

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

God’s Good News Offers Love for Troubled Times

Please silence all electronic devices.

Gathering Music

J. Kevin Gray

Greeting

Rev. Dennis W. Foust PhD

Prayer of Submission

Dr.
Foust

Song of Love

Chancel Choir
Light the CandleJ. Kevin Gray

Light the candle of love. Let its glow warm your heart bringing light from above. May we open our eyes to God’s love in full view. Jesus will be born, making all things anew.

Lighting the Candle of Love

Noel Lance & Chris Lavender

ONE: Jesus shows us God’s perfect love. He is God’s love in human form. The Bible says that “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

ALL: Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people’s troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true.

ONE: There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends.

ALL: We light this candle today to remind us of how God’s perfect love is found in Jesus.

*Carol of Praise

Angels from the Realms of Glory
Chalice Hymnal No. 149 verses 1, 2 & 4REGENT SQUARE

Reading from the Gospel

Warren Lineberger
Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee’s house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.” Jesus spoke up and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” “Teacher,” he replied, “Speak.” “A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt.” And Jesus said to him, “You have judged rightly.” Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you

see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.” Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

ONE: Through these written words of scripture, we listen for the Living Word of God.

ALL: Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

Moment for Reflection

Janet Jones, Angie Wheeler & J. Kevin Gray
The First Noel

Message

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Extravagance at Christmas

Meditation

J. Kevin Gray
Broken and Spilled OutBill & Gloria Gaither

One day a plain village woman, driven by love for her Lord, recklessly poured out a valuable essence, disregarding the scorn. And once it was broken and spilled out a fragrance filled all the room like a prisoner released from his shackles, like a spirit set free from the tomb. Broken and spilled out just for love of You, Jesus. My most precious treasure lavished on Thee. Broken and spilled out and poured at Your feet in sweet abandon. Let me be spilled out and used up for Thee.



Artwork by Jan Kerley

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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations

Shirley Ballard, Katherine Barr, John Bragg, Betty Fuller, Polly Hull, Barbara Ledford, Tish Philemon, Gene & Carol Poole, Brad Sifford, Carole Ann Simpson, Don Swofford, Elma Thomas, Dee Turner

*Carol

Chalice Hymnal No. 155Angels We Have Heard on High
GLORIA

Offertory Prayer

Dan Redding

Offertory

Chancel Choir
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep SilenceArr. Michael Austin Miller

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descending,
our full homage to demand.

Alleluia, Alleluia, King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.
Rank on rank the host of heaven,
spread its vanguard on its way.
As the Light of light descendeth,
from the realms of endless day
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the shadows clear away.

Alleluia, Alleluia, at His feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
let all mortal flesh keep silence.

*Doxology

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

*Carol

Chalice Hymnal No. 167Go Tell It on the Mountain
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Postlude

J. Noel Lance

LIFE AT ST. JOHN'S

Christmas Eve Worship: Friday, December 24

St. John's is offering two Christmas Eve services. The 4PM service is FULL so we hope you will worship with us at 6PM. Pre-registration is **required** as seating will be limited for each service.

Today after worship, there will be a team of people outside the Sanctuary by the church library to help you register for the service. You can also register through Realm, by scanning the QR code, or contact Mallory by email at mbrown@sjcharlotte.org for assistance.



Stewardship 2022: Rooted in Love



If you have not pledged yet, you can do so by turning in your pledge card to Jacquelyn in the office, by pledging online through Realm, or by scanning the QR code. Thank you so much for your financial faithfulness!

Giving in 2021

All allowable tax donations must be received (and checks dated) by December 31, 2021. If mailed, please ensure the envelope is postmarked 2021. If you are unsure of the remaining balance on your commitment for 2021, please contact Jacquelyn McAbee, Church Administrator, at jmcabee@sjcharlotte.org or 704-333-5428 ext. 20. Any monies received after December 2021 will count towards your 2022 pledge.

The church offices will be closed December 27-28 and December 31 for the holidays. There will be no Family News the week of December 27-January 2.

An Epiphany Sermon Series

ISN'T THAT JUST LIKE A WOMAN?

Some Women Who Helped Jesus Reveal the Mission of God

January 9: The Day Jesus Was Re-Baptized by a Canaanite Woman (Matthew 15:21-28)

January 16: The Day Jesus Couldn't Control His Mother (John 2:1-12)

January 23: The Day Jesus Almost Got Killed Over a Phoenician Woman (Luke 4:14-30)

January 30: The Day Jesus Transformed a Community through a Trusted Woman (John 4:1-42)

February 6: The Day Jesus Silenced a Mob on Behalf of a Victimized Woman (John 8:2-11)

THE ST. JOHN'S PULPIT

Sunday, December 26, 2021 | Christmastide
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Message Title: *Where a Parent's Treasure Is Found*
Scripture: Luke 2:39-52

GUEST CONNECTION

If you would like information on how you can become a part of St. John's, please fill out one of the "For Our Guests" cards found on the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate. Our church staff 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.

MOBILE GIVING AT ST. JOHN'S

You can text your contributions and offerings to St. John's! Text SJGIVE (not case sensitive) and the amount you would like to give (i.e. 10=\$10) to 73256 to give using your mobile device. When you receive a message, click on the link provided and follow the instructions. You will then receive a receipt to confirm your gift was received.

MINISTERS

Every participant in God's Servant Church

EQUIPPING MINISTERS

Minister for Spiritual Growth

Rev. Allison Benfield

Minister for Worship & Music

J. Kevin Gray

Minister for Congregational Care

Rev. Lee Gray

Senior Minister

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

SUPPORT STAFF

Church Administrator

Jacquelyn McAbee

Custodial Staff

Chris Mullis & Debora Thon

Organist

J. Noel Lance

Weekday School Director

Lydia Olmstead

Children's Choir Director

Anna Ball

St. John's Baptist Church

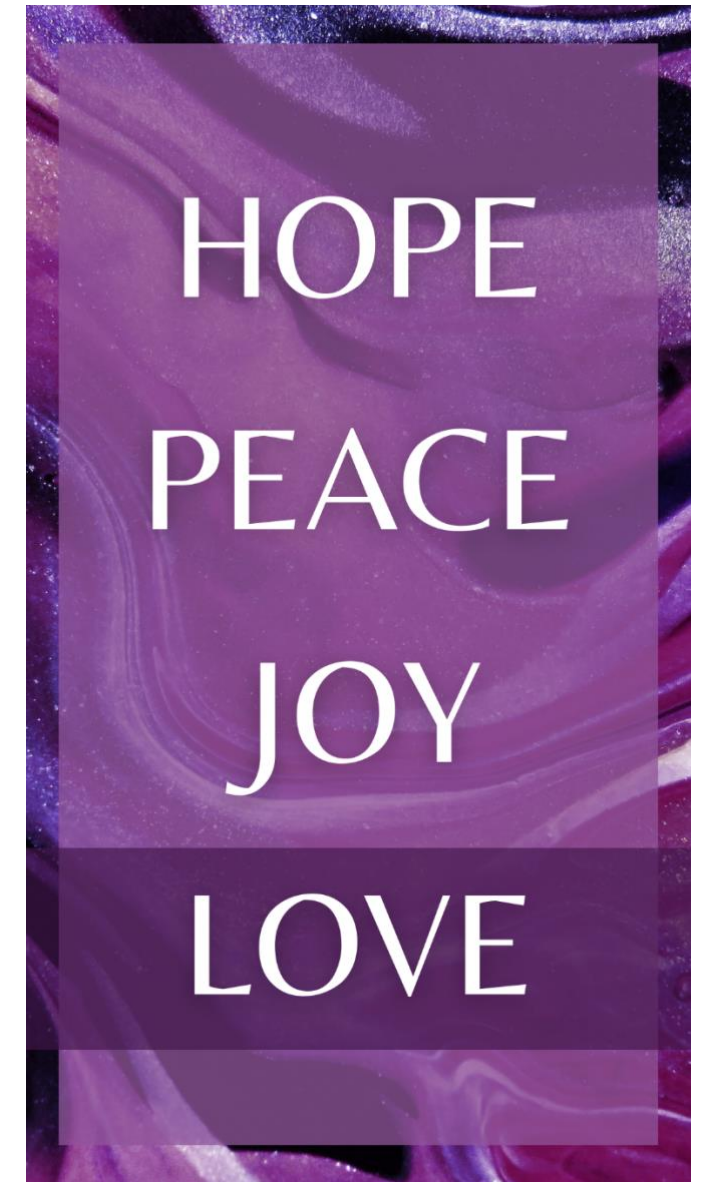
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info@sjcharlotte.org



God's Good News Offers Love for Troubled Times
Sunday, December 19, 2021, at 10:30AM

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA