

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.

April 5, 2026

Ten-Thirty in the Morning



Prelude J. Noel Lance
Christ the Lord is Risen Today arr. Jason Payne
Entrance of the Christ Candle – Camille Hutchinson

Proclamation of New Beginnings Rev. Dr. Don Gordon

One: Christ is risen!
All: He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!
One: Lift your voices! Lift your hearts!
This is the day of victory!
All: Death has been defeated! The grave has lost its power!

One: Sin is broken! Hope is alive!
Jesus Christ is risen today!
All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Let the music ring! Let the instruments resound!
Let every voice join the song of heaven!
All: Worthy is the Risen Christ! He lives forevermore!

One: From the cross to the empty tomb,
From sorrow to unending joy –
All: Christ is risen! Christ is alive! Christ reigns!

One: So come, people of God and celebrate the victory!
All: We will sing! We will shout! We will rejoice!
Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

***Hymn of Resurrection, No. 216** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*
Chalice Hymnal EASTER HYMN

Reading of the New Testament Rev. Lee Gray
1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and 12-20

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that

he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

One: Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen Indeed!
All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Hymn of Glory, No. 218 - (Vs. 1 and 2)** *Thine Is the Glory*
Chalice Hymnal MACCABEUS

Moments with the Younger Church The Children of Saint John's
The Resurrection Story

Narrator Riley Cardella
Mary Magdalene Hannah Harmon
Jesus Caleb Carney
Angel Mabry Anne Miller
Mary Mae Redding
Salome Joy Follis
Peter Grace Harmon
John Aaron Carney
Friends Alex Norris, Alexandra Cushman,
Julien Cushman, Jacob Carney

Choral Anthem *Come, Ye Faithful Raise the Strain*
Arr. Jeffrey Honoré

David Kern, *flute* | Ross Jarrell, *percussion*

This joyful Easter hymn connects us with the ancient church, drawing on a text from the 8th century. It beautifully links the story of God's deliverance in the Exodus with Christ's resurrection, reminding us that the same God who brought His people out of bondage now leads us into new life through the risen Christ.

Prayers of the People Rev. Lee Gray

Prayer Concerns

Dale Johnson, Gayla Tyson

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**

He Lives!
ACKLEY

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;
none other is so loving, so good and kind.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

Offertory Prayer Bert Green

Offertory Anthem Chancel Choir and David Kern, *flute*
Lift High the Cross Arr. Jantz Black

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.
Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.
Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou has promised, draw the world to thee.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory!
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.
Alleluia!

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** LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sermon *Defense of Resurrection* Rev. Gordon

***Hymn of Exaltation, No. 234** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*
Chalice Hymnal DIADEMATA

Our Life Together Rev. Gordon

***Commissioning** Rev. Gordon

***Postlude** J. Noel Lance
"Toccata" from Organ Symphony V C.M. Widor (1844-1937)

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

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

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.

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.



Update from the Pastor Search Team

Since last May, the Pastor Search Team has prayerfully listened to the equivalent of nearly a year' worth of sermons and reviewed extensive materials from a strong pool of candidates. Through this process, we have seen and felt God's guidance clearly. We are thrilled to share that we have **unanimously identified** our final candidate and are currently working through the details of the call which will include a request for endorsement by our church leadership. We look forward to introducing this candidate to you on **Sunday, April 26** so please mark your calendar! There will be a presentation and Q & A during the Sunday School hour, followed by an opportunity to vote at a church conference at the end of worship that day. Thank you for your continued prayers and trust. We are excited for what God has in store for St. John's!

-Becky, Bret, Don, Dylan, Ellen, Jason, Kimberly, Leslie, Meredith, and Randy

Brotherhood of the Biscuit

On Friday, April 17th, at 6:30 am in the church lounge, **Don Gordon** will be our speaker and will share Part Two about his work with creation care - **"What Science teaches us about Creation Care."** Please email Lee Gray at LGray@sjcharlotte.org if you plan to attend so we can have the appropriate amount of biscuits.

C3 Nature Walk

SJBC will host a C3 (Christians Caring for Creation) Nature Walk on Saturday April 18 at 9:00am at James Boyce Park. We will meet at the playground for opening instructions for a 30-45-minute walk through trails at the park. At the conclusion, we will gather for a time of reflection, facilitated by our Interim Senior Minister Don Gordon. The entire experience will last about one hour, giving people time to come to church and help set up for the Youth Auction if needed.

You can bring a dog on a leash if you like. We also ask you to bring your own water bottle, so we don't have to distribute more plastic bottles into our ecosystem. Invite a friend if you wish. This will be a low key, easy-going event.

The purpose of this nature walk is simply to help us connect with God's creation and benefit from the all-healing powers God's world has for us.

St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane

Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: April 12, 2026

Scripture: John 20:24-31

Sermon Title: *Faith and Doubt*

Proclaimer: Rev. Dr. Don Gordon

This Week at St. John's

Sun., Apr. 5	9:15 am	Sunday Growth Groups
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
Mon., Apr. 6	ALL DAY	Church Offices Closed
Tues., Apr. 7		
Wed., Apr. 8	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Apr. 9	10:00 am	Needle Ministry (Lounge)
Fri., Apr. 10	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Apr. 11	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 CareRev. 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 DirectorChloe Salmeron
 Media Coordinator.....Liza Wade



Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

10:30 AM Worship

St. John's Baptist Church