

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 9, 2025 *Ten-Thirty in the Morning*

Gathering Music	Delbridge Narron
Greeting and Our Life Together	Rev. Kheresa Harmon
*Passing of the Peace	Congregation
Preparing Our Hearts for Worship	Handbell Choir
March	Henry Purcell
Entrance of the Christ Candle – Joy Follis	
Call To Worship	Rev. Dr. Don Gordon and Congregation
Leader: When life grows heavy and we feel the weight of waiting for God to speak, we come with hearts that still believe He is listening.	
People: When we are down, when strength feels small, we remember that God quietly lifts us up.	
Leader: Even when the seas of life grow troubled and the way ahead is dim, the steadfast love of God carries us higher than we could ever stand alone.	
People: In God’s unseen strength, we find courage to rise again.	
Leader: Out of gratitude for that unseen grace, we bring what we have—our gifts, our service, our hearts—to share in God’s renewing work.	
People: For the God who seems silent still gives abundantly, and we are called to give in faith and hope.	
Leader: Come, bring your praise and your offering, your longing and your trust.	
All: For the God who lifts us up is here—hearing our prayers, stirring our generosity, and raising our lives to reflect His love.	
Invocation	Rev. Gordon
*Hymn of Praise, No. 453	Called as Partners in Christ’s Service
Chalice Hymnal	BEECHER
Moments with the Younger Church	Rev. Harmon

Scripture Reading
Psalm 22, 1-22

Tom Blackmon

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night but find no rest.
Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
But I am a worm and not human,
scorned by others and despised by the people.
All who see me mock me;
they sneer at me; they shake their heads;
“Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”
Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.
On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.
Many bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.
I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they bound my hands and feet.
I can count all my bones.
They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O LORD, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!
Save me from the mouth of the lion!
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

Leader: Through these written words of Scripture, we listen for the living word of God.

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

The Church at Prayer
Rev. Lee Gray

Current Prayer Concerns

Mary Jo Breckenridge, Carol Drye, Lynn Erdman, Martha Fowler
Dale Johnson, Fredda Kimball, Anne Sutton

Sympathy

Please remember the family of Joe Trull, and his wife Mary Rickenbaker, in your prayers as they mourn his death. Joe passed on ahead of us on Sunday, November 2nd. A small service will be planned in the future.

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
NETTLETON

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
Phillips Bragg

Offertory
You Raise Me Up
Handbell Choir and Delbridge Narron, piano
arr. Joel Raney

*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
When God Seems Far Away
Rev. Gordon

*Hymn, No. 80
Chalice Hymnal
My Shepherd, You Supply My Need
RESIGNATION

*Commitment Walk
Congregation

*Commissioning
Dr. Gordon

*Postlude
J. Noel Lance

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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!

On the Way Nov. 19

St. John's retired adults will be ON THE WAY to Trio Restaurant - 10709 McMullen Creek Pkwy - on Wednesday, November 19th. Please note that we will be meeting there at 11:00 am that day. Please email Lee Gray at LGray@sjcharlotte.org if you would like to attend.

Coat Drive Collection in November

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. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause. - MRT Team

Canned Food Drive for Nourish Up

The Mission Resource Team is responding to an urgent call for assistance from Nourish Up. We will be sponsoring a canned food drive through November. Please bring your donations to the Giving Nook and place them in the designated bins. We will also send \$2,500 to help with this emergency.

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 or 704-806-1947

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!



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. The group will meet each Tuesday, at 6:00 p.m. at the church in room 104 (Cheers Classroom under the Sanctuary). Please note: This is intended to provide a support network. It is not a therapy session.

Brotherhood of the Biscuit

On Friday, November 21st, at 6:30 am in the church lounge, our guest speaker will be Park Rd Baptist co-pastor Russ Dean. He will share a little about himself, and about the importance of putting faith in action through house building projects. Our interim pastor Don Gordon will serve homemade buttermilk biscuits with ham that morning, so be sure to email Lee Gray LGray@sjcharlotte.org if you plan to attend so we can have enough biscuits for everyone.

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 16, 2025

Scripture: Psalm 84

Sermon Title: *My Soul Pants for God*

Proclaimer: Dr. Don Gordon, D.Min.

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Nov. 9	8:00 am	Church Council (Conference Room)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Nov. 10	10:00 am	Adventures in Learning (Broach Hall)
	11:00 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
	6:00 pm	Deacon Panel Meetings
	7:00 pm	All Deacons' Meeting (Broach Hall)
Tues., Nov. 11	10:00 am	Staff Meeting/Worship Planning (Conference Room)
	6:00 pm	Depression Support Group (Room 104)
Wed., Nov. 12	5:45 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Suite)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Nov. 13	10:00 am	Needle Ministry (Lounge)
Fri., Nov. 14	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Nov. 15	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 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



Rooted in Faith, Growing in Purpose



Commitment Sunday
November 9, 2025
10:30 AM Worship
St. John's Baptist Church