

Welcome to the Worship of God

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Please turn off all electronic devices

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

The Gathering Music

Dr. Matthew Manwarren

The Words of Greeting
& Announcements of Church Life

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

A Word About Advent and Today’s Worship

Dr. Foust

Advent Theme: Preparing Ourselves to See the Light of God’s Face

*Hymn of Advent, No. 119

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Chalice Hymnal

Veni Emmanuel

Call to Worship

Dr. Foust

ONE: I cannot describe for you how The Light comes. The Light is more ancient than human imagining.

ALL: The Light travels across an astounding expanse to reach us.

ONE: The Light loves to search out what is hidden, lost, forgotten, afraid, in peril, or in pain. The Light is fond of arcing in creative ways finding a path to reach flesh, shining forth through the human eye, the human hand, and the human heart to dispel darkness and spread love.

ALL: The Light works its way into the deepest darkness to transform sadness and sorrow.

ONE: The Light may take a long time to reach you and arrive in a shape you did not expect.

ALL: Yet, The Light has reached us and invites us to turn our faces toward its hope. Let it be so!

The Advent Wreath and Candles

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Brendan & Devon with Parker Dlugosz and Sandi Dlugosz-Loder



One Candle is Lit (Advent Wreath Musical Prayer)

Cradle Song

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to meet you, as roses the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

The Greenery

Kenna and Hutch Benton

*Carol

The Holly and the Ivy

Traditional English Carol

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

[Refrain]
O, the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom, as white as lily flower
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our dear Savior.



The Reading of the Prophet

Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Isaiah 64:1-9 (International Children’s Bible)

Tear open the skies and come down to earth. The mountains would tremble before you. Be like a fire that burns twigs. Be like a fire that makes water boil. Do this so that your enemies will know who you are. Then all nations will shake with fear when they see you. You have done amazing things that we did not expect. You came down, and the mountains trembled before you. From long ago no one has ever heard of a God like you. No one has ever seen a God besides you. You help the people who trust you. You help those who enjoy doing good. You help those who remember how you want them to live. But you were angry because we sinned. For a long time we disobeyed. How will we be saved? All of us are dirty with sin. All the right things we have done are like filthy pieces of cloth. All of us are like dead leaves. Like the wind our sins have carried us away. No one worships you. No one even asks you to help us. So you have turned away from us. And we are destroyed because of our sins. But Lord, you are our father. We are like clay, and you are the potter. Your hands made us all. Lord, don’t continue to be angry with us. Don’t remember our sins forever. Please, look at us because we are your people.

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 Moments for Meditation

Dr. Manwarren

The Church at Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray

Micah Belong, Nancy Burgess, Ted Bywater, Jack Crymes, Jan Kerley, Johnnie Morcock,
Cindy Osborne, Mary Rickenbaker, Annie Sam, Jane Starnes, Jerry Stephens

We express sympathy to Ken, Melissa, Emily, and Allen Millette
as Ken’s brother, Sam Millette, Jr. of Pascagoula, MS passed on ahead of us on
November 21st.

We express sympathy to Autumn, Garth, Lilly Marie, Sophie Ann, and Wyatt Sweet
as Autumn’s father, G.W. Lewis of White Sulphur Springs, WV, passed on ahead of us on
November 22nd.

We express sympathy to Kim, Robby, and Miller Ray
as Kim’s father, The Rev. Dr. Jack Causey of Statesville, NC, passed on ahead of us on
November 28th.

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 Chrismon Trees

Suzanne Taylor

*Carol

O Chrismon Tree

Traditional German Carol

O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging;
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
thy leaves are so unchanging;
not only green when summer's here,
but also when 'tis cold and drear.
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
thy leaves are so unchanging!



The Crèche

Rev. Haley Blackwell



*Carol, No. 162

What Child Is This?

The Chalice Hymnal

Greensleeves

The Offertory Prayer

Anna Cushman

The Presentation of Tithes Plus Offerings

Deaconate and Congregation

The Chancel Choir Anthem

Directed by Dr. Lillian Quackenbush

E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Composed by Paul & Ruth Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins; who loved us all and shed His blood, that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to the Lord, the Lord almighty God, who was and is and is to come, sing holy, holy Lord. Rejoice and in heaven all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth ye saints below, for Christ is coming, is coming soon. E’en so Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more. They need no light, nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all.

*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 Message

Dr. Foust

‘Living Between Belief and Experience’

*Carol, No. 142 (Verse 1)

People, Look East

The Chalice Hymnal

Besancon

The Commissioning

Dr. Foust

The Postlude

Dr. Manwarren

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. See you this coming Thursday! ***Sponsored by Women of the Church***

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.

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 THIS COMING 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!

Backpack Ministry for Highland Renaissance Academy

We need your help packing backpacks for the 4th week of each month for the backpack food ministry for Highland Renaissance Academy at-risk students. It takes about 40 minutes one day each month during the school year. Packing can be done Friday evening through Wednesday afternoon. Two people can volunteer together if they'd like. *If you are interested in helping, please let Jamie Loftis know at jamieloftis@gmail.com or 704.904.1951.*

Room in the Inn 2023-24

St. John's will serve as a host church on seven winter Friday nights through the Room in the Inn program sponsored by Roof Above. 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

We still need volunteer help to serve as overnight hosts, setup crew helpers, bagged lunch providers, van drivers, and laundry assistants. *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.*

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 10, 2023: PEACE

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15; & Mark 1:1-8

Message Title: 'Is There an Express Lane to Reach God's Peace?'

Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Dec. 3	9:15 am	Sunday School/ Learning Groups (Virtual/ in-person)
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	11:30 am 11:30 am	The Great ADVENTure (Broach Hall & Gym) Youth Poinsettia Delivery (Offsite)
Mon., Dec. 4	11:30 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Room 114)
Tues., Dec. 5	10:30 am	Staff Meeting & Planning (Conference Room)
	7:00 pm	WDAV Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)
	8:30 pm	WDAV Reception (Lasater Hall)
Wed., Dec. 6	5:30 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
	7:15 pm	Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thurs., Dec. 7	12:00 pm	Senior's Christmas Lunch (Broach Hall)
Friday, Dec. 8	5:00 pm	Communities In Schools: Holiday Literacy (Broach Hall)
	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Dec. 9	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 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



Hanging of the Green

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 3, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina