

# ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP

Sunday, February 21, 2021  
St. John's Baptist Church | Charlotte, NC  
Lent I

## Introduction

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." -Jesus

## Greeting & Lenten Introduction

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

## Hymn

*How Firm a Foundation*  
FOUNDATION

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you God has said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid.  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

## Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 4:1-11

Renee Hutchison, reader

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the written word of God for the people of God; thanks be to God.



## Song of Response

*Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days*

LAND OF REST

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,  
Teach us to overcome our sins, and close by You to stay.

As You with Satan did contend and did the victory win,  
O give us strength in You to fight, In You to conquer sin.

## The Church at Prayer and 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.

## Litany of Spiritual Renewal

Rev. Allison Benfield

LEADER: As we enter this season of Lent, we approach The Living God with a sincere desire to renew our commitments as followers of Jesus.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer. We confess that we fail to look at our imperfections as we focus on the imperfections of others. Forgive us for seeing the speck in our neighbor's eye while refusing to acknowledge the beam in our own. Shape us by Your Spirit, so our sincere intentions motivate us to Christlike actions.

LEADER: As we follow Jesus, our spiritual life is shaped by Jesus' spiritual life.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer. Teach us how to mature in self-awareness, as we give attention to Your Spirit speaking to our hearts.

LEADER: As we follow Jesus, he is Lord of our active faith.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer. Renew us to Your vision for our individual lives and our life together as a community of disciples. Where we are corrupt, purify us; where we have lost our way, direct us; where we are being actively faithful, strengthen us; where we have need of insight or clarity, provide for us; where we are divided, give us the courage and humility to seek Your heart as we follow the path of Jesus. AMEN!

## Anthem

*Gracious Spirit, Dwell*

by K. Lee Scott

St. John's Chancel Choir

## Message

*It Is Written*

Dr. Foust

## Hymn

*Ancient Words*

by Lynn DeShazo

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world: they resound with God's own heart,  
Oh, let the ancient words impart.

Words of Life, words of Hope; give us strength, help us cope. In this world, where e'er we  
roam, ancient words will guide us home.

Ancient words ever true, changing me, and changing you. We have come with open  
hearts, oh, let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our faith, handed down to this age, came to us through sacrifice, oh, heed  
the faithful words of Christ.

Ancient words ever true, changing me, and changing you. We have come with open  
hearts, oh, let the ancient words impart.

## Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

## Postlude

*We Are Marching to Zion*

J. Noel Lance