

# Welcome to the Worship of God

## First Sunday of Advent

*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 30, 2025

*Ten-Thirty in the Morning*

### GATHERING MUSIC

#### GREETING AND OUR LIFE TOGETHER

J. Noel Lance

#### PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

Chancel Choir

*Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*

arr. Mark Edwards

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Don Gordon

Leader:

We come to Advent’s doorway, where hope rises even in the waiting.

**People:**

**We look for the light that shines in the darkness, trusting that God’s promise is true.**

Leader:

In a world that longs for renewal, we gather with expectation and quiet courage.

**People:**

**Our hope is in God, whose love is steadfast and whose presence never fails.**

Leader:

So let us lift our hearts to the One who comes to guide our steps.

**People:**

**We worship with hope, trusting the light that leads us on.**

#### Prayer of Anticipation

Rev. Gordon

#### THE ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

The McCombs Family

*Lighting of the Hope Candle*

Eric, Kelli, Hailey, and Grayson



#### \*ADVENT HYMN, NO. 119

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Chalice Hymnal

VENI EMMANUEL

#### MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rev. Kheresa Harmon

#### READING OF THE GOSPEL

Melissa Millette

Luke 1:5-25

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section’s turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for, he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, “This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

ONE: Through these written words of scripture, we listen for the Living Word of God.

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

#### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE, NO. 135

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Chalice Hymnal

MERLE’S TUNE

#### THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. Lee 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

Chancel Choir and Chloe Hall, flute

*Come, Messiah, Come*

Becki Slagle Mayo and Lynn Shaw Bailey

O Promised One, O Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, Messiah, come.

Lord, reveal your mercy. Guide us Lord, we pray.

May we see your Light and walk your way. Alleluia.

Come, Messiah, come!

#### \*DOXOLOGY

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore Him;

O come, let us adore Him;

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

#### SERMON

*An Old Man’s Prayer*

Rev. Gordon

#### \*HYMN OF HOPE, NO. 140

*Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*

Chalice Hymnal

SHEFFIELD

#### \*BENEDICTION

Rev. Gordon

#### \*POSTLUDE

J. Noel Lance



**WDAV Lessons & Carols: This season, the Charlotte Master Chorale Chamber Singers will offer a beautiful program of cherished carols and holiday music, enriched with thoughtful readings. All are invited to join us in person on Tuesday, December 2, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary of St. John’s Baptist Church, or listen live on 89.9 FM, wdav.org, or through the WDAV app. This event is free and open to the public.**

**Please also join us next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> as we have our Hanging of the Green Service. We will be bringing back some of the traditional hangings, with new readings and songs to celebrate the Advent season. We hope to see you here.**

## 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

ourBRIDGE offers after-school programs and family support through community partnerships. They are currently seeking donations of food and household items. A list of needed items is in the Giving Nook and last week's Family News. Place items in the labeled drawers in the Giving Nook. Cash donations for baby formula and fresh produce are welcome and can be mailed to the flyer address or given to the church office. Any support is greatly appreciated. For details, contact Anna Cushman or James Laney of St. John's Immigrant and Refugee Ministry Group.

### 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!



### 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.



### Lydia's Legacy: A Retirement Celebrating a Lifetime of Love

Hosted by the Weekday School Family, please join us in Broach Hall on Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 5:30, for a drop-in honoring Lydia Olmsted and the lifetime of love she has dedicated to the Weekday School. Current families, previous families, as well as St. John's members are invited to join in the celebrations! Light refreshments will be provided. If you feel led to contribute to a Love Offering for Lydia, you can give online through Realm, please select the "Love Gift" fund.



ZIMBLESTERN

## 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: December 7, 2025 | **Second Sunday of Advent**

### Hanging of the Green

Scripture: Mathew 2:1-12

Sermon Title: *The Secret of Christmas*

Proclaimer: Rev. Dr. Don Gordon

### This Week at St. John's

Sun., Nov. 30	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Dec. 1	11:00 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tues., Dec. 2	10:00 am	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>WDAV Lessons &amp; Carols (Sanctuary)</b>
Wed., Dec. 3	5:45 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Suite)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Dec. 4	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Senior Christmas Gathering (Broach Hall)</b>
	5:30 pm	Personnel Resource Team (Conference Room)
Fri., Dec. 5	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Dec. 6	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

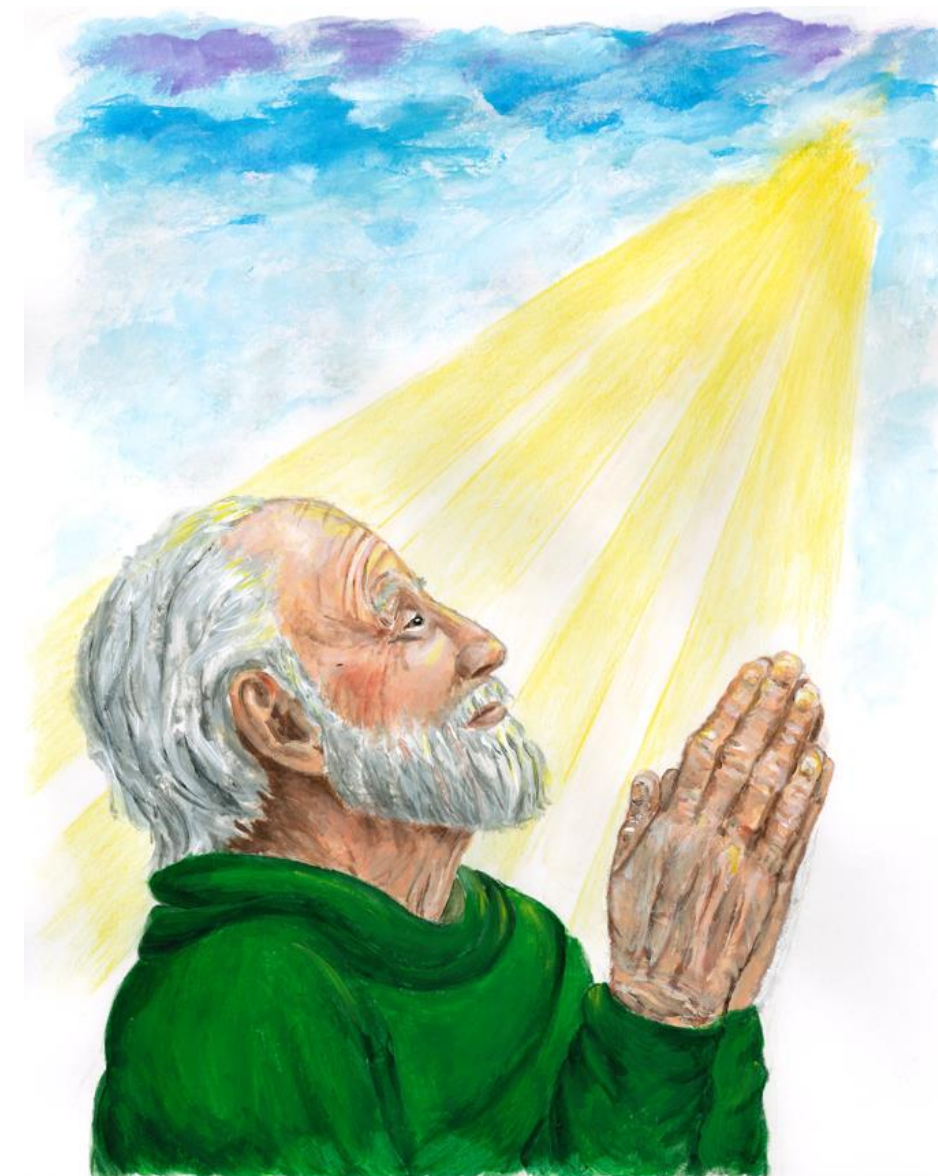
*Every participant in God's Servant Church*

### Equipping Ministers

Interim Senior Minister.....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



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