

Welcome to the Worship of God

Please turn off all electronic devices

February 25, 2024

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance, Organist

Words of Greeting & Announcements of Church Life Rev. Lee Gray

The Call to Worship Rev. Gray

ONE: Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent

ALL: towards the One who calls us each by a new name.

ONE: Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,

ALL: pulling our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.

ONE: Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,

ALL: whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship Solo by Anne Hager

Entrance of the Christ Candle: Tallon Cardella

Prayer of Submission Rev. Gray

***Hymn of Praise No. 99** O, How I Love Jesus
Chalice Hymnal O, HOW I LOVE JESUS

Reading of the Pentateuch Brooks & Laura Sorrell
Genesis 17:1-7

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

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.

Prayers of Confessions Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Current Prayer Concerns

Tom Bryson, Joyce Ehrenberger, Carol Johnson, Linda Finger,
Dick Schafer, Jane Winn

Assurances of Forgiveness Rev. Harmon

Reading from the Gospel of Mark Alex Norris
Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

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 Offertory Prayer Melissa Millette

The Presentation of Tithes Plus Offerings Deaconate
and Congregation

The Chancel Choir Anthem Directed by Russell Nelson
Christus Paradox arr. Alfred Fedak/ Text by Sylvia Dunstan

You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd. You, Lord, are both prince and slave. You, peacemaker and sword-bringer of the way you took and gave. You the everlasting instant; You, whom we both scorn and crave. Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross, Shining in eternal glory, beggar'd by a soldier's toss. You, the everlasting instant; You, who are both gift and cost. You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side. You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide. You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our pilgrim guide. Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ! Worthy your defeat and vict'ry. Worthy still your peace and strife. You, the everlasting instant; You, who are our death and our life. Alleluia.

***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 'Worth the Investment' Rev. Haley Blackwell

***Hymn of Commitment No. 344** I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
Chalice Hymnal ASSAM

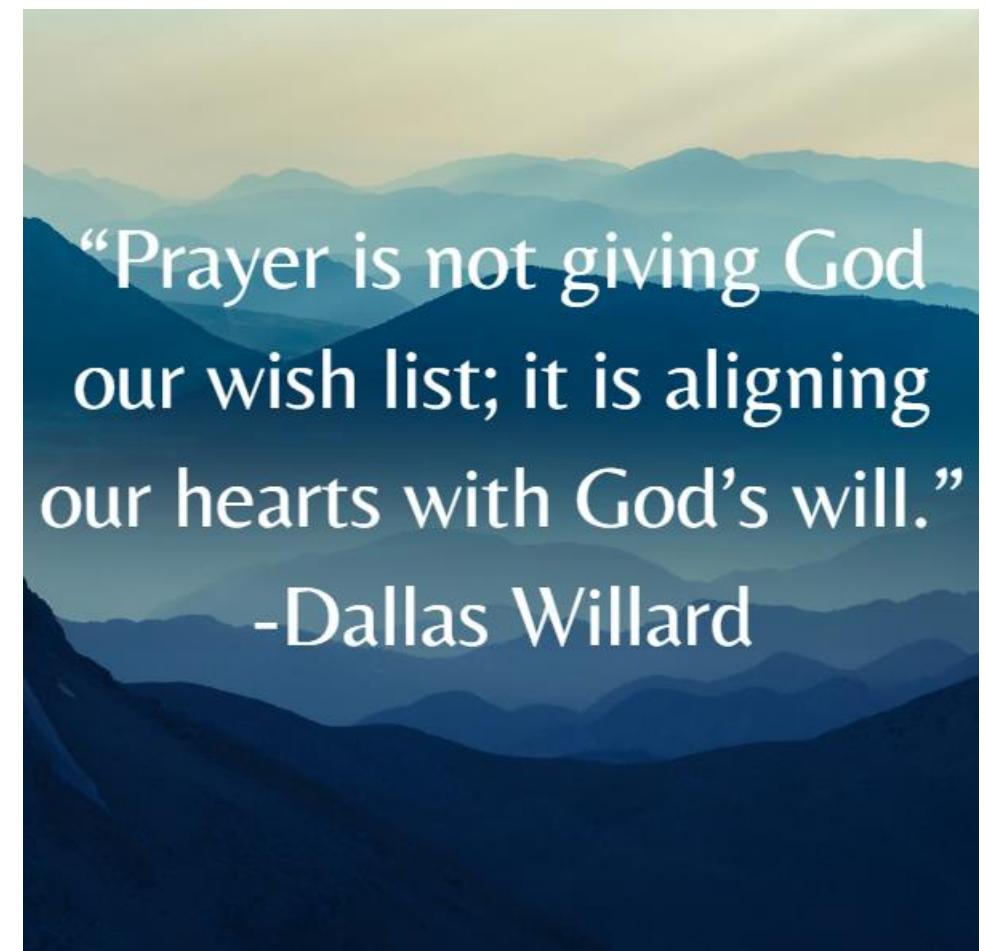
Converge Update and Feedback
St. John's as a Learning Church and Relational Church

The Commissioning Rev. Blackwell

The Postlude J. Noel Lance

A Divine Center

- Monday, February 26, 2024: Psalm 105:1-11 Membership Resource Team
- Tuesday, February 27, 2024: Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19 Baptist World Alliance
- Wednesday, February 28, 2024: Jeremiah 30:12-22 Fellowship Resource Team
- Thursday, February 29, 2024: 1 Peter 2:4-10 Baptist Union of Australia
- Friday, March 1, 2024: Psalm 19 National Alliance for Mental Illness
- Saturday, March 2, 2024: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Baptist Association of Belize
- SUNDAY, March 3, 2024: John 2:13-22 Spiritual Growth Resource Team



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Kindermusik with Missy
St. John's Academy of the Arts

2/19/24 update

<p>3-13 Months Saturdays 8:30am Wednesdays* 12:15pm</p>	<p>1s-young 2s Saturdays 9:30am Wednesdays* 10am, 11am</p>	<p>Older 2s-3s +siblings Saturdays 10:30am Wednesdays* 9am</p>
<p>18 months to 4 yrs Saturdays 11:30am</p>	<p>*Wednesday classes start 5/19 704-237-0292 KindermusikWithMissy@gmail.com www.KindermusikwithMissy.com</p>	

Kindermusik Classes

We invite you and your little ones to join St. John's for Kindermusik with Missy through our Academy of the Arts!

We have classes on Saturdays in the morning hours and will begin Wednesday classes starting on March 13. Classes are for ages 3 months-4 years of age.

Check out the graphic here and register today for Kindermusik fun!

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.

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

Join us for our Second Annual Easter EGGstravaganza!

In Broach Hall at 11:30 am on Sunday, March 24, we will gather for lunch and Easter fun. We will have BBQ chicken, Mac-n-cheese, Slaw, Baked Beans, and Rolls catered by Anderson's. There will be an Easter Egg hunt for all ages, please bring something to collect eggs in! Come out for fun games, good food, and great fellowship.



Cost is \$12 per person. You can pay online through Realm or at the door with cash or check. Checks must be made to St. John's Baptist Church.

Please register on Realm or scan QR code by March 19 so we know 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: March 3, 2024, Third Sunday of Lent
Scripture: Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
Message Theme: 'This is the Temple that God Built'
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Feb. 25	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 4:00 pm	Sunday School Worship (Broach Hall) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) TIC Africana Lunch (Broach Hall) Basketball Banquet (Gym & Lounge)
Mon., Feb. 26	11:30 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge) Administrative Deacon Panel (Conference Room) Ministries Deacon Panel (Room 204) Pastoral Deacon Panel (Lounge) ALL Deacon Meeting (Broach Hall)
Tues., Feb. 27	10:30 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room) NAMI Family Support Group NAMI Peer Support Group
Wed., Feb. 28	5:30 pm 7:15 pm	MRT Meeting (Room 204) Choir Practice
Thurs., Feb. 29	12:00 pm	Joy Class Lunch (Lounge)
Friday, Mar. 1	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Mar. 2	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
Minister for Worship and Music.....Russell Nelson

Church Staff

Academy of the Arts Director.....Jessica Borgnis
Media CoordinatorMallory Brown
Children's Music DirectorChloe Hall
OrganistJ. Noel Lance
Custodian..... Chris Mullis
Church Administrator..... Amanda Morrison
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted



Sunday, February 25, 2024

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina