

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.

Listening assistance devices are available for use and may be found in the basket at the front of the sanctuary on the piano side.

February 15, 2026 Ten-Thirty in the Morning

Gathering Music

Greeting and Our Life Together Rev. Kheresa Harmon

*Passing of the Peace Congregation

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship Handbell Choir
O Master Let Me Walk With Thee Barbara Kinyon

Entrance of the Christ Candle – Alex Norris

Call to Worship Rev. Lee Gray

Leader: Together, we enter God’s house as one people, bringing our joys and our burdens, our faith and our failings. We come aware of our need for grace, ready to release old hurts and receive the forgiveness God freely offers. In this shared space, we are shaped by mercy, renewed by love, and drawn together in worship and hope.

People: *Let us worship God.*

Invocation Rev. Gray

*Hymn of Praise, No. 5 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Chalice Hymnal AZMON

Reading of the Gospel Wanny Hogewood
Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not

have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Leader: This is the written word of God for the people of God.
People: *Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.*



Moments with the Younger Church Rev. Harmon

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Capo 5: (Am) (Dm) (Am) (C) (Em) (Am)
Dm Gm Dm F Am Dm

1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray,
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease.

(F) (Em) (C) (Dm) (Em) (Am)
B^b Am F Gm Am Dm

but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
what triv - ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
Then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Current Prayer Concerns

Martha Fowler, Dale Johnson,
Anne Sutton, Gayla Tyson

Litany for Peace and Forgiveness Rev. Dr. Don Gordon

Leader: God, we turn our attention now to the work of peacemaking and reconciliation.
People: *Christ is our peace.*

Leader: We remember Jesus in the throes of death, offering forgiveness and peace to those who had taunted and tormented him.
People: *Christ is our example.*

Leader: We remember Jesus after his resurrection, offering forgiveness and restoration to his disciples who had denied and forsaken him.
People: *Christ is our leader.*

Leader: We acknowledge that we have wronged others and been wronged by others,
People: *And need forgiveness applied to both.*

Leader: Help us to forgive others as we have been forgiven by You,
People: *For in forgiving, we find peace and freedom.*

Leader: Help us to have humility and courage
People: *To admit when we are wrong*

Leader: To confess and apologize
People: *To make amends to those we have hurt.*

Leader: We acknowledge that forgiveness benefits the forgiver
People: *And that we can never force others to forgive us.*

Leader: We acknowledge that we may never see the results of our peacemaking
People: *But that you see our hearts.*

Leader: We thank you God, for removing our transgressions from us
People: *Thanks be to God*

Leader: We ask for hearts conformed to the way of Christ
People: *Ready to offer peace; willing to forgive and be forgiven.*

ALL: AMEN.

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*Offertory Hymn, No. 73 There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy
Chalice Hymnal WELLESLEY

Offertory Prayer Kevin Benton

Offertory Handbell Choir
Amazing Grace Sandra Eithun

During the Offertory, you are invited to give as an expression of gratitude and generosity. If you prefer, a QR code is provided as a convenient option for digital giving.



*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 Forgive Us Our Trespases Rev. Gordon

*Hymn of Acceptance, No. 487 Help Us Accept Each Other
Chalice Hymnal ACCEPTANCE


*Commissioning Rev. Gordon


Church Conference Phillips Bragg

*Postlude J. Noel Lance

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Brotherhood of the Biscuit: February 20
On Friday, February 20th, at 6:30 am in the church lounge, **Don Gordon** will be our speaker and will share about his work with **Creation Care**. Please email Lee Gray at LGray@sjcharlotte.org if you plan to attend so that this month's biscuit master, Stephen Davis, can have the appropriate amount of biscuits.

Women of the Church Events:
Wreath Making Workshop Rescheduled to February 22
 It's not too late to sign up for the Women of the church Wreath Making workshop. Now scheduled for Sunday, February 22. Cost is \$20 which includes lunch and materials. Sign up by Friday, February 20th.
Women of the Church Retreat – Saturday, March 14
The Spiritual Growth Committee invites all women to a one-day retreat led by Stephanie Massey. Together, we'll explore returning to altars of compassion through stillness, community, and shared growth.
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Location: Broach Hall
Fee: \$20 (includes materials, lunch, and refreshments)
Registration Deadline: March 9, 2026



- The Season of Lent & Easter**
- **St. John's Ash Wednesday Service: February 18 – 6:00 PM**
 - Elizabeth Communities of Faith (EOC) Lenten Services
 - o EOC Ash Wednesday Service at St. Martin's Episcopal – February 18 at 12:00 PM (St. John's to lead on March 11)
 - o All other EOC Lenten services will be hosted by Caldwell Presbyterian: February 25 – April 1 at 12:00 PM
 - **Palm Sunday Service: March 29**
 - Easter EGGstravaganza: March 29 – 11:30 AM
 - **Maundy Thursday Service: April 2 – 7:00 PM**
 - Easter Service: April 5

FBC Raleigh Youth Choir @ St. John's
Join us in welcoming the FBC Raleigh Youth Choir as they lead us in worship on Sunday, March 1. The choir is directed by former St. John's staff members Maureen and Warren Howell.

Men's Shelter Banana Puddings & Meal Serving
 Upcoming Dates for 2026:
Feb 20 • Mar 20 • Apr 17 • May 15 • Jun 19
🔗 **Scan the QR Code to sign up.**
Need more details? Contact Joy Jarrett, Jim Keese, or Lynn Bishop.



Welcome Our Guest Preachers
We are excited to welcome back to St. John's some of our former ministers to share their wisdom and passion with our congregation!
Please join us for these special speakers in our pulpit:
Richard Kremer – February 22
Martha Kearse – March 15

St. John's Baptist Church
300 Hawthorne Lane
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit
Worship: February 22, 2026
Scripture: John 15:12-17; Acts 4:32-35
Sermon Title: Pursuing (Un)Common God
Proclaimer: Rev. Dr. Richard Kremer

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Feb. 15	9:15 am	Sunday Growth Groups Children/Youth/Adults
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	11:30 am	Valentine's Par-tea (Broach Hall)
Mon., Feb. 16	10:00 am	Adventures in Learning (Broach Hall)
	11:00 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tues., Feb. 17	10:00 am	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
Wed., Feb. 18	6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service (Chapel)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Feb. 19	10:00 am	Women of the Church Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room)
Fri., Feb. 20	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Feb. 21	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
Interim Weekday School Director.....	Kristina Hartzell
Church Administrator.....	Amanda Morrison
Custodial/Maintenance Associate.....	Herb Parrott
Children's Music Director	Chloe Salmeron
Media Coordinator.....	Liza Wade



St. John's
BAPTIST
A SERVANT CHURCH

Sunday, February 15, 2026
10:30 AM Worship
St. John's Baptist Church