

# Welcome to the Worship of God

*Please turn off all electronic devices*

February 18, 2024

*Ten-Thirty in the Morning*

## Gathering Music

J. Noel Lance, Organist

## Words of Greeting

Rev. Kheresa Harmon

### & Announcements of Church Life

## The Call to Worship

Rev. Harmon

ONE: We have started down a road that will take us to the cross.

**ALL: It is a journey we take together, and a journey each makes alone.**

ONE: We are invited to notice things on the way--

**ALL: To notice sharp stones, the uneven ground, the mercy of shade, the faithfulness of those who walk with us.**

ONE: We carry little with us but that which is in our hearts.

**ALL: Hope, trust, fear, apprehension, wonder, sorrow.**

ONE: On this walk we rest and sing and pray and listen.

**ALL: In our worship we rest and sing and pray and listen.**

ONE: Then let us worship God.

*Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What is Good.'  
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## Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

J. Noel Lance

Entrance of the Christ Candle by **Greer Benton**

## Prayer of Submission

Rev. Harmon

## \*Hymn Of Praise No. 70

*God of the Sparrow God of the Whale*

The Chalice Hymnal

ROEDER

## Reading of the Pentateuch

Steven Follis

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

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.**

## Moments with the Younger Church

Rev. Harmon

## A Lenten Litany of Salvation

Guided by Rev. Dennis Foust

Based on Psalm 25 and 1 Peter 3

ONE: God leads the humble in what is right. All people who keep God's covenant are blessed.

**ALL: And God sent Jesus into the world to bring us into a relationship with God's love.**

ONE: Just as God kept the covenant with Noah and placed a rainbow of promise in the sky,

**ALL: God also keeps the covenant with us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

ONE: O God, in You we fix our trust. We desire to know Your ways.

**ALL: Teach us Your paths, O Lord. Lead us in Your truth as the God of our salvation.**

## \*Hymn of Christian Community No. 484

*We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*

Chalice Hymnal

MESSAGE

## The Offertory Prayer

Lynn Erdman

## The Presentation of Tithes Plus Offerings

Deaconate  
and Congregation

## The Chancel Choir Anthem

Directed by Russell Nelson

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

by Kathleen Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,

and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]

## \*The Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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## Prayers of Confessions

Rev. Haley Blackwell

## Current Prayer Concerns

Tom Bryson, Carol Johnson, Dick Schafer, Jane Winn

## Sympathy

We express our sympathies to Russell Nelson, our newly called Minister for Worship and Music, as his father, Michael (Mike), passed on ahead of us early Friday, February 16, in Anderson, SC, after a lengthy illness. We continue to hold Russell and his mother, Vickie, in our hearts and prayers. Arrangements will be announced when available.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Blackwell

## The Homily

*'The Church as a Rainbow'*

Rev. Foust



## \*Hymn of Commitment

*Love's Rainbow*

NETTLETON

Life is not a cloudless journey, storms and darkness oft oppress,  
but the Father's changeless mercy comes to cheer the heart's distress;  
Heavy clouds may darkly hover, hiding all faith's view above.  
But across the thickest darkness, shines the rainbow of his love.

Dark the clouds and wild the tempest; turn, oh, turn thy longing eyes!  
See afar, the Father's promise, out of gloom, in light arise;  
See the glowing, gleaming colors, Father's love to us they prove;  
He hath promised; he is faithful, 'tis the rainbow of his love.

Never fear, nor be discouraged, though life's journey dark appear,  
travel on, by faith upholden, "God is love" oh, thought of cheer!  
When thy path seems hid in shadow, look with fearless eyes above;  
Spanning o'er thy deepest sorrow, shines the rainbow of his love.

## The Commissioning

Rev. Foust

## The Postlude

J. Noel Lance

## A Divine Center

- **Monday, February 19, 2024:** Psalm 77 Seekers Class
- **Tuesday, February 20, 2024:** Job 4:1-21 Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists
- **Wednesday, February 21, 2024:** Job 5:8-27 QC Family Tree
- **Thursday, February 22, 2024:** Romans 3:21-31 University and College Students
- **Friday, February 23, 2024:** Romans 4:1-12 School Teachers
- **Saturday, February 24, 2024:** Mark 8:31-38 SJ Members in Financial Services
- **SUNDAY, February 25, 2024:** Genesis 17:1-7 Worship Greeters & Ushers

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## On the Way for February: Open Kitchen

St. John's retired adults will be On the Way for lunch at the Open Kitchen on Wednesday, February 21 at 11:30am.

Please let Lee Gray LGray@sjcharlotte.org know if you plan to leave from the church with staff at 11:15 am or meet at 11:30 am at The Open Kitchen 1318 W Morehead St. We have a private room in the back of the restaurant.

## Kindermusik Classes

We invite you and your little ones to join St. John's for Kindermusik with Missy through our Academy of the Arts. There are currently openings for the Foundations Class (3-13 months), which meets on Saturdays at 8:30am at St. John's (300 Hawthorne Lane). We also have a new class at 11:30am on Saturdays. New classes are coming Tuesdays in March as well! Visit [kindermusikwithmissy.kindermusik.com](http://kindermusikwithmissy.kindermusik.com) to view all classes at our location.

## Nursery Help on Easter Sunday: Can you help?

We MUST have 3 additional volunteers to serve with our nursery (infants - 2 years of age) during Sunday school and worship (9:15 - 11:30am) on Easter Sunday, March 31. One volunteer is not enough to care for our children. Please contact Kheresa immediately to help.

## SAVE THE DATE for Converge on April 21 at 9am

Please save the date and plan to attend our Converge meeting on April 21 at 9am (tentative). During Converge, we will discuss and collaborate about the future direction of our church - our goals, areas of focus, needs, and more. We need your voice at the table.

## Writing from the Heart: March 9, 2024

Are you interested in how writing can become a spiritual practice?

You are invited to learn and experience how the art of writing can transform your spiritual life along with writer and author, Carol Fore Injaychock.

This opportunity is open to all, not just women.

Twenty years ago, Carol was diagnosed with breast cancer and, after the treatments, she turned to writing as therapy. A by-product of her writing is her book, *Matters of the Heart—A Cancer Journey*, about her cancer's emotional journey. In addition, she has contributed to anthology books, participates in writing groups, and does motivational speaking to small groups about life lessons. Carol believes writing is the way to tap into our spiritual essence. She leads from the heart and guides such that the core spiritual-self permeates, once pen is put to paper and participants let go.



Register on Realm, scan QR code, or call the office. This will be limited to 15 participants and there is no charge

## 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: February 25, 2024, Second Sunday of Lent

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7; Mark 8:31-38

Message Theme: 'Worth the Investment'

Proclaimer: Rev. Haley Blackwell

## This Week at St. John's

Sun., Feb. 18	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship (Broach Hall) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Feb. 19	10:00 am 11:30 am	Adventures in Learning: Shepherd's Center (Broach Hall) Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tues., Feb. 20	8:00 am 10:00 am	Finance Resource Team (Zoom) Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
Wed., Feb. 21	7:15 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs., Feb. 22		
Friday, Feb. 23	5:00 pm 8:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Gym) Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Feb. 24	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

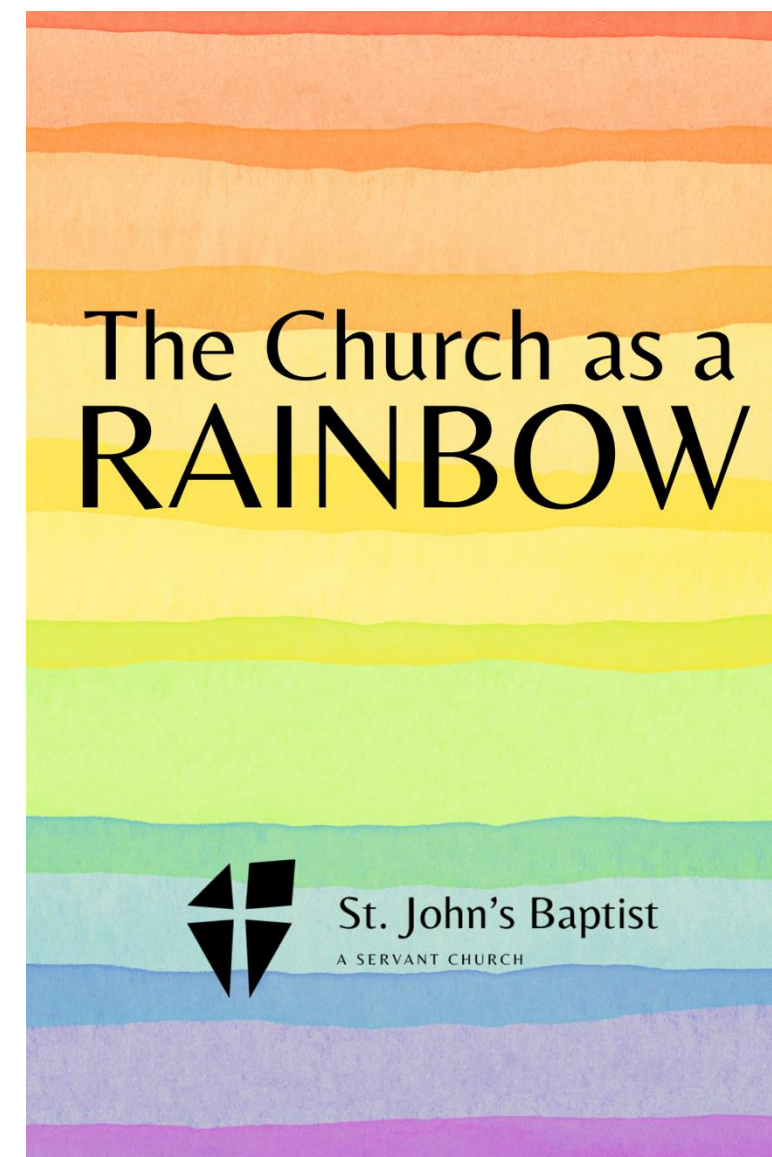
*Every participant in God's Servant Church*

## Equipping Ministers

Minister for Youth and Young Adults..... Rev. Haley Blackwell  
Senior Minister.....Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD  
Minister for Congregational Care .....Rev. Lee Gray  
Minister for Children and Their Families..... Rev. Kheresa Harmon  
Minister for Worship and Music.....Russell Nelson

## Church Staff

Academy of the Arts Director.....Jessica Borgnis  
Media Coordinator .....Mallory Brown  
Children's Music Director .....Chloe Hall  
Organist .....J. Noel Lance  
Custodian..... Chris Mullis  
Church Administrator..... Amanda Morrison  
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted



# Sunday, February 18, 2024

## 10:30 AM Worship

## St. John's Baptist Church

## Charlotte, North Carolina