

Welcome to the Worship of God

Please turn off all electronic devices

March 17, 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: We gather today to worship the One who created us, ALL: The One who calls us, ONE: The One who equips us, ALL: The One who loves us without end. ONE: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.	
Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, “Hold Fast to What Is God.” Used with permission.	
Prayer of Submission	Rev. Haley Blackwell
Preparing Our Hearts for Worship	J. Noel Lance
Entrance of the Christ Candle: Riley Cardella	
*Hymn Of Praise, No. 618 The Chalice Hymnal	How Firm a Foundation FOUNDATION
Reading of the Gospel John 12:20-33	Riley Cardella and Rev. Kheresa Harmon
Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.	
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. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Current Prayer Concerns	
Shirley Ballard, Tom Bryson, Arnold Philemon, Jane Winn	
Assurances of Forgiveness	Rev. Foust
*Hymn of Discipleship	Believers All, We Bear the Name EDGE
Believers all, we bear the name of Christ, our living Lord; As Christians in the world today, we hold fast to the Word. From simple trust to growing faith our pilgrimage we trace T’ward full maturity in Christ, led there thro’ God’s good grace. Believers all, our common task is service in His name As we, in word and song and deed, God’s saving grace proclaim. Yet, ministry has broader aims, so we pursue the goal Of meeting persons’ fuller needs of body, mind, and soul. Believers all, in unity we follow God’s commands; Diverse in gifts, but one in Christ, we offer outstretched hands To all within the bonds of faith, to those outside faith’s call, That thro’ our love the world may know our God as Lord of all.	
Words and Music by Milburn Price. ©1986 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP). Distributed by Genevox Music Group. Used by permission. CCLI License No. 1596646.	
The Offertory Prayer	Bobbie Hinson
The Presentation of Tithes Plus Offerings	Deaconate and Congregation
The Chancel Choir Anthem Go Not Far From Me, O God	Directed by Russell Nelson by Zingarelli
Go not far from me, O God; Cast me not away in the time of age; Forsake me not, when my strength faileth me. O let my mouth be filled with thy praise, That I may sing of Thy glory all the day long.	
*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	‘Beginnings’ Rev. Dr. Corey D. B. Walker
*Hymn of Witness, No. 453 The Chalice Hymnal	Called as Partners in Christ’s Service BEECHER
The Commissioning	Rev. Foust
The Postlude	J. Noel Lance

The flowers, a gift from the Heritage Resource Team, are given to the glory of God in celebration of our 102nd Anniversary and in appreciation to all the teachers, leaders, and staff members responsible for 102 years of learning.

As we celebrate this occasion, please pick up a copy of the booklet, “102 Years of Learning,” as you leave the sanctuary. Please also take some time to view the display in the children’s classroom hallway.

Welcoming Rev. Dr. Corey D.B. Walker to the St. John’s Pulpit



This morning, we welcome Rev. Dr. Corey D.B. Walker to the St. John’s Pulpit as our guest proclaimer. He is the Dean of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Wake Forest Professor of the Humanities, and Inaugural Director of the Program in African American Studies. He is the 2023-2024 Phi Beta Kappa Frank M. Updike Memorial Scholar. Dean Walker’s research, teaching, and public scholarship spans the areas of American and African American social and religious thought, ethics, and religion and American public life. An ordained American Baptist clergyperson, Dean Walker speaks to congregations and communities across the nation and has appeared on a variety of media outlets in the United States and abroad.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE HISTORY OF ST. JOHN’S

Please pick up a copy of the booklet prepared for this year’s heritage emphasis on Christian Education. As we celebrate our 102nd church anniversary, we are grateful to our Heritage Resource Team. Please notice the displays in the Children’s Hall near the offices. Fredda Kimball, Linda Crowder, and Sally Young do so much to help us remember our stories.

From our first day, St. John’s has emphasized the importance of education. The charter members valued learning together in the church. They knew how growth in discipleship requires a commitment to teaching one another.

Dr. Findley Edge was a practical theologian and a Baptist. He was invited to St. John’s to train teachers and encourage the members in their commitments to Christian Education. He focused his scholarship on the teaching ministry of the church. His book, **The Greening of the Church**, (published in 1971), is considered one of the most important books ever written on Christian Education. He addressed the declining participation in worship and the teaching ministry of the church. He wrote, “*Our problem is not primarily that attendance statistics are declining or that the budget is becoming increasingly difficult to raise. It is that we do not know who we are or what we are called to be as the People of God. If it means something more than or something other than ‘being good,’ ‘believing in Jesus,’ and ‘being faithful to the church,’ then most of us don’t know what it is.*” The purpose of Christian Education is to equip disciples to be ministers in daily life. This is our commitment in the life of St. John’s.

A Divine Center		
•	Monday, March 18, 2024: Psalm 119:9-16	Give Thanks for God’s Love
•	Tuesday, March 19, 2024: Isaiah 43:8-13	Give Thanks for God’s Peace
•	Wednesday, March 20, 2024: Isaiah 44:1-8	Give Thanks for Answered Prayers
•	Thursday, March 21, 2024: John 15:1-8	Give Thanks for Wise Leaders
•	Friday, March 22, 2024: Philippians 2:1-11	Give Thanks for God’s Hope
•	Saturday, March 23, 2024: John 12:12=13	Give Thanks for God’s Grace
•	PALM/PASSION SUNDAY: March 24, 2024: Mark 14:12 – 15:47	Give Thanks for God’s Salvation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last Chance to Sign up for the Easter EGGstravaganza next Sunday!
Next Sunday, March 24 in Broach Hall after worship, we will gather for lunch and Easter fun. Bring something to collect eggs in. 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.*



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 on the future direction of our church - our goals, areas of focus, needs, and more. We need your voice at the table.

Thursdays on the Town: Lang Van
Parents of children, ages birth - 5th grade, please join us on Thursday, April 11 at 6:00pm at Lang Van. Free childcare will be provided at the church. *Please register and reserve childcare by April 8 on Realm or with Kheresa.*

ON THE WAY: St. John's Retired Adults & Friends
For March we will have lunch at Captain Steve's Seafood in Harrisburg (5645 NC Hwy 49) on Wednesday, March 20 at 11:30am. You can either meet us at the church at 10:50 am to leave by 11:00 am or at 11:30 at Captain Steve's. *Please email Lee Gray LGray@sjcharlotte.org if you plan to attend and let him know if you will join us at the church or meet us at the restaurant.*

Join the Choir this Easter Sunday!
One of the great traditions of Easter is the singing of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*. Each year, we invite members of the congregation to join the choir in singing this beautiful work. If you know the piece and want to come up and join us at the end of the Easter service, you are welcome. I ask that you come to our final rehearsal before Easter on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:15pm or come to the Music Suite at 9:45am on Easter Sunday, March 31. *Let's make this chorus a wonderful and joyful event as we celebrate the Resurrection!*

Eras Tour Watch Party (St. John's Version)
All Swifties new and seasoned are welcome to join us for an Eras Tour Watch party in Broach Hall on March 22nd @ 7pm. Bring friends and friendship bracelets, dress up if you want, and bring a snack to share! Contact Haley Blackwell hblackwell@sjcharlotte.org with any questions.

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 24, 2024, Palm/Passion Sunday
Scripture: PALM - John12:12-13; PASSION – Mark 14:12-15:47
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Mar. 17	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	5:00 pm	Youth SNL
Mon., Mar. 18	11:00 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tues., Mar. 19	8:00 am	Finance Resource Team (Zoom)
	10:00 am	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
	10:30 am	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
	4:30 pm	WOC Board Meeting (Offsite)
Wed., Mar. 20	7:15 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs., Mar. 21	10:00 am	WOC Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room)
Friday, Mar. 22	5:00 pm	Room In the Inn (Gym)
	7:00 pm	Eras Tour Watch Party (Broach Hall)
	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Mar. 23	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	8:00 pm	Together We Rise NA (Lasater Hall)
Sun. March 24	10:30 am	Palm/Passion Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:30 am	Churchwide Easter EGGstravaganza!!! (Broach 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

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



Sunday, March 17, 2024
10:30 AM Worship
St. John's Baptist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina