

Welcome to the Worship of God

Please turn off all electronic devices

**Invites the congregation to stand*

January 5, 2025

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

Gathering Music J. Noel Lance, Organist

Words of Greeting & Announcements of Church Life Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Prayer of Submission Rev. Foust

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship J. Noel Lance

Entrance of the Christ Candle by Julien Cushman

***The Call to Worship** Russell Nelson

ONE: Beloved, we are called to love one another, because love is from God.

ALL: God's love is poured in us from our birth.

ONE: We are called to extend the love of God to all people.

ALL: God's love is taught to us through the witness of God's faithful people.

ONE: We are called to proclaim God's love in all that we say and do.

ALL: In all creation, in all our relationships, may God's love be made known. Amen.

Written by Nancy C. Townley

***Hymn of Praise, No. 143** *Joy to the World*
The Chalice Hymnal ANTIOCH

Moments With the Younger Church Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Reading of the Gospel Becky Skidmore
John 1:1-5, 10-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks

ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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.

***Hymn of Love, No. 517** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*
The Chalice Hymnal BEECHER

The Church at Prayer Rev. Lee Gray

Current Prayer Concerns

Shirley Ballard, Ric Bridges, Beth Gray, Martha Kiker,
Arnold Philemon, Ken Sanford, Jane Starnes

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 Discipleship, No. 150** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*
The Chalice Hymnal MENDELSSOHN

Reading of the Epistle Rev. Harmon
I John 4:7-12, 19-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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 Nancy Wilson

The Presentation of Tithes Plus Offerings Diaconate
& Congregation

The Chancel Choir Anthem Directed by Russell Nelson
In This Very Room Ron and Carol Harris

In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me,
And in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me,
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power
To chase away any gloom,
For Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

And in this very room there's quite enough love for all of us.
And in this very room there's quite enough joy for all of us,
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power
To chase away any gloom,
For Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

And in this very room there's quite enough love for all the world.
And in this very room there's quite enough joy for all the world.
And there's quite enough hope and quite enough power
To chase away any gloom,
For Jesus, Lord Jesus is in this very room.

***The Doxology** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Homily 'All I Got for Christmas Was a Picture of God'
Rev. Foust

***Hymn of Witness, No. 526** *The Gift of Love*
The Chalice Hymnal GIFT OF LOVE

The Commissioning Rev. Foust

The Postlude J. Noel Lance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



Calling All Families with Children!

There will be a meeting with all families with children immediately following worship next Sunday, January 12 in the Church Lounge.

Snacks for Children's Sunday School

Our children's ministries need help with snacks for Sunday School. Please help us provide nutritious snacks for our children, ages 2+. Donations of Goldfish Crackers, Welch's Fruit Snacks, and juice boxes (apple, preferred) are needed. You may leave snack contributions in Kheresa's office. Thank you!



Basketball Game Schedule for Next Saturday, January 11

- 6u Co-Ed - 1:00 pm @ St. John's
- 8u Boys Cardella - 3:00 pm @ St. John's
- 8u Boys Allen - 2:00 pm @ St. John's
- 8u Girls - 2:45 pm @ Sardis Presbyterian
- 10u Boys Short - 3:45 pm @ Providence Baptist
- 10u Boys Barnhardt - 11:00 am @ Mulberry Baptist
- 10u Girls - 4:15 pm @ Hickory Grove Harris
- 12u Girls - 11:30 am @ Providence Baptist
- 18u Girls - 11:00 am @ Charlotte Prep Academy

Do you know about the Weekday School or wish to learn more?

The Weekday School (WDS) is a children's educational ministry supported and guided by Rev. Kheresa Harmon, the WDS Board, the WDS team, the church team, and the parent community. Its mission is to provide an equal balance of learning, play, and guidance in each child's growing relationship with God.

The Weekday School enrollment is now in progress for next school year and there are several openings NOW in the 2s and 3s class for the rest of this current school year.

Who can enroll?

The WDS is open to families with children 6 months to 6 years old during the school year. There are 6 classes: Infants (six to 18 months), Toddlers (18-24 months), Twos, Threes, Fours, and TK (children who will be five Dec.). Please reach out to Lydia Olmsted, the Director, at weekdayschool@sjcharlotte.org for more info.

St. John's Baptist Church
300 Hawthorne Lane
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: January 12, 2025: **Baptism Sunday**

Sermon: 'Well Pleased'

Scripture: Gospel of Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Proclaimer: Rev. Haley Blackwell

This Week at St. John's

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| Sun., Jan. 5 | 9:15 am | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 am | Worship (Sanctuary) |
| | 10:30 am | Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel) |
| Mon., Jan. 6 | 8:00 am | Weekday School Resumes |
| | 11:00 am | Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge) |
| | 6:00 pm | Real Estate Task Force (ZOOM) |
| Tues., Jan. 7 | 10:30 am | Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room) |
| Wed., Jan. 8 | 9:00 am | Kindermusik with Missy (Room 125) |
| | 7:15 pm | Choir Practice (Choir Room) |
| Thurs., Jan. 9 | 10:00 am | Needle Ministry (Lounge) |
| Fri., Jan. 10 | 5:00 pm | Room in the Inn (Gym & Lounge) |
| | 8:00 pm | Eastway AA (Broach Hall) |
| Sat., Jan. 11 | 6:30 am | Benton Basketball (Gym) |
| | 8:30 am | Kindermusik with Missy (Room 125) |
| | 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



Sunday, January 5, 2025
10:30 AM Worship
St. John's Baptist Church