

Welcome to the Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Please turn off all electronic devices

December 24, 2023

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

THE GATHERING MUSIC

J. Noel Lance, Organist

THE WORDS OF GREETING
& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

Rev. Kheresa Harmon

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

J. Noel Lance

THE ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

Margaret and Tommy Almond

ONE CANDLE IS LIT (ADVENT WREATH MUSICAL PRAYER)

CRADLE SONG

Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,
Where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
A babe in a manger to fool the world’s eyes.
One candle is lit for God’s loving surprise.

*HYMN OF ADVENT, NO. 155

‘ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH’
THE CHALICE HYMNAL

GLORIA

READING OF THE PSALMIST

Dr. Lillian Quackenbush

Psalm 89:1-4

“I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; our faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to my servant David: ‘I will establish your descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.’”

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. 151

‘THE FIRST NOEL’
THE CHALICE HYMNAL

THE FIRST NOEL



READING OF THE GOSPEL

Gospel of Luke 1:26-38

“In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.”

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 CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. Lee Gray

Kelly Belcher, Jack Crymes, Mary Rickenbaker,
Annie Sam, Jane Starnes, Jerry Stephens

We express sympathy to the family of Laura and Paul Solitario as his mother, Helen Solitario, passed on ahead of us on December 17th.

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 PRESENTATION OF TITHES PLUS OFFERINGS

Deaconate and Congregation

THE CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

Directed by Dr. Lillian Quackenbush
Lo, How A Rose E’ER BLOOMING

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 Savior, when half-spent was the night.

*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

‘BEING HUGGED TO LIFE’

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

*HYMN OF ADVENT, NO. 147

‘AWAY IN A MANGER’
THE CHALICE HYMNAL

AWAY IN A MANGER

THE COMMISSIONING

Dr. Foust

THE POSTLUDE

J. Noel Lance



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.



Children's Sunday School on December 31

Sunday school for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and older children will not meet on Sunday, December 31. Worship care for infants and toddlers will be provided on Sunday, December 31. Our preschoolers will join their families in worship on 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 18	\$	1,053,038
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
138 Pledge Commitments received to date	\$	875,901

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 31, 2023, New Year's Eve
Scripture: Luke 2:22-40 and Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Message Title: 'For Such a Time as This'
Proclaimer: Rev. Kheresa Harmon

This Week at St. John's

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)
Mon., Dec. 25	ALL DAY	MERRY CHRISTMAS! (Church Offices Closed)
Tues., Dec. 26	ALL DAY	Church Offices Closed!
Wed., Dec. 27	ALL DAY	Church Offices Closed!
Thurs., Dec. 28	10:00 am	WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room)
Friday, Dec. 29	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Dec. 30	6:30 am 8:00 pm	Benton Basketball (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 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
Custodian..... Chris Mullis
Church Administrator..... Amanda Morrison
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina