

# Welcome to the Worship of God

*Please turn off all electronic devices*

*\*Indicates for the congregation to stand as able*

August 31, 2025 *Ten-Thirty in the Morning*

**Gathering Music** Delbridge Narron

**Greeting and Our Life Together** Rev. Kheresa Harmon and Bobbie Hinson

**\*Passing of the Peace** Congregation

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship** Lee Northcutt

**Call to Worship** Rev. Lee Gray and Congregation

Leader: We come like Nicodemus, with questions on our hearts and longing for truth.

**People: Lord, meet us in our searching, and speak words of life.**

Leader: We come together in a world that craves instant results.

**People: Lord, teach us that true learning and growth unfold with patience and time.**

Leader: We gather in a world quick to judge, yet slow to listen.

**People: Lord, give us courage to speak for justice and mercy.**

Leader: We remember the costly love poured out at the cross.

**People: Lord, draw us from silent faith to bold devotion.**

Leader: Come, worship the One who welcomes seekers, honors truth, and transforms hearts.

**People: We come to follow Jesus, in the light of His love.**

**Prayer of Submission** Rev. Gray

**\*Hymn Of Praise, No. 699** *Rejoice, the Lord is King!*  
Chalice Hymnal DARWALL'S 148th

**Scripture Reading** Pauline Carter  
John 3: 1-10

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above. The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

Leader: This is the written Word of God, for the people of God.

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

The Church at Prayer Rev. Harmon

## Current Prayer Concerns

Mary Jo Breckenridge, Anna Lynn Kearse, Judy Kersey, Carl Phillips

## Sympathy

Ken Sanford passed on ahead of us on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Please remember his wife Judy Sanford as well as his children Tim, Scott, and Jeannette in your prayers. A service to honor Ken's life and ministry will be held in the St. John's sanctuary on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. A reception in Lasater Hall will follow the service.

## 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.**

**\*Offertory Hymn No. 365** *Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*  
Chalice Hymnal BEACH SPRING

**Offertory Prayer** Paul Huffman

**Offertory** Chancel Choir – Chloe Salmeron, flute  
*They Shall Soar Like Eagles* Laura Manzo

They shall soar like eagles; rise up and soar like eagles.  
They who wait upon the Lord shall not be weary.  
They shall never stumble, but gain new strength and power.  
They who wait upon the Lord.

Those who are weary and burdened with sorrow need not despair there is hope for tomorrow.  
God will be there each time you call on Him.

**\*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.*

**Scripture Reading** Joshua Overbay  
John 7: 45-52

Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not arrest him?” The police answered, “Never has anyone spoken like this!” Then the Pharisees replied, “Surely you have not been deceived, too, have you? Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law, they are accursed.” Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before and who was one of them, asked, “Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?” They replied, “Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee.”

John 19: 38-42

After he was crucified, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Leader: This is the written Word of God, for the people of God.

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

**Message** *“The Speed of Change”* Rev. Gray

**\*Hymn** *Revive Us Again*

1.We praise Thee, O God! for the Son of Thy love,  
2.We praise Thee, O God! for Thy Spir - it of light,  
3.Re - vive us a - gain; fill each heart with Thy love;  
For Je - sus who died, and is now one a - bove.  
Who hath shown us our Sav - ior, and scat - tered our night.  
May each soul be re - kin - dled with fire from a - bove.  
Hal - le lu - jah! Thine the glo - ry. Hal - le lu - jah! A - men.  
Hal - le - lu - jah! Thine the glo - ry. Re - vive us a - gain.

**\*Recognition of Service - Joshua Overbay** Rev. Gray

**\*Commissioning** Rev. Gray

**\*Postlude** Lee Northcutt

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Fall Kickoff Cookout for Children & Their Families

Let's "fall into Fall 2025" with a cookout at the home of Kelli, Eric, Hailey, and Grayson McCombs (6508 Calvert Commons Drive, Huntersville, NC 28078) at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 6! Please RSVP on Realm by TOMORROW September 1.

Faith Journey Book Study

You are invited to join the Faith Journey Book Study. We will begin meeting on Monday September 8 and will meet each Monday at 11:00 in the Church Lounge. Our book for the fall is Gospel Medicine by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books can be ordered by contacting Loretta Brown (lorettaybrown@gmail.com or 434-579-2669). All are welcome to this discussion group. For further information contact Kathy Bragg or Loretta Brown.

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 is open through Tuesday, September 9th. You may use the paper form, call Amanda in the church office, or give your form and money to Nancy Wilson on Sunday mornings Aug. 31st and September 7th. Payment must accompany your registration. Reconnect, enjoy fellowship, and invite someone we haven't seen in a while! Donations will be collected at the door for project Dignity Drive - Restoring Hope & Confidence. Requested items include: New Underwear: Boys 4-16, Girls 4-16, Women's S-3X, Bras - all sizes and Feminine Hygiene Products: Sanitary napkins, tampons, adult incontinence briefs.

Church-wide Meeting

We received 133 wonderful and thoughtful responses to our Survey to define your wishes for our next Senior Minister! This was a great response. The next step is a congregational meeting in Broach Hall on September 21, after worship. A simple lunch will be provided, and we ask that you reserve a spot so we know how many to expect. During this interactive meeting, we will present the Survey results and discuss in table groups to allow all a chance to participate, and to further refine any input on key priorities for the Search Team. Childcare with a separate kids' lunch will be provided. Please note on your reservation how many children will attend. Please reserve your spot by Sept. 15.

Rise Against Hunger – September 28

We're coming together to pack 15,000 meals for families in need around the world! Partnering with Rise Against Hunger, an international humanitarian organization, we're joining a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives, and responding to emergencies. Since its founding, Rise Against Hunger has packaged and distributed over 600 million meals to countries worldwide. This is a unique, family-friendly way to make a real impact — join us and be part of something bigger! Register Today by visiting stjohsbaptistchurch.org/rise25 or scanning the QR Code!

Save the Date: CROP Hunger Walk Sunday October 19

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

St. John's Baptist Church  
300 Hawthorne Lane  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204  
704.333.5428 | [www.stjohsbaptistchurch.org](http://www.stjohsbaptistchurch.org)

The St. John's Pulpit  
Worship: September 7, 2025  
Proclaimer: David Allen

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Aug. 31	9:15 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship (Sanctuary) Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Sept. 1	ALL DAY	Church Offices Closed for Labor Day
Tues., Sept. 2	10:00 am	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
Wed., Sept. 3	5:45 pm 7:15 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Suite) Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Sept. 4		
Fri., Sept. 5	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Sept. 6	6:30 am 8:00 pm	Benton Basketball (Gym) 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

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  
Weekday School Assistant Director.....Kristina Hartzell  
Church Administrator..... Amanda Morrison  
Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted  
Sunday Custodian.....Joshua Overbay  
Children's Music Director .....Chloe Salmeron  
Media Coordinator.....Liza Tindall



Sunday, August 31, 2025  
10:30 AM Worship  
St. John's Baptist Church