

# Welcome to the Worship of God

*Please turn off all electronic devices*

\*Indicates for the congregation to stand as able

August 17, 2025	<i>Ten-Thirty in the Morning</i>
<b>Gathering Music</b>	
<b>Greeting and Our Life Together</b>	Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
<b>Call to Service</b>	Amanda Morrison
<b>Commissioning of the Charlotte Pride March</b>	Rev. Foust
<b>Prayer of Submission</b>	Rev. Foust
<b>Preparing Our Hearts for Worship</b>	J. Noel Lance
<i>Entrance of the Christ Candle Mabry Anne Miller</i>	
<b>*Call to Worship</b>	Rev. Gray and Congregation
Leader: Brothers and sisters, we gather today in joy, with hearts turned toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus!	
<b>People:</b> <b>We come, not because we have already arrived, but because we are pressing on—together—in faith, in hope, and in love.</b>	
Leader: Today we celebrate the gift of new life—a child entrusted to our care, and the sacred responsibility to nurture her in the way of Christ.	
<b>People:</b> <b>We rejoice in God’s faithfulness from generation to generation, and dedicate ourselves to walk with this family in truth and grace.</b>	
Leader: Forget what lies behind, and strain forward to what lies ahead. The path may change, but God's purpose remains.	
<b>People:</b> <b>We hold fast to what we have attained, and press on toward the goal, drawn by God’s calling and Christ’s example.</b>	
Leader: So come, beloved family of God—young and old, weary and hopeful— Let us worship the One who makes all things new!	
<b>People:</b> <b>We lift our voices in praise and our lives in dedication, for the Lord is faithful, and His call is sure!</b>	
<b>*Hymn Of Praise, No. 86</b> Chalice Hymnal	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i> FAITHFULNESS

<b>Family Dedication</b>	Rev. Kheresa Harmon
<b>Elizabeth Peacock, Steve Miller, and Mabry Anne Miller present:</b>	
<b>Alice Lee Miller</b>	
<b>The Dedication Covenant</b>	Rev. Harmon
MINISTER: Do you, Elizabeth and Steve, covenant together to raise Alice in an environment of Christian love, harmony, and peace?	
PARENTS: We do.	
MINISTER: Do you covenant together to grant Alice the benefits of communal fellowship by nurturing Alice within the church, the corporate body of Christ?	
PARENTS: We do.	
MINISTER: Do you, congregation, covenant together as the larger family of God to create an atmosphere of support and guidance whereby Alice can come to know and serve the Lord Jesus Christ?	
<b>CHURCH: We do.</b>	
MINISTER: Do you pledge to make your witness of such quality as to instruct Alice in Christian discipleship?	
<b>CHURCH: We do.</b>	
MINISTER: Then, recognizing the covenant accepted this day by Elizabeth and Steve, and by the congregation, I offer Alice this certificate acknowledging her formal introduction into this family of God.	
<b>Presentation of Alice</b>	Rev. Foust
<b>Prayer of Dedication for Alice</b>	Rev. Foust
<b>*Song of Blessing</b>	Congregation
Alice, Alice God claims you; God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. Alice, Alice God claims you; God helps you, protects you, and loves you, too.	
<b>The Church at Prayer</b>	Rev. Gray
<b>Current Prayer Concerns</b>	
Tom Blackmon, Judy Kersey, Carl Phillips,	
Ken Sanford, Debbie Stillerman	
<b>The Lord’s Prayer</b>	
<b>Our Father</b> 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.	

<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Anna Cushman
Philippians 3:12-16	
Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us, then, who are mature think this way, and if you think differently about anything, this, too, God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.	
<b>Leader:</b> We press on, not because we have arrived, but because Christ has laid hold of us.	
<b>People:</b> <b>We leave behind what is past and reach toward what is ahead; pressing on, holding fast, together.</b>	
<b>Offertory Prayer</b>	Debbie Pittman
<b>Offertory</b>	Steven Follis, saxophone
<i>Be Thou My Vision/My Shepherd Will Supply My Need</i>	
arr. Brant Adams	
<b>*Doxology</b>	OLD HUNDREDTH
<i>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.</i>	
<b>Message</b>	“Pressing On and Holding Fast” Rev. Foust
<b>*Hymn</b>	<i>Higher Ground</i> HIGHER GROUND
I'm pressing on the upward way, New heights I'm gaining every day; Still praying as I onward bound, Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.	
<b>Refrain:</b> Lord, lift me up and let me stand, By faith, on Heaven's table land; A higher plane than I have found; Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.	
My heart has no desire to stay, Where doubts arise and fears dismay; Tho' some may dwell where these abound, My pray'r, my aim is higher ground. <b>Refrain</b>	
I want to scale the utmost height, And catch a gleam of glory bright; But still I'll pray till Heav'n I've found, Lord, lead me on to higher ground.	
<b>Refrain</b>	
<b>*Commissioning</b>	Rev. Foust
<b>*Postlude</b>	J. Noel Lance

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

St. John’s @ Charlotte Pride Parade is TODAY!

Come join us TODAY to shout, "GOD LOVES EVERYONE!" along the Charlotte Pride parade route. We'll meet in the parking lot at the corner of Tryon Street and Montford Point Street, look for the Green Flag. Be there by 12:30, parade starts at 1:00. We are early in the parade lineup, so we shouldn't have to wait long. Afterwards you can stop by the St. John's booth to say "Hi" our booth is near the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> St. and N. Brevard at First Ward Park.

Retirement Luncheon for Rev. Dennis W. Foust  
TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER!

Please join us for a catered lunch in Broach Hall immediately following worship service on Sunday, August 24, to honor the ministry of Dennis and Paula Foust. There will be no charge for your meal, but YOU MUST REGISTER IN ORDER TO ATTEND!

Only register children if they will be eating with you in Broach Hall. Otherwise, childcare will be available for free, starting at 11:30 AM, and includes a child-friendly lunch. YOU MUST answer YES to childcare and provide your child's/children's name(s) and age(s) when registering yourself.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: TODAY SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

You are encouraged to write a note to the Fousts and either mail it to the church, leave it in the church office, or drop it in a basket provided at the luncheon.



Survey for St. John’s Baptist Church Pastoral Search Process

The St. John's Pastor Search Team is tasked with identifying and recommending the next Senior Minister following Dr. Foust's retirement in August, and your perspective on the type of candidate we should look for is important. We are asking for your participation in two ways:

- 1. Step 1 is completing a quick survey to capture your thoughts on the demographics, background, and characteristics of an ideal candidate.
- 2. Step 2 will come on September 21 when we gather as a church for a conversation based on the survey results, and to further refine any input on key priorities for the Search Team.

Details on what we are asking you to do now:

- Please take a few minutes now to complete the anonymous survey by scanning the QR code. Or pick up a paper copy of the survey by contacting the church office at 704-333-5428 ext.0



ON THE WAY

On The Way will be going to Las Margaritas for lunch on Thursday, August 21st at 11:30am. The address is 4426 E. Independence Blvd. Please email Lee Gray at LGray@sjcharlotte.org to let him know if plan to be there so we can adjust our reservation numbers with the restaurant.

Rise Up Against Hunger

Our SJBC family is invited to rise up against hunger this fall. There are two ways to that you can ensure that our food insecure neighbors can have nourishing meals.

Rise Against Hunger on Sunday, September 28, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., at SJBC

Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 19, beginning at 2:00 p.m., at Providence Baptist Church

Women of the Church – Annual Luncheon & Business Meeting

Join us or the Women of the Church Annual Luncheon & Business Meeting on Sunday, September 14, in Broach Hall following worship. Guest speaker: LeDayne Polaski, Executive Director, Mecklenburg Metropolitan Interfaith Network. Cost: \$15 - Registration open Aug. 18 Reconnect, enjoy fellowship, and invite someone we haven't seen in a while!

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: August 24, 2025  
Scripture: Philippians 1:3-7a and Luke 24:16  
Message Title: ‘SHALOM!’  
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

This Week at St. John’s

Sun., Aug. 17	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	1:00 pm	St. John’s @ Charlotte Pride Parade (Uptown)
Mon., Aug. 18	9:30 am	Adventures in Learning (Broach Hall)
	4:00 pm	Dennis & Paula Retirement Drop-In Celebration (Spence Residence)
Tues., Aug. 19	10:00 am	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
Wed., Aug. 20	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Aug. 21	10:00 am	Women of the Church Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room)
Fri., Aug. 22	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Aug. 23	6:30 am	Benton Basketball (Gym)
	8:00 pm	Together We Rise NA (Lasater Hall)

Membership and Ministry

If you would like information about the church or 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. You can also scan the included QR code to fill out the guest card online. 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 Care .....Rev. Lee Gray  
Minister for Children and Their Families..... Rev. Kheresa Harmon  
Minister for Worship and Music.....J. Noel Lance

Church Staff

Stratus Custodians.....Pray & Thomas Chanwal  
Children’s Music Director .....Chloe Hall  
Weekday School Assistant Director.....Kristina Hartzell  
Church Administrator..... Amanda Morrison  
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted  
Sunday Custodian.....Joshua Overbay  
Media Coordinator.....Liza Tindall



Sunday, August 17, 2025  
10:30 AM Worship  
St. John’s Baptist Church