

Welcome to the Worship of God

Please turn off all electronic devices

**Indicates for the congregation to stand as able*

September 7, 2025

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

- Gathering Music

Delbridge Narron
- Greeting & Our Life Together

Rev. Kheresa Harmon
- Call to Service for Rise Against Hunger

Rev. Harmon
- *Passing of the Peace

Congregation
- Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Lee Northcutt

Entrance of the Christ Candle: Alexandra Cushman

- Call to Worship

Ken Benton and Congregation
- Leader: We come with our own ideas of fairness and reward.

People: Yet God meets us with mercy beyond measure.

Leader: We struggle with grace that cannot be earned.

People: Yet God offers love that cannot be lost.

Leader: We cling to our striving, our pride, our need to deserve.

People: Yet God’s gift is greater than all we carry.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One whose generosity unsettles
and saves us.

People: We will worship with open hands and grateful hearts.

Prayer of Submission

Ken Benton
- *Hymn Of Praise

God of Mercy, God of Grace
DIX
- God of mercy, God of grace, show the brightness of Your face.
Shine upon us, Savior, shine; fill Your world with light divine;
all Your saving health extend unto the earth's remotest end.
- Let the people praise You, LORD; by all living things adored.
Let the nations shout and sing glory to their gracious King;
at Your feet their tribute pay, and Your holy will obey.
- Let the people praise you, LORD; earth shall then its fruits afford.
To Your children blessings give; we to You devoted live,
all below and all above, one in joy and light and love.
- Moments with the Younger Church

Rev. Kheresa Harmon
- Scripture Reading

Phillips Bragg

Matthew 20: 1-16

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
- “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three
- o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”
- Leader: This is the written Word of God, for the people of God.
People: Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.
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- The Church at Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray
- Current Prayer Concerns

Mary Jo Breckenridge, Lynn Erdman, Anna Lynn Kears, Chris Lavender, Carl Phillips
- Sympathies

Ken Sanford passed on ahead of us on Monday, August 25th. A service to honor Ken's life and ministry will be held in the St. John's sanctuary on Friday, September 12th at 2:00 pm with a reception to follow.
- 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

More About Jesus
1. More a-bout Je - sus would I know, More of His grace to oth - ers show;
2. More a-bout Je - sus let me learn, More of His ho - ly will dis-cern;
3. More a-bout Je - sus in His Word, Hold-ing com-mu-nion with my Lord;
4. More a-bout Je - sus on His throne, Rich - es in glo - ry all His own;

More of His sav - ing full-ness see, More of His love who died for me.
Spir - it of God, my teach-er be, Show-ing the things of Christ to me.
Hear-ing His voice in ev - 'ry line, Mak-ing each faith-ful say-ing mine.
More of His king-dom's sure in-crease; More of His com-ing, Prince of peace.

More, more a - bout Je - sus, More, more a - bout Je - sus;

More of His sav - ing full- ness see, More of His love who died for me.
- Offertory Prayer

Kelli McCombs
- Offertory

Chancel Choir

Amazing Grace

Jay Althouse
- *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.*
- Message

“Well, It Was Mostly Me, Captain Butler”

David Allen
- *Hymn No. 73

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

Chalice Hymnal

WELLESLEY
- *Commissioning

Rev. Gray
- *Postlude

Lee Northcutt
- ~~~~~
We are excited to announce that our Interim Senior Minister will be Rev. Don Gordon. Don will begin Sept. 14 and continue until a new Senior Minister is called by our Pastor Search Team. More information to come about Don next week.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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.



OurBridge for Kids School Supply Drive

The Women of the Church are sponsoring a collection of school supplies and gently used or new school uniforms for our ministry partner ourBridge for Kids from now through September 15. Our Bridge for Kids provides resources and out-of-school programs specifically designed for immigrant and refugee children and their families. Their goal is to address the social service gaps and help newly arrived children and their families adapt, develop a sense of belonging, and thrive in Charlotte. Place your donated items inside the bins in the Giving Nook in the Main Entrance Lobby. We are collecting the following items for the age and size range of K-8:

- Backpacks
- Binders, folders notebooks, and lined paper
- Dry erase markers, crayons, colored pencils, pens and pencil cases
- White, navy or red polo shirts
- Khaki or navy pants and shorts

I was a stranger and you welcomed me” Matthew 25:35. Help us extend a loving hand to these children as a new school year starts!

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 stjohnsbaptistchurch.org/rise25 or scanning the QR Code!



St. John’s Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John’s Pulpit

Worship: September 14, 2025

Scripture: Luke 15: 11-32

Message Title: “The Speed of Recognition”

Proclaimer: Rev. Lee Gray

This Week at St. John’s

Sun., Sept. 7	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Sept. 8	11:00 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
	12:30 pm	Women of the Church Board Meeting (Lounge)
	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Deacon Panel Meetings (various locations) ALL DEACONS MEETING (Lasater Hall)
Tues., Sept. 9	6:30 am	Election Day! (Broach Hall)
	10:00 am	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
Wed., Sept. 10	5:45 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Suite)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Sept. 11		
Fri., Sept. 12	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Sept. 13	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

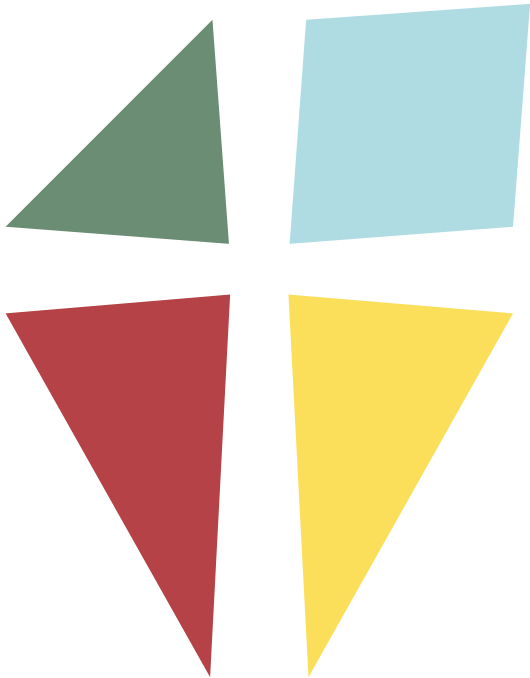
Every participant in God’s Servant Church

Equipping Ministers

Minister for Congregational CareRev. 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
NEW!! Custodial/Maintenance Associate.....Herb Parrott
Children’s Music DirectorChloe Salmeron
Media Coordinator.....Liza Tindall



St. John’s
BAPTIST
A SERVANT CHURCH

Sunday, September 7, 2025
10:30 AM Worship
St. John’s Baptist Church