

Welcome to the Worship of God

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

The Gathering Music J. Noel Lance

Words of Greeting & Gathering Rev. Lee Gray

*Hymn #149 Angels from the Realms of Glory
Chalice Hymnal REGENT SQUARE

Call to Worship Rev. Gray

One: There is a right time for everything.

All: Everything on earth has its special season.

One: There is a time to be born and a time to die.

All: There is a time to plant and a time to pull up plants.

One: There is a time to kill and a time to heal.

All: There is a time to destroy and a time to build.

One: There is a time to cry and a time to laugh.

All: There is a time to be sad and a time to dance.

One: There is a time to throw away stones and a time to gather them.

All: There is a time to hug and a time not to hug.

One: There is a time to look for something and a time to stop looking for it.

All: There is a time to keep things and a time to throw things away.

One: There is a time to tear apart and a time to sew together.

All: There is a time to be silent and a time to speak.

One: There is a time to love and a time to hate.

All: There is a time for war and a time for peace.

One: This is the hard work God has given us to do.

All: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.
*Hymn #164 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Chalice Hymnal IN DULCI JUBILO

Offertory Prayer Paul Huffman

Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir
The Dance of Gifts Lloyd Pfautsch

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

Gospel Reading Paul Huffman
Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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.

Church at Prayer Rev. Gray

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

We express our sympathies to Steve and Pauline Carter. Steve’s mother Martha Ann Carter passed on ahead of us on December 23rd. A memorial service for Martha will take place on January 6th in Spartanburg, SC.

Solo
Dr. Lillian Quackenbush

Homily
“For Such a Time as This.”

*Hymn #167
Chalice Hymnal

Benediction Rev. Harmon



Presentation in the Temple
1963

Artist: Saget, Father George

Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Robert MacGimsey

Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Go Tell It On the Mountain
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: 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.



Save the Date for On the Way!

On The Way will be gathering for Lunch at Red Rocks Café (in Strawberry Hill – 4223 Providence Rd) on Wednesday, January 17 at 11:15 am. We will meet at the restaurant. You can wait until January to let Lee Gray know if you plan to attend, but we wanted you to have the date to mark your calendars.

A Divine Center

As you live through this Christian Year, you may find our new prayer resource, A Divine Center, helpful as you pursue your inner sanctuary, your holy place, your Divine Center. These scripture passages are not intended to be prescriptive. Yet, you may find them to guide you during the next twelve months from Advent, 2023 until Thanksgiving Day, 2024.

Three brochures will be provided: Advent (already available), Christmastide, Epiphany; Lent & Eastertide; and Pentecost & Kingdomtide. In addition to the Daily Scripture Passages, a Daily Prayer Focus is provided so our congregation can be united in scripture and prayer each day for the next year. Scan the QR code to access the guide.



KinderMusik with Missy: Coming in 2024

KinderMusik with Missy will be offered in the SJBC Academy of the Arts in 2024. Sessions begin on Saturday, January 6 in the SJBC KinderMusik classroom. Sessions are \$84 per month.

If you have questions, please contact Missy Wilson (kindermusikwithmissy@gmail.com) or Kheresa (kharmmon@sjcharlotte.org.) More information can be found online at kindermusikwithmissy.kindermusik.com.

Stewardship Update for 2024

Have you turned in your pledge commitment to the 2024 Financial Ministry Plan at St. John's? So far, we have received 138 Pledge Commitments received to date totaling \$875,901.

We are so grateful for your support year after year. If you have not turned in your pledge, please do so by mailing in your pledge card, calling the church office, or on Realm.

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. 31	10:30 am 10:30 am	No Sunday School Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Jan. 1	ALL DAY	HAPPY NEW YEAR! (Church Offices Closed!)
Tues., Jan. 2	10:30 am	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
Wed., Jan. 3	5:30 pm 7:15 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room) Choir Practice
Thurs., Jan. 4		
Friday, Jan. 5	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Jan. 6	6:30 am 1:00 pm 8:00 pm	Benton Basketball (Gym) Celebrating Sudan’s Independence Day (Broach Hall) 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 Worship & Music	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
Custodian.....	Chris Mullis
Church Administrator.....	Amanda Morrison
Weekday School Director.....	Lydia Olmsted



Sunday, December 31, 2023

10:30 AM Worship

St. John’s Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina