

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.

October 25, 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

Chancel Ringers

Fantasy on KINGSFOLD

H. Dean Wagner

Entrance of the Christ Candle – Jack Whipple

Call to Worship

Dr. Laura Heikes and Congregation

Leader: What makes a church a church? Is it the walls that surround us, the windows that catch the morning light, or the pews where generations have gathered?

People: *It is the Spirit of God alive among us!*

Leader: Is it the music we make, the traditions we treasure, or the stories we remember?

People: *It is the love of Christ that gives them meaning!*

Leader: And what makes this church worth celebrating?

People: *The faith we share, the welcome we offer, and the love we put into action!*

Leader: Then let us celebrate not only the church we have inherited, but the church God continues to call us to become.

People: *We are the church, and we are here to worship God!*

*Hymn of Praise, No. 274

I Love Your Church, O God

Chalice Hymnal

ST. THOMAS

Reading of the Scripture

Rev. Harmon

Romans 12:4-5

For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.

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.*

The Church at Prayer

Rev. Gray

Kimberly Hicks, Rob Peacock

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.

Hymn

Here We Find a Place to Grow

HYFRYDOL

(Congregation will remain seated. Choir will stand each time we sing.)

Here we gather, still becoming All that love has called us to;
Not by walls or years defining, But by grace that makes us new.
Here the questions find a welcome, Here our burdens find their rest;
Here we learn to walk together, Held in love and richly blessed.

I Love My Church

Norman Fortson

Hymn

Here We Find a Place to Grow

HYFRYDOL

Through the years our lives are woven Into stories yet untold;
Seeds of faith are gently planted, Love takes root in young and old.
Here we celebrate life's wonders, Here we share each other's pain;
In the joy and in the sorrow, God is with us, and remains.

I Love My Church

Tallon Cardella

Hymn

Here We Find a Place to Grow

HYFRYDOL

Called to carry love beyond us, Called to see with open eyes;
We will serve the world around us, Hearing every neighbor's cries.
May our doors be opened wider, May our welcome know no end;
In the stranger and the neighbor, May we recognize a friend.

I Love My Church

Kera and Mike Hemstreet

Hymn

Here We Find a Place to Grow

HYFRYDOL

God of yesterday and morning, Lead us into days unknown;
Keep our hearts forever open, Let your love through us be shown.
All our gifts and all our journeys, All the work that's yet to be;
We commit them to your service, Christ, whose love has set us free.

I Love My Church

Ashley Maready

Offertory Prayer

Ashley Maready

Offertory

Chancel Ringers and Aidan Salmeron, *clarinet*

Just A Closer Walk with Thee

arr. Bruce Greer

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.

Invitation to the Commitment Walk

Todd Stillerman



Renewing our Commitment:
We Love Our Church

*Commitment Walk

Congregation

*Commissioning

Dr. Heikes

*Song of Response

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Our hearts and hands we bring, Our gifts of love we share;
Together serving in Christ's name, His boundless grace declare.

*Postlude

J. Noel Lance

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Today is Commitment Sunday! Stewardship 2027: **We Love Our Church**

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge for 2027! If you haven't returned your card yet, there's still time. You can return it in the offering plate, by mail, online, by phone (704-333-5428, Finance Office ext. 2020), or by dropping it by the church office. We hope to have every pledge in by Thanksgiving, so the congregation can adopt the 2027 budget with confidence on November 22.

Fall Festival Trunk-or-Treat TODAY!!

Join us for the St. John's Fall Festival TODAY from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the Main Parking Lot.
Petting Zoo, Bounce Houses, Hotdogs, Cotton Candy, Baked Goods, Face Painting, and Dollar Cone (Coffee & Ice Cream Food Truck)

Fall Dates for On the Way

- Wednesday, November 11th 9:30 am – 4:30 pm On the Way to International Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro

To sign up you can contact Lee Gray at Lgray@sjcharlotte.org or on Realm.

St. John's Children & Youth Basketball

Basketball Season at St. John's will be here before you know it. Clinics are on October 27 and Nov. 3 at 5:00 pm and are for 6Us and 8Us combined, with siblings welcome to attend and participate. Practices for all teams start in November and games in December.

Registration is ongoing now. It is important for church members and participants to sign up as soon as possible. There are limited spaces for the formal season.

Practice times for each team are provided in the QR code to register.

Charlotte NAMI Walks

St. John's is a proud sponsor of Charlotte NAMI Walks on Saturday, November 7th at the Mint Museum. NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This year our goal is to raise \$1,000; we have raised \$100 so far. You can join the team to walk with us or give to support the St. John's team and this amazing cause by scanning the QR Code.



St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 | www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

Worship: November 1, 2026

All Saints Sunday

Join us as we remember the St. John's Saints that have passed on ahead of use over the past year.
Proclaimer: Rev. Lee Gray

This Week at St. John's		
Sun., Oct. 25	9:15 am	Sunday Growth Groups
	10:30 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Together in Christ International Ministries (Chapel)
	3:00 pm	Fall Festival (Main Parking Lot)
Mon., Oct. 19	10:30 am	Faith Journey Book Study (Lounge)
Tues., Oct. 20	5:00 pm	Children's Basketball Clinic (Gym)
	6:30 pm	NAMI Support Groups
Wed., Oct. 21	5:45 pm	Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Suite)
	7:15 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Choir Suite)
Thurs., Oct. 22		
Fri., Oct. 23	8:00 pm	Eastway AA (Lasater Hall)
Sat., Oct. 24	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

Senior Minister.....Dr. Laura Heikes
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



Renewing our Commitment:
We Love Our Church

Commitment Sunday
Sunday, October 25, 2026
10:30 AM Worship
St. John's Baptist Church