

Welcome to the Worship of God

Second Sunday of Advent

Please turn off all electronic devices

December 8, 2023

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

THE GATHERING MUSIC

J. Noel Lance

THE WORDS OF GREETING

Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Foust

& ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

A WORD ABOUT ADVENT AND TODAY'S WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Foust

PRAYER OF SUBMISSION

Rev. Dr. Foust

*HYMN OF ADVENT, NO. 119

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

THE CHALICE HYMNAL

VENI EMMANUEL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Russell Nelson

ONE: I cannot describe for you how The Light comes. The Light is more ancient than human imagining.

ALL: The Light travels across an astounding expanse to reach us.

ONE: The Light loves to search out what is hidden, lost, forgotten, afraid, in peril, or in pain. The Light is fond of arcing in creative ways finding a path to reach flesh, shining forth through the human eye, the human hand, and the human heart to dispel darkness and spread love.

ALL: The Light works its way into the deepest darkness to transform sadness and sorrow.

ONE: The Light may take a long time to reach you and arrive in a shape you did not expect.

ALL: Yet, The Light has reached us and invites us to turn our faces toward its hope. Let it be so!

THE ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Carter, Meredith, Brooks, and Laura Sorrell

ONE CANDLE IS LIT

(ADVENT WREATH MUSICAL PRAYER)

Cradle Song

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
For a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

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THE GREENERY

Suzanne Taylor

*CAROL

The Holly and the Ivy

Traditional English Carol

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
of all trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

[Refrain]

O, the rising of the sun, and the running of the deer
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom, as white as lily flower
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our dear Savior.



Wanny Hogewood

THE READING OF THE PROPHET

Isaiah 64:1-9 (International Children's Bible)

Tear open the skies and come down to earth. The mountains would tremble before you. Be like a fire that burns twigs. Be like a fire that makes water boil. Do this so that your enemies will know who you are. Then all nations will shake with fear when they see you. You have done amazing things that we did not expect. You came down, and the mountains trembled before you. From long ago no one has ever heard of a God like you. No one has ever seen a God besides you. You help the people who trust you. You help those who enjoy doing good. You help those who remember how you want them to live. But you were angry because we sinned. For a long time we disobeyed. How will we be saved? All of us are dirty with sin. All the right things we have done are like filthy pieces of cloth. All of us are like dead leaves. Like the wind our sins have carried us away. No one worships you. No one even asks you to help us. So you have turned away from us. And we are destroyed because of our sins. But Lord, you are our father. We are like clay, and you are the potter. Your hands made us all. Lord, don't continue to be angry with us. Don't remember our sins forever. Please, look at us because we are your people.

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.

HANDBELL SELECTION

THE BABE THE SON OF MARY

Directed by Jacquelyn McAbee

Jason W. Krug

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. Lee Gray

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.

HANDBELL SELECTION

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Directed by Jacquelyn McAbee

Arr. Cathy Moglebust

THE CHRISMON TREES

Todd Stillerman

*CAROL

O Chrismon Tree

Traditional German Carol

O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging;
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
thy leaves are so unchanging;
not only green when summer's here,
but also when 'tis cold and drear.
O Chrismon tree! O Chrismon tree!
thy leaves are so unchanging!

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rev. Kheresa Harmon



THE CRÈCHE

Rev. Harmon



*CAROL, NO. 162

THE CHALICE HYMNAL

What Child Is This?
GREENSLEEVES

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Phillips Bragg

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES PLUS OFFERINGS

Deaconate and Congregation

THE CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

Directed by Russell Nelson

PEOPLE LOOK EAST

Arr. Tom Mitchell

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today; Love, the Guest, is on the way. Stars keep the watch when night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, people, look east the time is near. Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright the sun and moon together. People look east and sing today: Love the Star is on the way. Angels announce with shouts of mirth Him who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord is on the way.

*THE DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*CAROL, NO. 125

THE CHALICE HYMNAL

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus
HYFRYDOL

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.

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.



The Christmas Card Mailbox for St. John's Neighbors & Friends

The Christmas Card Mailbox for Neighbors and Friends will be up in the Main Entrance foyer (outside the gym) from Sunday, December 8 until Sunday, December 22. A list of 35 Neighbors & Friends, for whom you can write Christmas Cards and put in the mailbox, can be found on the table or in the Family News. You can buy your own cards to put in recipients' mailboxes or use some of the blank cards provided. All cards need to be turned into the mailbox by the end of worship on December 22.

The Advent of God's Gift: Resurrection Living

This Advent, we express our worship to The Living God through the theme, "The Advent of God's Gift: Resurrection Living." This year's devotional booklet (found on our website, and in hard copies around the church) is to help you reflect on the meaning of this season.

- On December 15, we focus on God's gift of joy through music by our Chancel Choir.
- On December 22, we renew our commitments to embody the Advent of God's gift of love.
- On Christmas Eve, we celebrate God's Gift of Resurrection Living from a manger to an empty tomb.

2024-25 Church Basketball Games

December 14:

- 6u Co-Ed - BYE
- 8u Boys Cardella - BYE
- Boys Allen - 1:45 at St. Paul Baptist
- 8u Girls - 1:30 at St. Stephen UM
- 10u Boys Short - 1:15 at St. John's
- 10u Boys Barnhardt - 3:15 at St. John's
- 10u Girls - 10:00 at St. John's
- 12u Girls - 1:15 at Sardis Pres
- 18u Girls - 3:45 at Providence Baptist

St. John's Baptist Church
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Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
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The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: December 15, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | JOY
Chancel Choir Presentation

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Dec. 8	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	11:30 am	Sunday with Santa (Broach Hall)
Mon., Dec. 9	11:00 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tues., Dec. 10	10:30 am	Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
Wed., Dec. 11	7:15 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs., Dec. 12	11:30 am	Joy Class Christmas Lunch (Lounge)
	4:00 pm	Shepherd's Center Holiday Stroll (Chapel Hallway)
Fri., Dec. 13	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Dec. 14	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	10:00 am	St. John's Basketball Games (see schedule)
	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



Second Week of Advent
Sunday, December 8, 2024
10:30 AM Worship
St. John's Baptist Church