

Welcome to the Worship of God

First Sunday of Advent

Please turn off all electronic devices

December 1, 2024

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

THE GATHERING MUSIC

J. Noel Lance, Organist

THE WORDS OF GREETING

Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Foust

& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

J. Noel Lance

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Foust

ONE: We come from a world of darkness

ALL: Into Christ's world of light.

ONE: We come from a world of weariness

ALL: Into God's strength and hope.

ONE: We come from a slumbering world.

ALL: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ.

THE ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

Lighting of the Candle of Hope

Randy and Kathy Mahnesmith



ONE CANDLE IS LIT (ADVENT WREATH MUSICAL PRAYER)

CRADLE SONG

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

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***HYMN OF ADVENT, NO. 129** *LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O MIGHTY GATES*
THE CHALICE HYMNAL TRURO

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH Rev. Kheresa Harmon

READING OF THE GOSPEL

Delbridge Narron

Gospel of Luke 21:25-38

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

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 CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. Harmon

Current Prayer Concerns

Shirley Ballard, Nancy Burgess,
Arnold Philemon, Bill Roseman, Ken Sanford

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***HYMN OF ADVENT, NO. 165**

THE CHALICE HYMNAL

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

IRBY

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Treva Bridges

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES PLUS OFFERINGS

Deaconate and Congregation

THE CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

Directed by Russell Nelson

ADVENT ALLELUIA

Arr. Keith Christopher

Salvation is created. O Lord, God almighty we offer praise to Thee above; O holy Lord, God.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

*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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THE HOMILY

Rev. Dr. Foust

‘WHEN ADVENT MEETS EASTER’

***HYMN OF ADVENT, NO. 142**

THE CHALICE HYMNAL

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

BENSANÇON

THE COMMISSIONING

Rev. Dr. Foust

THE POSTLUDE

J. Noel Lance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter Wear and Other Items for those affected by Helene

As we continue to support those affected by Hurricane Helene, we are asking you to: Please consider donating winter wear such as **coats, hoodies, gloves, hats, and scarves**. Please donate **self-rising flour and sugar**.

All items can be placed in the Giving Nook in the Main Entrance Lobby.

Room in the Inn Volunteer Signups

For the 2024-25 season, St. John's and our partners at Caldwell Presbyterian Church will again jointly host 8 homeless neighbors vetted by Roof Above within the Room in the Inn program. **Overnight volunteers, drivers, and food prep volunteers are needed.** Use the QR code to sign up as a volunteer.



Join the usher and greeter team!

The church is seeking additional members to volunteer and serve as morning greeters and ushers for the upcoming 2025 year. The greeters serve from 10:05 am to 10:35 am at both the Broach Hall and Main (Gym) Entrances (1 person per entrance). The ushers serve from 10:05 am to 10:35 am inside the Narthex (2 persons) and inside the sanctuary entrance near the piano (1 person).

If interested, please contact Chip Wilson at seatimewilson@gmail.com for more information.

The St. John's 100th Anniversary Book is ready to send to the printer!

Pre-order your copy today for \$20! **The deadline is TODAY December 1.** Pre-orders can be made at a table in the alcove behind the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings (cash or check) and also on Realm in events section.



Please contact Fredda Kimball if you have any questions.

WDAV Lessons & Carols Live from St. John's

Celebrate the holiday season on **December 3 at 7pm** with the WDAV Lessons & Carols program with the Charlotte Master Chorale Chamber Singers. They will lead this annual program of carols and holiday music, illuminated by scripture readings. Tune in at home or join us in person as we welcome the season in song. The program will take place in the Sanctuary at St. John's. **This event is FREE and open to the public.**

Lunch with Santa for Children and Families

Have lunch with Santa after worship on December 8 from 11:30am-1:00pm. Lunch is free. Monetary donations to our church's Designated Fund for Hurricane Relief will be accepted. Save your spot with Santa by **Wednesday, December 4th!**



Parents' Night Out in December

Parents, drop your kids off at church from 6-8pm on Friday, December 20, where we will jump in bounce houses, play games, and watch *The Grinch!* Childcare for littles will be provided, as well. The cost of the event is \$10 per child, which will help cover the costs associated with dinner. **Register by December 16.**



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 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | PEACE

Hanging of the Green

Proclaimer: Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Foust

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Dec. 1	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Dec. 2		
Tues., Dec. 3	10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
	7:00 pm	WDAV Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)
Wed., Dec. 4	5:30 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
	7:15 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs., Dec. 5	11:30 am	Senior Christmas Gathering (Broach Hall)
Fri., Dec. 6	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Dec. 7	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	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

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
Weekday School Assistant Director.....Kristina Hartzell
OrganistJ. Noel Lance
Handbell Director.....Jacquelyn McAbee
Church Administrator..... Amanda Morrison
Custodian.....Chris Mullis
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted



First Week of Advent
Sunday, December 1, 2024
10:30 AM Worship
St. John's Baptist Church