

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.

August 9, 2026Ten-Thirty in the Morning

Gathering Music

Greeting and Our Life TogetherRev. Kheresa Harmon

*Passing of the PeaceCongregation

Preparing Our Hearts for WorshipChancel Choir
Lord, You Have Come to the LakeshorePESCADOR DE HOMBRES

Entrance of the Christ Candle – Jacob Carney

Call to WorshipRev. Harmon and Congregation

Leader: We gather before God, who sees beyond appearances and knows the truth within us.

People: *With honest hearts, we open ourselves to God’s grace.*

Leader: We celebrate the gifts God has given us without placing ourselves above others.

People: *Every good gift is an opportunity to love and serve.*

Leader: We release the need to prove our worth by comparing ourselves with others.

People: *Our worth is secure in the mercy and love of God.*

Leader: God calls us to humility, not self-contempt; to confidence, not pride.

People: *May we walk humbly, love generously, and honor the dignity of all.*

Leader: Let us worship the God who receives us with mercy and transforms us by grace.

People: *With gratitude and humility, we worship God together.*

InvocationRev. Harmon

*Hymn of Praise, No. 17O Worship the King
Chalice HymnalLYONS



Reading of the ScriptureSuzanne Taylor
Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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.*

Moments with the Younger ChurchRev. Harmon

The Church at PrayerRev. Lee Gray

Current Prayers

Lynn Erdman

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.

Choral MeditationChancel Choir
*The Lord Desires These Things*Lloyd Larson

In what does the Lord delight? What does the Lord desire?
In what will the Lord be pleased? What does the Lord require?
Though I lift my hands in prayer, Though I sing my praise through tears,
If my soul is not contrite, my voice God does not hear.

I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing.
A yearning soul, a grateful heart, these are the gifts I bring.
I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing.
A life of humility and grace, the Lord requires these things.

In what does the Lord delight? What does the Lord desire?
In what will the Lord be pleased? What does the Lord require?
Though I offer up my gold, though I share all I possess,
If my heart does not have love, my gifts are meaningless.
I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing.
A yearning soul, a grateful heart, these are the gifts I bring.
I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing.
A life of humility and grace, the Lord requires these things.

SermonPride: Self-Esteem on SteroidsRev. Dr. Don Gordon

*Offertory Hymn, 589Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
Chalice HymnalI WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Offertory PrayerCindy McIntyre

OffertoryAidan Salmeron, *clarinet*
AdorationFlorence Price

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.



*DoxologyOLD 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.

*CommissioningRev. Gordon

*PostludeJ. Noel Lance

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Charlotte Pride Interfaith Service TODAY
St. John's will participate in the Charlotte Pride Interfaith Service at Trinity Lutheran Church (1900 The Plaza) TODAY Sunday, August 9th at 4 PM.

St. John's @ Charlotte Pride 2026!
Charlotte Pride 2026 is NEXT Saturday and Sunday, August 15 & 16, at First Ward Park and surrounding streets in Uptown Charlotte.
On Sunday, August 16th, join us to shout, "GOD LOVES EVERYONE!"
along the Charlotte Pride parade route on N. Tryon Street, Uptown.
All walkers will get a brand-new St. John's Pride T-shirt.
When registering to walk, please make sure you include your T-shirt size.
Want a t-shirt but are unable to walk, shirts can be purchased for \$20 from the church office, this covers the cost of the shirt as well as help us continue to show Charlotte that God Loves Everyone.



Upgrading the Sanctuary Sound System Zoom Meeting Aug. 12
We know that some of you might have questions about the new sound system and changes in the sanctuary. We invite you to attend a Zoom Q&A session on Wednesday, August 12, 6-7pm. If you can't make it, this meeting will also be recorded and shared for your viewing in the Family News on Thursday, August 13.

Discovering St. John's
 Discovering St. John's will meet Sundays, August 23 & 30, at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room (across from the library). It will be led by church staff and other key leaders. Designed for those who have joined within the past two years, those considering membership, and members seeking a deeper understanding of St. John's history, beliefs, and ministries. Coffee and doughnuts provided. Sign up by contacting the church office or scanning the QR code.

Back to School Breakfast August 23
Children & their families are invited to the annual Back to School Breakfast in the Library Commons from 9:30 am - 10:15 am on Sunday August 23rd.

Annual Cookout for Children and Their Families
Let's celebrate the beginning of a new church year and welcome our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Laura Heikes! Join us for a cookout on Saturday, August 29, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., at the home of Anna and Blinn Cushman. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided. Let's bring the rest! Sign up by August 23.



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

The St. John's Pulpit
Worship: August 16, 2026
Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27; 1 Samuel 18:5-11
Sermon Title: *Comparison – A Double-Edged Sword*
Proclaimer: Rev. Lee Gray

This Week at St. John's		
Sun., Aug. 9	9:15 am	Sunday Growth Groups
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	4:00 pm	Charlotte Interfaith Service (Holy Trinity Lutheran)
Mon., Aug. 10		
Tues., Aug. 11		
Wed., Aug. 12	5:45 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Suite)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Aug. 13	10:00 am	Needle Ministry (Lounge)
	6:30 pm	House & Grounds (Zoom)
Fri., Aug. 14	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Aug. 15	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

Office Assistant/Media Coordinator.....	Megan Beach
Stratus Custodians.....	Pray & Thomas Chanwal
Weekday School Director.....	Kristina Hartzell
Church Administrator.....	Amanda Morrison
Custodial/Maintenance Associate.....	Herb Parrott
Children's Music Director	Chloe Salmeron



Sunday, August 9, 2026
10:30 AM Worship
St. John's Baptist Church