

Welcome to the Worship of God

We invite you to silence your electronic devices so we can fully share this time together.

*Should you need a listening assistance device,
these may be found in the basket at the front of the sanctuary on the piano side.*

An asterisk () invites the congregation to stand as you are able.*

October 26, 2025Ten-Thirty in the Morning

Gathering Music

Greeting and Our Life TogetherDr. Don Gordon, D. Min.

Call to Service and InvitationKathy Turner

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Entrance of the Christ Candle – Jack Whipple

Call to WorshipJan Kerley

Leader:
Come, people of God, ready your hearts for worship.
Just as the body is strengthened through movement and purpose,
so the spirit grows strong through generosity and service.

People:
We come to train our hearts in gratitude,
to strengthen our faith through giving and grace.

Leader:
We are not called to sit on the sidelines,
watching others serve and sacrifice.
We are called to rise, to move, to build up the Body of Christ.

People:
We will step forward in faith,
sharing what we have, living what we believe.

Leader:
For the work of God is not for spectators but for servants—
each gift, each act of love, a part of God's holy design.

People:
We offer our time, our treasure, and our hearts,
that God's Kingdom may grow strong among us.

Leader:
Come then, with joyful hearts and willing spirits—
let us worship the One who strengthens, equips, and calls us to serve.

All:
We worship the Lord our God,
the source of our strength and the goal of our giving. Amen.

Invocation	Jan Kerley
*Hymn of Praise, No. 606	God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
Chalice Hymnal	NETTLETON
Moments with the Younger Church	Rev. Kheresa Harmon
Scripture Reading	Whitney Crowder
1 Corinthians 9:24-27	
Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air, but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.	
2 Corinthians 9:6-8	
The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.	
Leader:	This is the written Word of God for the people of God.
People:	Thanks be to God.
The Church at Prayer	Rev. Lee Gray
Current Prayer Concerns	
Mary Jo Breckenridge, Dale Johnson, Fredda Kimball, Anne Sutton, Joe Trull	
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	Called to Serve with Hearts of Gladness
	BEECHER
Called to serve with hearts of gladness, Blessed to share what we receive; Hands of mercy, sowing kindness, Teach us, Lord, in love to weave. Every gift Your grace has given, Let it shine through all we do; Make our work a hymn to heaven, Offered up in thanks to You.	
Freely giving, never counting, All we have is Yours alone; In the lives of others mounting, Seeds of love by service sown. Grant us strength for faithful living, Keep us steadfast, pure, and true; Every deed a prayer of giving, Lord, we live our lives for You.	
Offertory Prayer	Anna Cushman
Offertory	Chancel Choir
Offertory	John Ness Beck
*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.	
Sermon	Fiscally Fit
	Dr. Gordon
*Hymn	Come, All Christians, Be Committed
	BEACH SPRING
Come, all Christians, be committed To the service of the Lord. Maker your lives for Him more fitted, Tune your hearts with one accord. Come into His courts with gladness, Each His sacred vows renew, Turn away from sin and sadness, Be transformed with life anew.	
Of your time and talents give Him, they are gifts from God above, To be used by Christians freely To proclaim His wondrous love. Come again to serve the Savior, Tithes and off’rings with you bring. In your work, with Him find favor, And with joy His praises sing.	
God’s Command to love each other Is required of everyone. Showing mercy to each other Mirrors His redeeming Son. In compassion He has given Of His love that is divine; On the cross sins were forgiven; Joy and peace are fully thine.	
Come in praise and adoration, All who on Christ's name believe. Worship Him with consecration, Grace and love will you receive. For His grace give Him the glory, For the Spirit and the Word, And repeat the gospel story Till the world His name has heard.	
*Commissioning	Dr. Gordon
*Postlude	J. Noel Lance

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Charlotte NAMI Walks

St. John’s is a proud sponsor of Charlotte NAMI Walks on Saturday, November 8th at the Mint Museum. NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This year our goal is to raise **\$1,000**; so far, we have raised **\$460**. You can join the team to walk with us or give to support the St. John’s team by scanning the QR Code.



Stewardship 2026: Rooted in Faith, Growing in Purpose

This fall, we invite you to join us in reflecting on how our generosity helps St. John’s grow in purpose and deepen its impact. Commitment Sunday is November 9. Please prayerfully consider your pledge and plan to participate in this important season of stewardship.

Depression Support Group

Join the St. John’s Depression Support Group! Contact Rev. Kathy Turner (919-225-2749) to learn more about a regular meeting to provide support for people coping with depression; to foster honest conversations in our daily lives with others who can relate; and to help us hold one another accountable so we feel supported and not judged.

The first meeting will be on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the church in room 104 (Cheers Classroom). Please note: This is intended to provide a support network. It is not a therapy session.

Basketball Registration Information

St. John’s Basketball registration is now live for children and youth. We will have teams for boys and girls ages 4-12. Please scan the QR code to register and see all the details pertaining to the upcoming basketball season.



Real Estate Task Force Listening Session

The Real Estate Task Force (RETF) will be holding a listening session on Sunday, November 16th at 8:15 AM in Broach Hall. During this session, we will update our congregation on our activities over the summer and seek your feedback on the next steps.

SJBC Friendsgiving

Join us on **Sunday, November 16** for a special Friendsgiving celebration as we gather to reconnect, share a potluck meal, and celebrate the enduring bonds between our church and the Lost Boys of South Sudan.

Bring a dish that represents your family’s story and an appetite hungry for good food and fellowship! Linger longer after lunch and join us for an epic basketball game! All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE:

St. John’s Senior Adults (75 and older)

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend our annual Christmas Gathering on Thursday, December 4th in Broach Hall at 11:30 am. Details to follow soon!

St. John’s Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane

Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John’s Pulpit

Worship: November 2, 2025 | All Saints Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 103: 1-5, 11-18

Sermon Title: *The Great Beyond*

Proclaimer: Rev. Lee Gray

This Week at St. John’s

Sun., Oct. 26	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	3:00 pm	SJBC FALL FESTIVAL (Main Parking Lot)
Mon., Oct. 27	10:00 am	Adventures in Learning (Broach Hall)
	11:00 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tues., Oct. 28	10:00 am	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
	6:30 pm	NAMI Support Groups
Wed., Oct. 29	5:45 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Suite)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Oct. 30		
Fri., Oct. 31	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Nov. 1	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

Interim Senior Minister.....Dr. Don Gordon

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

Office Assistant.....Stephen Davis

Weekday School Assistant Director.....Kristina Hartzell

Church Administrator.....Amanda Morrison

Weekday School Director.....Lydia Olmsted

Custodial/Maintenance Associate.....Herb Parrott

Children’s Music DirectorChloe Salmeron

Media Coordinator.....Liza Wade



Rooted in Faith, Growing in Purpose



Sunday, October 26, 2025

10:30 AM Worship

St. John’s Baptist Church