

# Welcome to the Worship of God

Please turn off all electronic devices

March 3, 2024

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

Gathering Music	J. Noel Lance, Organist
Words of Greeting & Announcements of Church Life	Rev. Haley Blackwell
The Call to Worship	Rev. Blackwell
ONE: Welcome to all who have come in search of something;	
ALL: We have come to seek the living God.	
ONE: Happy are those who find a way and follow that path;	
ALL: We do not make this journey by ourselves.	
ONE: Blessed are those who give their lives over to their Creator.	
ALL: In faith, in trust, with hope, let us worship God. <small>Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What is Good." Used with permission.</small>	
Prayer of Submission	Rev. Blackwell
*Hymn of Praise No. 108 Chalice Hymnal	Lift High the Cross CRUCIFER
Entrance of the Christ Candle: Mabry Miller	
Moments with the Younger Church	Rev. Kheresa Harmon
A Litany of Worship Based on Psalm 19 and 1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
ONE: God’s glory is on tour in the skies, God-craft on exhibit across the horizon. A teacher named Day reveals God’s Truth in classes every morning. Professor Night lectures each evening.	
ALL: The revelation of GOD integrates us; God’s Truth pulls our lives together. The signposts of GOD are clear and point out the right road. The life-maps of GOD are right and show us the way to joy. The directions of GOD are plain and easy to understand.	
ONE: God’s Message of Christ on the Cross and the resurrection seem like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction. But for those walking God’s way of salvation, this Message makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully, as it turns out. God turns conventional wisdom on its head. God’s ways are not our ways.	
ALL: Jesus Christ is God’s ultimate wisdom all wrapped up in one being. Human wisdom is a sham when compared to the seeming absurdity of God.	
ONE: Living God, we confess to You that we often trust more in human strength than in Your “weakness.” We ask You to turn over all the tables of pretentiousness we parade forth as worship. Forgive us our trespasses in direct proportion to our forgiveness of others. Amen.	

Prayers of Confession	Rev. Lee Gray
Current Prayer Concerns	
Tom Bryson, Linda Finger, Cathy Hartsell, Carol Johnson, Dick Schafer, Jane Winn	
Assurances of Forgiveness	Rev. Gray
Reading from the Gospel of John John 2:13-22	Kathy Bragg
The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.	
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	Russell Norris
The Presentation of Tithes Plus Offerings	Deaconate and Congregation
The Chancel Choir Anthem Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me	Directed by Russell Nelson by K. Lee Scott
Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be; Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee; And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal; And, with actions bold and meek, for Christ my Savior speak.	
Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be; help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee; and, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear; and, with actions sisterly, speak Christ’s sincerity.	
Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be; Show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee; Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good, and whatever I can be give him who gave me thee.	
Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be; Help me now thy pow’r to see, I would be like thee; ‘Gainst all weapons hell can wield be thou my strength and shield; Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.	
*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	‘This Is the Temple that God Built’	Rev. Foust
*Hymn of Commitment No. 538 Chalice Hymnal	Hope of the World	VICAR
Converge Update and Feedback		
St. John's as a Servant Church and Joyful Church		
The Commissioning		Rev. Foust
The Postlude		J. Noel Lance

### CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

A Lenten Sonnet by Michael Gaite

Come to your Temple with liberation,  
And overturn these tables of exchange.  
Restore in me my lost imagination,  
Begin in me for good, the pure change.

Come as you came, an infant with your mother,  
That innocence may cleanse and claim this ground.

Come as you came, a boy who sought his father.  
With questions asked and certain answers found.

Come as you came that day, a man in anger,  
Unleash the lash that drives a pathway through  
Face down for me the fear the shame the danger,  
Teach me again to whom my love is due.

Break down in me the barricades of death,  
And tear the veil in two with your last breath.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 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 from 9am-3:30pm

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.*

## Gardner-Webb University Concert Choir at St. John's!

Please come and enjoy the music and hard work of the Gardner-Webb University Concert Choir in the Sanctuary at St. John's on March 8 at 7pm.

The concert is free and open to the public.

## Heritage Sunday: March 17 during Worship featuring Dr. Corey D.B. Walker

Please mark your calendars for Heritage Sunday! The celebration of our 102nd year at the corner of 5th and Hawthorne will be on Sunday, March 17. Our proclaimer will be Dr. Corey D.B. Walker, Dean of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity. Join us!

## 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: March 10, 2024, Fourth Sunday of Lent

Scripture: John 3:14-21

Message Theme: 'Lifting Up Jesus'

Proclaimer: Rev. Kathy Turner

## This Week at St. John's

Sun., Mar. 3	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship (Broach Hall)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	5:00 pm	Membership Resource Team (Room 204)
	5:00 pm	Youth SNL
Mon., Mar. 4	11:00 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tues., Mar. 5	ALL DAY	Election Day (Broach Hall)
	10:30 am	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
Wed., Mar. 6	5:30 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
	7:15 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs., Mar. 7		
Friday, Mar. 8	5:00 pm	Room in the Inn (Gym)
	7:00 pm	Gardner-Webb University Concert Choir (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Mar. 9	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	9:00 am	Writing from the Heart (Lounge)
	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 Care .....Rev. Lee Gray  
Minister for Children and Their Families..... Rev. Kheresa Harmon  
Minister for Worship and Music.....Russell Nelson

## Church Staff

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, March 3, 2024

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church

Charlotte, North Carolina