

# ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP

Sunday, January 10, 2021

St. John's Baptist Church | Charlotte, NC

Epiphany

## Welcome to Worship

"Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting. In the slums we are the light of God's kindness to the poor. To children, to the poor, to all who suffer and are lonely, give always a happy smile - Give them not only your care, but also your heart"

-Mother Teresa

## Greeting & Prayer of Submission

Rev. Allison Benfield

## Hymn

*We Are Living, We Are Dwelling*

ABBOT'S LEIGH

We are living, we are dwelling, in a grand and awful time,  
In an age on ages telling; to be living is sublime.  
See the waking of the nations, to a wider unity.  
Hear it sounding all creation's groaning to be whole and free.

Sworn to yield, to waver, never; consecrated, born anew.  
Sworn to be Christ's people ever, O to Christ be ever true.  
On! let all the soul within you spread the word of truth abroad!  
Move! let every nerve and sinew tell on ages, tell for God.

## Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 1:1-15

Derek Henson

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

*Thanks be to God.*

## Song of Response

J. Kevin Gray

*Leader: We will praise you, God! You fill the world with Awe! You dress yourself in light, rich majestic light.*

Sung: Light of light eternal, all things penetrating. For your rays, our souls are waiting.

*Leader: God, help us to live what Jesus taught: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in us on earth as it is in Heaven."*

Sung: As the tender flowers, willingly unfolding to the sun their faces holding.

*Leader: We worship you, O God, by renewing our commitments to your mission.*

Sung: Let us shine like you Lord, reflecting light you've given, be seen in our daily living.

## The Church at Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Lee Gray

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Reading from the Gospel of Mark

Mark 1:4-11

Jacquelyn McAbee

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you, I am well pleased."

*This is the written word of God for the people of God.*

*Thanks be to God.*

## Song of Response

*Let Us Live Our Lives in Your Kingdom*

by J. Kevin Gray

Let us live our lives in your Kingdom, Let us find purpose in your love. When We are Scattered, torn into to pieces, let us find wholeness in your arms.

Lord fill us with your Spirit, teach us how to heal this world, let every person we meet see your face.

You showed us what it is to love by loving perfectly, now We are called by you to do the same.

## Message

*When God Speaks*

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

## Hymn

*Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters*

BEACH SPRING

Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb  
Number us among your people; raised like Christ from death and tomb.  
Weave us garments bright and sparkling; compass us with love and light  
Fill, anoint us; send your Spirit, holy dove, and heart's delight.

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!  
Unimagined, all your ways! To your name be glory, honor!  
With our lives, we worship, praise!  
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

## Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

## Giving Opportunity

## Postlude

*Trumpet Tune in F*

J. Noel Lance