host church for up to 8 homeless men on the following seven Friday nights this season: 12/22/23, 1/12/24, 1/26/24, 2/9/24, 2/23/24, 3/8/24, 3/22/24



To sign up, scan the QR code here. For more information or to sign up manually, please contact Dale Johnson at 704-454-8931, Alice Wirz at 704-222-6208, or Maggie and RD Bond at 704-399-5363.

## St. John's Youth Christmas Party: Sunday, December 17 at 5pm

All youth are invited to a fun time together at our SJBC Youth Christmas Party on Sunday, December 17 at 5pm! We will enjoy dinner together, have a cookie decorating contest, play Christmas themed games, and have a gift exchange. Haley also needs a couple of parents/volunteers to help set up dinner. Please RSVP on Band or text Haley so she knows how much food to order.

## Neighbors and Friends Christmas Mailbox

The St. John's Neighbors & Friends Christmas Mailbox is up inside the main entrance. Free blank cards are available for pickup there or you can purchase your own. Please return all cards to the mailbox by Sunday, December 17 at 10:30am. Please write the recipient's name on the outside of the envelope. A list of Neighbors and Friends for Christmas Cards can be found in this week's Family News.

## Children's Sunday School on December 24 & 31

Sunday school for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and older children will not meet on Sunday, December 24 or Sunday, December 31. Worship care for infants and toddlers will be provided on Sunday, December 24 and Sunday, December 31. Our preschoolers will join their families in worship on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Sunday school will resume as scheduled in 2024.

## 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:** December 17, 2023: JOY

**Scripture:** Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; & John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Message Title:** 'Look, A Light!'

**Proclaimer:** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

## This Week at St. John's

Sun., Dec. 10	8:30 am	Church Council (Conference Room)
	9:15 am	Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Dec. 11	11:30 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
Tues., Dec. 12	10:30 am	Staff Meeting & Planning (Conference Room)
Wed., Dec. 13	7:15 pm	Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thurs., Dec. 14	10:00 am	Needle Ministry (Lounge)
Friday, Dec. 15	6:30 am	Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge)
	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
	6:00 pm	Parents' Night Out (Gym)
Sat., Dec. 16	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	10:00 am	8 & Under Boys (Gym)
	11:00 am	8 & Under Girls (Gym)
	12:00 pm	6 & Under Co-Ed (Gym)
	12: 45 pm	18 & Under Girls @ Mt. Harmony
	1:15 pm	10 & Under Boys (Gym)
	1:45 pm	12 & Under Boys @ Mt. Harmony
	3:15 pm	10 & Under Girls 1 (Gym)
	8:00 pm	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
Handbell Director.....	Jacquelyn McAbee
Custodian.....	Chris Mullis
Church Administrator.....	Amanda Morrison
Weekday School Director.....	Lydia Olmsted



## Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina