

# Welcome to the Worship of God

Please turn off all electronic devices

June 15, 2025

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

**Prelude** J. Noel Lance, Organist

**Greeting and Introduction of Dr. Steve Shoemaker** Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

**Passing of the Peace** Congregation

ONE: This Is the day the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship** J. Noel Lance

Entrance of the Christ Candle by Hailey McCombs

**Choral Call to Worship** Chancel Choir

*Worthy of Worship* Terry York and Mark Blankenship

**Prayer of Submission** Rev. Kheresa Harmon

**\*Hymn Of Praise, No. 2** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

The Chalice Hymnal HYMN TO JOY

**Reading of the Scripture** Daivd Erdman

## Luke 4:16-21

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

## John 15:11

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

## Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

ONE: Through these written words of scripture, we listen for the Living Word of God.

**PEOPLE: Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.**

**\*Hymn** *Rejoice, You Pure in Heart*  
MARION

Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky;  
Your festive banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice; give thanks and sing

Praise God who rules all worlds; the risen Christ adore.  
Praise God the Spirit, Holy, Fire, one God for evermore!  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

**Moments with the Younger Church** Rev. Kheresa Harmon

## The Church at Prayer

### Current Prayer Concerns

Guuk Awar, Warren Lineberger, Richard Sealy, Anne Sutton

### Sympathy

Evelyn Fortson passed on ahead of us Thursday, June 12 at the age of 94. We will celebrate her life at a memorial service in the St. John’s Sanctuary at 2:00 pm on Monday, June 23rd. Please remember the Fortson family in your prayers.

### The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father which 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.

**\*Offertory Hymn** *How Great Our Joy*  
JUNGST

Ours is the joy no storm can still, rooted in grace, God’s sovereign will.  
How great our joy! Great our Joy!  
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise be to You who gives us grace!  
Our hearts rejoice in Your embrace!

Light in our hearts when days are long, God is our strength, our hope, our song.  
How great our joy! Great our Joy!  
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise be to You who gives us grace!  
Our hearts rejoice in Your embrace!

Gladly we walk His holy way, singing His truth by night and day.  
How great our joy! Great our Joy!  
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Praise be to You who gives us grace!  
Our hearts rejoice in Your embrace!

**Offertory Prayer** Meredith Sorrell

**Offertory Anthem** Chancel Choir and Handbell Ensemble  
*Jubilate Deo! Be Joyful You People!* Hal H. Hopson

Jubilate, jubilate Deo! Jubilate, jubilate Deo!

Be joyful you people, come now before the Lord with a song.  
O enter the gates with singing, to God our praises belong.  
Be joyful, you people come now before the Lord with a song.  
O enter the gates with singing, to God our praises belong.  
Be joyful you people come now before the Lord with a song.

Know that the Lord is God, we are God’s own.  
We are God’s people, the sheep of God’s flock.  
God in great mercy attends all our days.  
Join hearts and voices to sing the Lord’s praise.

Jubilate, jubilate Deo! Jubilate, jubilate Deo!

**\*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.

**Homily** ‘JUBILATION’ Rev. Steve Shoemaker, PhD

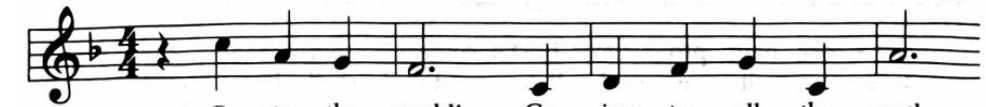
Rev. Foust

\*Hymn of Witness

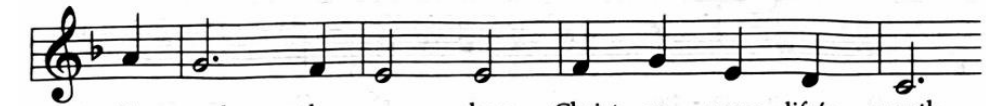
Go to the World!  
SINE NOMINE

## Go to the World!

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1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life’s worth,  
Go live the word of God’s re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God’s pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ’s own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry “A - men!”



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Our Life Together and Commissioning** Rev. Foust

**Postlude** J. Noel Lance

### We welcome The Rev. Stephen Shoemaker, PhD, into The St. John’s Pulpit today.

Dr. Shoemaker is no stranger to St. John’s. For fourteen years, 1999-2013, he served as Senior Minister of Myers Park Baptist Church here in Charlotte and recently retired as Pastor of Grace Baptist Church, in Statesville. Steve and his wife, Sue, live in Statesville where he has been named The Distinguished Writer in Residence at Grace.

Dr. Shoemaker was pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, in Louisville, KY when Dennis and Paula moved there to enter seminary in 1981. After Dr. Shoemaker became Senior Minister of Broadway Baptist Church, in Fort Worth, TX, Dennis and Steve worked together on projects to begin Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Steve is a graduate of Stetson University, Deland, FL (B.A.,1970), Union Theological Seminary, New York City (M.Div.,1974) and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky (Ph.D., 1978). He served as adjunct professor of preaching at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce Bible School, Louisville, KY, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, and Wake Forest School of Divinity. He also served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion at Johnson C. Smith University, here in Charlotte, a Historically Black College and University, from 2013-2018.

Dr. Shoemaker has lectured widely and published many articles and sermons, including in *The Christian Century*, *Pulpit Digest* and the widely acclaimed *Feasting on the Word* series. He was a frequent Op-ed writer for the Charlotte Observer and is now a regular opinion writer for Baptist News Global. He is author of several books including, *Baptism: A Living Sacrament of the Christian Life*; *Re-Telling the Biblical Story: The Theology and Practice of Narrative Preaching*; *The Jekyll and Hyde Syndrome*, *A New Encounter with the Seven Deadly Sins and Seven Lively Virtues*; *Strength in Weakness: A Lyrical Re-presentation of II Corinthians*; *GodStories: New Narratives From Sacred Texts*; *Finding Jesus in His Prayers*; *Being Christian in an Almost Chosen Nation: Thinking About Faith and Politics*; *Jesus Stories: Traveling Toward Testimony*; and *Seekers, Saints and Sinners: Life-Changing Encounters With Jesus*.

