

# Welcome to the Worship of God

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

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

November 23, 2025

Ten-Thirty in the Morning

Today's altar flowers are given by Maria Harvey in honor of her parents, Bobbie and Richard Hahn, celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary.

## Gathering Music

### Greeting and Our Life Together

Rev. Lee Gray

### Update from the Pastor Search Team

Leslie Bragg

### \*Passing of the Peace

Congregation

### Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

J. Noel Lance

Entrance of the Christ Candle – Grace Harmon

### Call to Worship

Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Leader: Gather, friends, on this day of gratitude. We come with the fullness of our lives – the joys that lift us and the burdens we quietly carry.

**People: We come trusting that God meets us in every circumstance.**

Leader: Thanksgiving invites us to pause, to breathe, to recognize the gifts already in our hands rather than longing for what is not yet ours.

**People: We choose to embrace what is – the blessings seen and unseen, the grace that sustains us, the strength that grows in us.**

Leader: In a world that urges us toward more, we remember the holy art of enough. We practice contentment, not as resignation, but as a deep confidence that God is present and faithful.

**People: With grateful hearts, we open ourselves to God's presence. We give thanks for what has been, what is now, and what is still becoming.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who teaches us to live with gratitude in every season.

**People: We come with thanksgiving. We come with hope. We come to worship.**

### \*Hymn of Gathering, No. 276

We Gather Together

Chalice Hymnal

KREMSER

### Moments with the Younger Church

Rev. Harmon

## Reading of the New Testament

Philippians 4:10-20

Stan DeRatt

I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me but had no opportunity to show it. Not that I am referring to being in need, for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.

You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account. I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: In every season, God provides what we truly need.

**People: With grateful hearts, we rest in God's abundance and give thanks.**

### \*Hymn of Gratitude, No. 715

Now Thank We All Our God

Chalice Hymnal

NUN DANKET

## The Church at Prayer

Rev. Gray

### Current Prayer Concerns

Mary Jo Breckenridge, Carol Drye, Norman Fortson,  
Dale Johnson, Fredda Kimball, Anne Sutton

### 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. 714

Chalice Hymnal

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS

## Offertory Prayer

Jeff LeVie

## Offertory

We Thank Thee, O Father

Chancel Choir

David H. Williams

We plow the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered By God's almighty hand;  
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

He only is the Maker of all things near and far;  
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star;  
The winds and waves obey Him, by Him the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, His children, He gives our daily bread.

We thank Thee, the, O Father, for all things bright and good.  
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;  
No gifts have we to offer, for all Thy love imparts,  
But that which Thou desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.

## \*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

A Thank You Note

Rev. Dr. Don Gordon

## \*Hymn of Contentment

In This Day of Blessing  
WYE VALLEY

In this day of blessing, may our hearts be still,  
Resting in the presence of our Father's will;  
Gifts that fill the moment, mercies calm and true,  
All the quiet treasures God has led us through.

Gratitude is blooming where contentment grows,  
Trusting God to guide us as each season flows;  
Not in grasping wishes or the things we crave,  
But in faithful living with the grace God gave.

Grateful for the mercies shining every day,  
Quiet joys and blessings guiding all our way;  
Hearts at rest in trusting what God's love will do,  
Walking in contentment, faithful, calm, and true.

Thankful for the journey, whether joy or trial,  
Holding to God's goodness every little while;  
Here we choose to cherish all that God has done,  
Finding peace and fullness in the Risen One.

## \*Commissioning

Rev. Gordon

## \*Postlude

J. Noel Lance

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### Coat & Canned Food Drive for Nourish Up

Nourish Up at the Galilee Center is having a Coat Drive for all ages, Children through Adults for the month of November. If you have any gently used or new coats you would like to donate to help our neighbors, please leave them in the Giving Nook at the main entrance. You can also give hats, scarves and gloves. We are also collecting **canned food for Nourish Up**, these donations can be placed in the designated bins on the right side of the Giving Nook. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause. - MRT Team

### ourBridge for Kids Donations & Prayer

On Monday morning more than twenty Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents arrived at ourBRIDGE for Kids. They did not have a warrant or a specific person in mind. After about ten minutes, they left at leadership's request. Their presence left the staff feeling harassed, intimidated, and frightened. The Missions Resource Team and Immigrant and Refugee Ministry Group invite fellow St. John'sians to join them in praying for our ourBridge for Kids ministry partners, our immigrant and refugee neighbors, and our city. We ask that God, who makes all things new, will work through us and in us so that cries of weeping and the sound of distress will be no more. As you pray, please consider this specific way of helping. ourBRIDGE provides after school programs for children and works with families through support teams and community partnerships. The ourBRIDGE team is currently focused on providing essential support to kids and families. Please consider donating food and household supplies. A specific list of items needed can be found in the Giving Nook and in this past week's Family News. Items can be placed in the Giving Nook in the drawers labelled for ourBRIDGE. Cash donations are accepted to purchase special supplies such as baby formula and fresh produce. Funds can be mailed to the address on the flyer or directed to the church office. We understand that there are multiple requests for donations at this time, and whatever support we can provide will be greatly appreciated. The St. John's Mission Resource Team supports this extraordinary request. For additional information, please contact St. John's Immigrant and Refugee Ministry Group chairs Anna Cushman or James Laney.

### Room In the Inn 2025-2026

Join us for the Room In The Inn 2025 season where we'll be hosting our unhoused neighbors for 8 nights between December - March. We are in need of volunteers for a variety of positions such as bag lunch prep, van drivers, and overnight hosts. Please scan the QR code to sign up and access more details. We hope to see you there!



### WDAV Lessons & Carols

Mark your calendars for the annual WDAV Lessons & Carols concert, featuring the Charlotte Master Chorale Chamber Singers, on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. This event is free and open to the public.

### Senior Adult Christmas Gathering!

St. John's Senior Adults (75 and older) please plan to attend our annual Christmas Gathering on Thursday, December 4th in Broach Hall at 11:30 am. Be on the lookout for your invitation in the mail! Questions should be directed to Bobbie Hinson at [Bobbie.hinson@providenceday.org](mailto:Bobbie.hinson@providenceday.org) or 704-806-1947

### Nativity Play & Churchwide Lunch

Join us on **Sunday, December 7**, immediately following worship, in Broach Hall for lunch and for our Children's Nativity Play. The cost is \$10.00 per person.



## 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:** November 30, 2025 | **First Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture:** Luke 1:5-25

**Sermon Title:** *An Old Man's Prayer*

**Proclaimer:** Rev. Dr. Don Gordon

### This Week at St. John's

|                 |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Sun., Nov. 23   | 9:15 am<br>10:30 am<br>10:30 am                      | Sunday School<br>Worship (Sanctuary)<br>Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)   |
| Mon., Nov. 24   | 11:00 am   | Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)  |
| Tues., Nov. 25  | 10:00 am<br>5:45 pm<br>6:00 pm<br>6:30 pm<br>7:15 pm | Staff Meeting/Worship Planning<br>Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Suite)<br>Depression Support Group (Room 104)<br>NAMI Support Groups<br>Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite) |
| Wed., Nov. 26   |  |  |
| Thurs., Nov. 27 |  | <b>Church Offices Closed for Thanksgiving!</b>   |
| Fri., Nov. 28   |  | <b>Church Offices Closed</b>   |
|                 | 8:00 pm  | Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)  |
| Sat., Nov. 29   | 6:30 am<br>8:00 pm                                   | Benton Basketball (Gym)<br>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.....Rev. Dr. Don Gordon  
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  
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 Director .....Chloe Salmeron  
Media Coordinator.....Liza Wade



**Sunday, November 23, 2025**  
**10:30 AM Worship**  
**St. John's Baptist Church**