

# 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.*

March 15, 2026 *Ten-Thirty in the Morning*

## Gathering Music

Greeting and Our Life Together Rev. Dr. Don Gordon

And Introduction of Rev. Dr. Martha Kearse

Call to Service: Global Missions Offering Anna Cushman

\*Passing of the Peace Congregation

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship J. Noel Lance

*Entrance of the Christ Candle – Joy Follis*

Call to Worship Rev. Gordon

**Leader:** Come, all who are weary from carrying heavy burdens.

**People:** *We come seeking strength and grace for the journey.*

**Leader:** Christ calls us not only to follow Him, but to walk beside one another.

**People:** *We will lift one another up in love.*

**Leader:** When a neighbor stumbles, we will not pass by.

**People:** *We will offer our hands and share the load.*

**Leader:** When the world teaches us to walk alone,

**People:** *Christ teaches us to walk together.*

**Leader:** For no one is forgotten, no one is alone in the family of God.

**People:** *In Christ's love, we carry one another.*

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the One who calls us to compassion.

**People:** *Let us worship God with grateful and open hearts.*

Invocation Rev. Gordon

\*Hymn of Praise, No. 6 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*  
Chalice Hymnal MIT FREUDEN ZART

Moments with the Younger Church Rev. Kheresa Harmon

Reading of the Hebrew Scripture Rev. Dr. Martha Kearse  
**Exodus 13:21-22**

The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

**Exodus 14:1-31**

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall camp opposite it, by the sea. Pharaoh will say of the Israelites, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has closed in on them.' I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, so that I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord." And they did so. When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, "What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?" So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him; he took six hundred elite chariots and all the

other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out boldly. The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and his army; they overtook them camped by the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon. As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them, and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers." The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Leader: This is the written word of God for the people of God.

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

Choral Meditation Chancel Choir  
*We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight* Kevin J. Sadowski

We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."

We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod;  
But in your promise we rejoice, and cry "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound  
To call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.

That, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light  
We may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

The Church at Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray

## Current Prayer Concerns

Dale Johnson, Kathy Mahnesmith, Gayla Tyson, Sue Veach

## 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. 494 *They'll Know We Are Christians*  
Chalice Hymnal ST. BRENDAN'S

Offertory Prayer James Laney

Offertory Steven Follis  
*He's Not Heavy, He's My Brother* Bobby Scott and Bob Russell

The road is long If I'm laden at all  
With many a winding turn I'm laden with sadness  
That leads us to who knows where, That everyone's heart  
who knows where Isn't filled with the gladness  
But I'm strong Of love for one another  
Strong enough to carry him  
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

So, on we go It's a long, long road  
His welfare is of my concern From which there is no return  
No burden is he to bear While we're on the way to there  
We'll get there Why not share?

For I know And the load  
He would not encumber me Doesn't weigh me down at all  
He ain't heavy, he's my brother  
He's my brother  
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

*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 *The Road Is Long* Rev. Kearse

\*Hymn No. 432 *O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life*  
Chalice Hymnal ST. PETER

\*Commissioning Rev. Gordon

\*Postlude J. Noel Lance

# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## The Season of Lent & Easter

- Elizabeth Communities of Faith (ECOF) Lenten Services
  - o Hosted by Caldwell Presbyterian: February 25–April 1 at 12:00pm
- Palm Sunday Service: March 29
- Easter EGGstravaganza: March 29 – 11:30 AM
- Maundy Thursday Service: April 2 – 7:00 PM
- Easter Service: April 5

## Easter EGGstravaganza 2026!



Join us and our Together in Christ International Ministries friends for our Annual Easter EGGstravaganza! We will gather in Broach Hall at 11:30 am on March 29th for a potluck meal, followed by an Easter Egg hunt and games. Please bring your favorite dish to share! Please register by March 25th!

## ON THE WAY

St. John's retired adults and friends will eat at Portofino - 5126 Park Rd, Unit 1C, Charlotte NC 28209 - at 11:30 am on Tuesday, March 17th. Wear green for this **St. Patrick's Day** lunch and let Lee Gray know if you plan to attend by emailing him at LGray@sjcharlotte.org so we can confirm our number to the restaurant on the Sunday before we go out to eat.

## Brotherhood of the Biscuit

We hope that you are able to join us for the Brotherhood of the Biscuit on Friday, March 20th at 6:30 am in the church lounge. This month Stephen Davis will share a little bit about himself and his life's story. Please email Lee Gray at LGray@sjcharlotte.org if you are able to join us. This allows our biscuit master Eric McCombs to get us the right number of biscuits.

## Youth Mission Auction: April 19

This year's Youth Mission Auction will be held on April 19, 2026 in Broach Hall. BBQ Lunch tickets are \$20 for adults. Lunch is free for children 12 & under. Childcare will be provided.



## 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: March 22, 2026

Scripture: Colossians 2:6-7

Youth Sunday

Worship will be led by our St. John's Youth

### This Week at St. John's

Sun., Mar. 15	9:15 am	Sunday Growth Groups
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Mar. 16	11:00 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tues., Mar. 17	8:00 am	Finance Resource Team (Zoom)
	10:00 am	Sandwich Ministry (Lounge)
	11:30 am	On the Way to Portofino's
	6:30 pm	Mission Resource Team
	7:00 pm	Pastor Search Team (Zoom)
Wed., Mar. 18	12:00 pm	<b>ECOF Lenten Service (Caldwell Presbyterian)</b>
	5:45 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Suite)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Mar. 19	10:00 am	Women of the Church Spiritual Growth Team (Prayer Room)
Fri., Mar. 20	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Mar. 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



**Sunday, March 15, 2026**

**10:30 AM Worship**

**St. John's Baptist Church**