

# 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 22, 2026 Ten-Thirty in the Morning

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## Gathering Music

**Greeting and Our Life Together** Wyatt Sweet

**Update from the Pastor Seach Team** Leslie Bragg

**\*Passing of the Peace** Congregation

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship** Addison Norris  
*Mists of Kilimanjaro* Kristen Allred  
*Entrance of the Christ Candle* – Alexandra Cushman

**Call to Worship** Xalia Brown

**One:** We gather in worship today as many, yet one in Christ.  
**All:** *Lord, help us worship you with our eyes and our ears; with our hearts and our minds. Because we are rooted in you, we give our whole selves to you.*

**One:** We come from different places, different histories, and different lives, yet all are children of the same God.  
**All:** *Different people, one faith—created lovingly, and gathered to grow in knowledge.*

**One:** Rooted in the love of Christ and built up in Him, we are strengthened in the truth.  
**All:** *We are one in the Spirit, rooted in the Word, to live for your glory.*

**Prayer of Submission** Dylan Redding

**\*Hymn of Praise, No. 272** *The Church's One Foundation*  
Chalice Hymnal AURELIA

**Reading of the Scripture** Xalia Brown  
Colossians 2:6-7

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness".

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

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

**Musical Moment** Natalie Turner, *piano*  
*'Twas Brillig* Jason Sifford

**Moments with the Younger Church** Tallon Cardella and Addison Norris

**\*Hymn, No. 86** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
Chalice Hymnal FAITHFULNESS

**The Church at Prayer** Will Stillerman

## Current Prayer Concerns

Phillips Bragg, Dale Johnson, 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. 609**

Chalice Hymnal

**Offertory Prayer**

## Offertory Deacons

Emmitt Vergakis, Elsie Vergakis, Eva Vergakis, Xalia Brown

**Offertory**

*This Little Light of Mine*

***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**

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.

**Sermons**

St. John's Senior Youth

*Rooted in Gratitude* – Parker Wilson

*Rooted in Music* – Natalie Turner

*Rooted in Generosity* – Whit Wilson

**Rooted Together in Faith**

St. John's Youth

*Trees We'll Never See*

Amy Grant

The song, "*Trees We'll Never See*", by Amy Grant shows the long-term, selfless influence we leave behind. By valuing hard work and the lessons learned from those around us, we invest in a future we may never personally witness. Rather than looking for immediate recognition, we are called to build things that endure. At St. John's, this spirit is alive as our church family constantly nourishes our youth in ways that may not be fully realized for years to come.

**Tallon** – A rainbow bandana represents **Ryan Crowder** to me. He has always been there for me and my family and I even call him Uncle Ryan because he is so close to me.

**Addison** – **Chloe Salmeron** has been an inspiration for me. She has a passion for music and I have really enjoyed learning from her. She has always been there for me whether in church, at camp, or anywhere.

**Emmitt** – My dad, **Taylor Vergakis**, is someone I look up to. Not only is he my dad, but was also one of my first basketball coaches. He is always a friendly face and goes out of his way to say good morning and welcome others.

**Xalia** – On the WNC Mission trip last year, **Rick Walker** taught me how to use power tools. Through this he showed me that hard work and learning can be some of the most enjoyable experiences and something to look forward to.

**Eva** – A bag of M&Ms is what reminds me of my Papa, **Ken Benton**. He is someone that I have always seen in leadership roles at St. John's and someone I look up to.

*Take My Life and Let It Be*

HENDON

Eva Vergakis

**Dylan** – A lightning bolt is what makes me think of **Lindsay Wilson**. She has taken charge and taken responsibility for the youth.

**Wyatt** – **Todd Stillerman** was the first person to introduce me to basketball as my coach. To this day, basketball is still my favorite thing to do.

**Natalie** – My dad, **Kevin Turner** has taught me to have a love of reading. The comic book is a symbol of how he has helped me learn to read and it has given us an opportunity to spend time together.

**Whit** – **Elizabeth Whipple** is someone that I can always go to for answers, guidance, and honest insight when I'm unsure about something. Like an 8-ball, she can almost read my mind and understand what I am thinking before I can even explain it.

**Parker** – **Lee Gray** was the minister that planned our first mission trip to Chicago. A pair of tennis shoes represents the amount of walking we did on that trip (around 30,000 steps in one day!). That was a first of the many memories I have of past mission trips as a youth at St. John's.

**Will** – **Marc Cardella** was one of my basketball coaches. He has always given good advice, has taught me to use manners, and has taught me to be tough.

**Lindsay** – **Marvin Carter** is a rock in the lives of the youth from years past. During my time in the youth group, he was always there for us during our ups and downs, and someone we could always lean on.

**\*Hymn of Light**

Congregation

*This Little Light of Mine*

1-This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2- Rooted deep in Christ,  
I'm gonna stand up strong,  
Rooted deep in Christ,  
I'm gonna stand up strong,  
Rooted deep in Christ,  
I'm gonna stand up strong,  
Standing firm, standing firm in the Lord.

3- Firm in faith I'll grow,  
Like a tree by living streams,  
Firm in faith I'll grow,  
Like a tree by living streams,  
Firm in faith I'll grow,  
Like a tree by living streams,  
Growing strong, growing strong in the Lord.

**Signing of the Bible**

Natalie Turner, Parker Wilson, Whit Wilson

**\*Commissioning**

Rev. Dr. Don Gordon

**\*Postlude**

J. Noel Lance

# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

After worship today, the Membership Resource Team invites new members and guests to a Meet and Mingle in the Library Commons. This is an opportunity to meet the Membership Resource Team and Ministers and have any questions answered while getting to know one another.

The Library Commons is located across from the conference room on the second floor. Coffee will be available and children are welcome.

## 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! NEXT SUNDAY!

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!

## 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.



## Congregational Listening Session: Lay Leadership Structure April 12

The Church Council will hold the first congregational listening session on Sunday, April 12, at 8:00 a.m. in Broach Hall. This gathering will provide an overview of the proposed lay leadership framework and offer time for questions and shared perspectives. Additional Zoom sessions will follow for those unable to attend in person. All are encouraged to participate as we discern together how our leadership structure can best support shared ministry and the life of our congregation.

Today's bulletin cover art is a beautiful contribution from church member, Jan Kerley.

## 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 29, 2026 | Palm Sunday

Scripture: John 12:12-19

Sermon Title: *Keeping Your Head, When the World Wants to Put a Crown On It*

Proclaimer: Rev. Dr. Don Gordon

### This Week at St. John's

Sun., Mar. 22	9:15 am	Sunday Growth Groups
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	11:30 am	Meet & Mingle (Library Commons)
Mon., Mar. 23	11:00 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tues., Mar. 24	6:30 pm	NAMI Support Groups
Wed., Mar. 25	12:00 pm	ECOF Lenten Service (Caldwell Presbyterian)
	5:45 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Suite)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Mar. 26		
Fri., Mar. 27	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Mar. 28	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

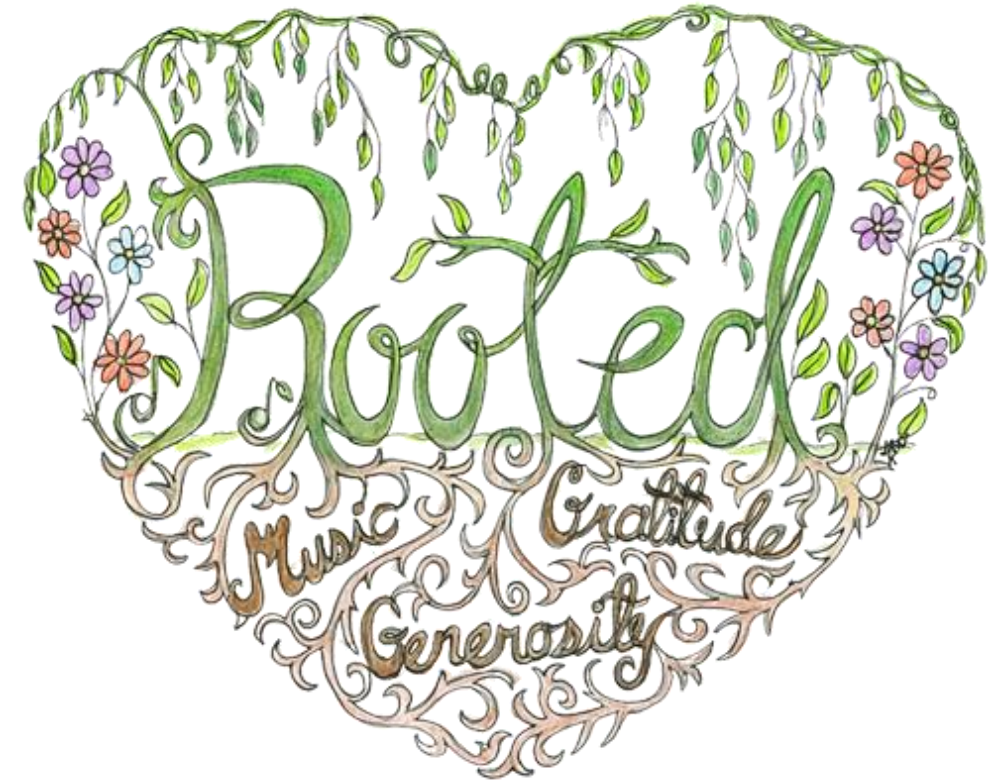
*Every participant in God's Servant Church*

### 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  
 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



**Youth Sunday**  
**March 22, 2026**  
**10:30 AM Worship**  
**St. John's Baptist Church**