

Welcome to the Worship of God		
Second Sunday of Advent		
<i>Please turn off all electronic devices</i>		
December 17, 2023		<i>Ten-Thirty in the Morning</i>
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THE GATHERING MUSIC	J. Noel Lance, Organist	
PREPARING OURSELVES TO SEE THE FACE OF GOD’S LIGHT		
<i>Grand Fantasia on “Joy to the World”</i>		arr. Marc Cheban
THE WORDS OF GREETING	Eric McCombs, Deacon	
& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE		
EXPRESSING JOY THROUGH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP		Todd Stillerman
Chair of Financial Stewardship Resource Team		
THE ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES	Natalie, James, Annie and Durning Moore	
LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY	Lynn and David Erdman	
ONE CANDLE IS LIT (ADVENT WREATH MUSICAL PRAYER)		CRADLE SONG
Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth, Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth. Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise. One candle is lit for the joy of these days.		
REFLECTING ON THE LIGHT		
<i>Mary Did You Know</i>		arr. Russell Ronnebaum James Churchill, cello
A LITANY OF JOY	Bert Green, Cole Turner, & Congregation	
BERT: God of heaven and earth, you sent your angels as messengers to your servants, bringing news of comfort and joy, of your plan to heal a world gone astray...		
ALL: ...Bringing news of Emmanuel, God-With-Us.		
COLE: To Mary, you sent a message of your favor. You chose her to carry and give birth to Jesus, the Son of the Most High.		
ALL: My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. From now on all generations will call me blessed.		
BERT: To Joseph the angel gave assurance that Mary’s son was from God, and should be named Jesus...		
ALL: ...Because he would save us from our sins.		
COLE: To shepherds among their flocks, angels brought good news of great joy that will be for all people.		
ALL: A Savior has been born to us; he is the Messiah, the Lord.		
BERT: To Kings from the east, a star rose signifying the birth of Jesus. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed, and they followed its arc to the Christ Child. After bowing down and worshipping the Christ Child, they offered costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.		
ALL: We worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and lay all our treasures at His feet.		
COLE: Living God, you have brought us joy through Your Son, the Messiah.		
ALL: A Savior who is Christ the King.		(source, Fran Pratt)
*ADVENT HYMN, #125		COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS
THE CHALICE HYMNAL		HYFRYDOL
HEARING THE STORY	LUKE 1:1-3	Rev. Kheresa Harmon

OPENING OUR MINDS	CHANCEL CHOIR	
<i>O COME, EMMANUEL</i>	Elaine Hagenberg	
	O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.	
	<i>Refrain:</i> Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.	
	O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here. And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light. <i>Refrain</i>	
	O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease, and fill the world with Heaven’s peace. <i>Refrain</i>	
HEARING THE STORY	LUKE 1:26-33	Rev. Lee Gray
PREPARING OUR HEARTS	CHANCEL CHOIR	
<i>LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING</i>	Michael Praetorius	
	Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as all of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.	
	Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To shew God’s love aright, she bore to us a Saviour, when half-spent was the night.	
HEARING THE STORY	LUKE 2:1-7	Rev. Haley Blackwell
SILENCING OUR FEARS	CHANCEL CHOIR	
<i>NIGHT OF SILENCE</i>	Arr. John Ferguson	
	Chancel Choir and Children; Jane Lineberger, piano; Chloe Hall, flute	
	Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night. Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise. Fire of hope is our only warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon.	
	Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light. Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing. Breathless love awaits darkened souls, soon will we know of the morning.	
	Spirit among us, shine like the star, your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar. Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of your Son’s love. Star unknowing of night and day, Spirit we wait for your loving Son.	
	Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, ‘round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant, so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace.	
	(THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO JOIN THE CHOIRS ON THE REPEATED REFRAIN)	
HEARING THE STORY	LUKE 2:8-12	Rev. Harmon
STIRRING OUR MEMORIES	CHANCEL CHOIR	
<i>SWEET WAS THE SONG</i>	Jay Althouse	
	Aidan Salmeron, clarinet	
	Sweet was the song the virgin sang when she to Bethlehem came. Mary delivered of a Son, and Jesus was His name. Sweet was the babe who on that night lay in a manger stall. How could we know this tiny child was born to save us all? Lullaby, lullaby.	
HEARING THE STORY	LUKE 2:13-14	Rev. Gray
SPECIAL THANKS to all those whose gifts have enriched our worship today including: The Chancel Choir; the Children’s Choir; James Churchill, guest cello; Chloe Hall, flute; Aidan Salmeron, clarinet; Jane Lineberger, piano; J. Noel Lance, organ; Eric McCombs; Bert Green; Cole Turner; the Ministry Staff; and Dr. Lillian Quackenbush, Interim Director of Worship and Music.		

DISCOVERING THE GIFT	CHANCEL CHOIR	
<i>BEFORE THE MARVEL OF THIS NIGHT</i>	Carl Schalk	
	Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow. Then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow. Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace; that fear and death and sorrow cease: Sing peace, sing gift of peace!	
	Awake the sleeping world with song. This is the day the Lord has made. Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed. Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss: Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!	
	The love that we have always known, our joy and endless light, now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night. Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above. Sing love, sing God is love!	
HEARING THE STORY	LUKE 2: 15-20	Rev. Blackwell
FINDING THE JOY	CHANCEL CHOIR	
<i>SING WE NOEL</i>	Noel Goemanne	
	Sing we noel! Christ was born for us today; love and peace be here to stay. Now we raise to heaven our voice, sing we now, rejoice, rejoice! Mary now filled with heavenly joy: “Emmanuel” she named the boy. Heaven is near, “O do not fear,” the angel said, “The Christ is here!” Heaven came to earth. He saved us by His birth. O mighty Child, O king of kings, the universe in praise now sings, noel!	
PRAYERS OF A JOYFUL PEOPLE	Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD	
	Kelly Belcher, Jack Crymes, Mary Rickenbaker, Annie Sam, Helen Solitario, Jane Starnes, Jerry Stephens	
	We express sympathy to the family of Ted Bywater, who passed on ahead of us on December 15h.	
GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS	Deacons and Congregation	
OFFERTORY ANTHEM	CHANCEL CHOIR	
<i>THE DANCE OF GIFTS</i>	Lloyd Pfautsch	
	James Churchill, Aidan Salmeron, Chloe Hall	
	What shall I bring to the Babe in the manger? What shall I give to the beautiful Boy? I will bring grapes to Him, hanging in clusters, baskets of figs for the Child to enjoy. Tam-pa-tan-tan, when the figs have ripened they will add to His joy.	
	What shall I bring to the babe in the manger? What shall I give to the beautiful Boy? I will bring flowers to twine in His fingers, cherries so big for the child to enjoy. Tam-pa-tan-tan, when the cherries have ripened they will add to His joy.	
*PRESENTING OUR GIFTS		
	O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.	
*HYMN OF CELEBRATION, No. 150	HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING	
THE CHALICE HYMNAL	MENDELSSOHN	
COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH FOR MINISTRY IN DAILY LIFE	Dr. Foust	
THE POSTLUDE	J. Noel Lance, Organist	
<i>Come, O Long-Expected Jesus</i>	arr. Carolyn Hamlin	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: TODAY 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! 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 **TODAY** Sunday, December 17 at 10:30am. Please write the recipient's name on the outside of the envelope.

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.

2023 Financial Update

2023 Full Year Budget	\$	1,153,000
Income received thru December 13	\$	1,025,250
Through November 2023		
Budgeted Income	\$	1,056,917
Actual Income received	\$	994,086
Income over(under) budget	\$	(62,831)
Actual Expenses paid	\$	1,007,275
Income/Expense Surplus (Deficit)	\$	(13,189)

Note: Please direct any stock donation inquiries by December 10 to:

FinanceAdmin@sjcharlotte.org or 704-333-5428; ext 2020

2024 Draft Budget

2024 Draft Budget Goal	\$	1,211,000
2024 Pledges Goal	\$	900,000
136 Pledge Commitments received to date	\$	857,581

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 24, 2023: LOVE

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Message Title: 'Being Hugged to Life'

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Dec. 17	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 Christmas Party
Mon., Dec. 18	11:30 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
Tues., Dec. 19	8:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Finance Resource Team (Zoom) Sandwich Ministry (Lounge) Staff Meeting & Planning (Conference Room)
Wed., Dec. 20	7:15 pm	Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thurs., Dec. 21	10:00 am	WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room)
Friday, Dec. 22	6:30 am 4:00 pm 8:00 pm	Brotherhood of the Biscuit (Lounge) Room In the Inn (Gym) Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Dec. 23	6:30 am 8:00 pm	Benton Basketball (Gym) Together We Rise NA (Lasater Hall)
Sun., Dec. 24	10:30 am 10:30 am 5:00 pm	No Sunday School Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Candles, Carols, and Communion (Sanctuary)

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

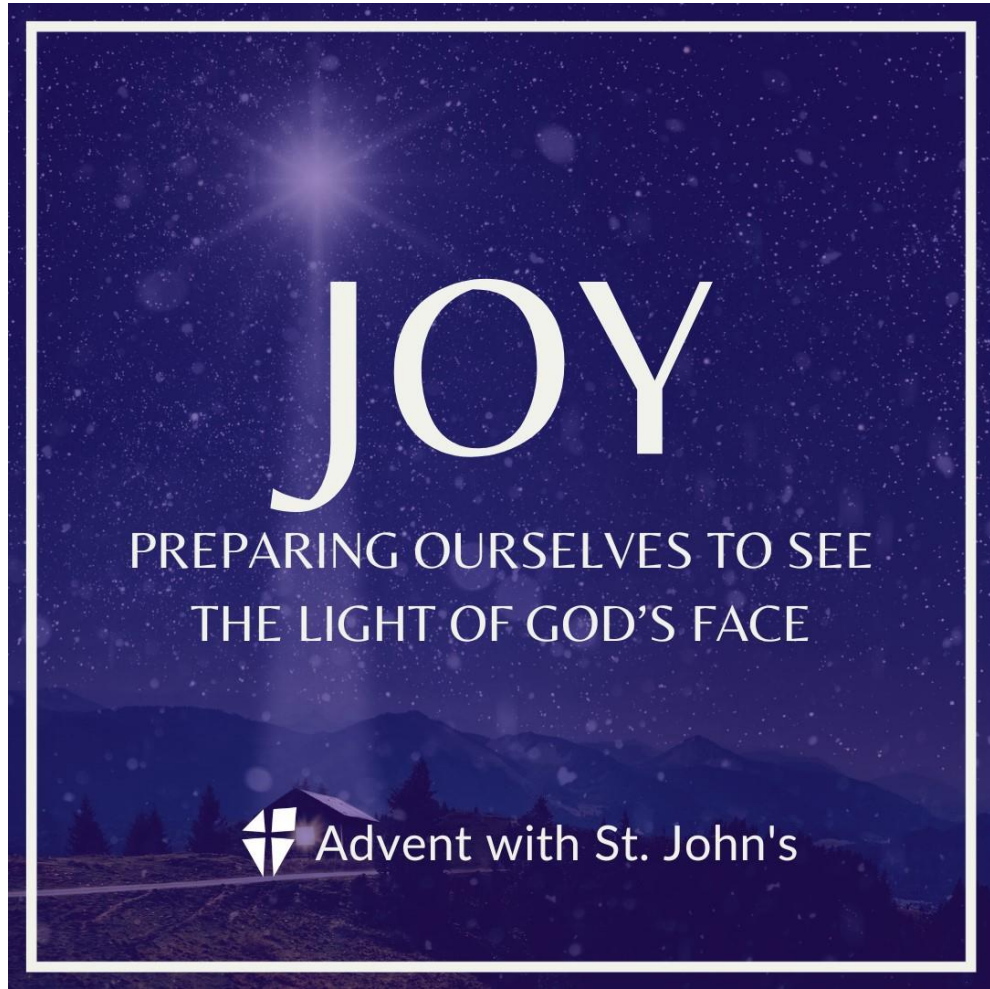
Every participant in God's Servant Church

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 Worship & MusicDr. 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
Handbell Director.....Jacquelyn McAbee
Custodian..... Chris Mullis
Church Administrator..... Amanda Morrison
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted



Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina