

St. John's Baptist Church

July 11, 2010

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

*T*he higher Christian churches - where if anywhere I belong- come at God with an air of professionalism, with authority and pomp, as though they knew what they were doing, as though people in themselves were an appropriate set of creatures to have dealings with God. I often think of set pieces of liturgy as certain words which people have successfully addressed to God without their getting killed. In the high churches they saunter through the liturgy like Mohawks along a strand of scaffolding who have long since forgotten their danger. If God were to blast such a service to bits, the congregation would be genuinely shocked. But in the low churches you expect it any minute. This is the beginning of wisdom.

— Annie Dillard, *HOLY THE FIRM*

Today's worship service is at once both a rehearsal and the real thing. Whenever we gather, and every time we gather, we are made mindful again of certain themes of grace, mercy, love and hope. If we come with any regularity at all, we find that some of the sights and sounds belie a certain pattern of predictability. In that sense, it would seem that we are rehearsing. Look again — find that God inhabits our gathering, silent though that presence is, it speaks: "Welcome, my child. Come to me."

In this sense, it is the real thing. God is here. Let us worship!

WORDS OF GREETING

Martha Kearse

AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

All worshipers are encouraged to complete the Friendship Register located at the end of each pew.

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me:

People: **Let us go into the house of the Lord!**

PRELUDE

"There is a spirit that delights to do no evil. . ." (from *A QUAKER READER*)
Maureen Howell, organ

Ned Rorem
b. 1923

PRAISING

INVOCATION (IN UNISON)

**Glorious God, fount of life and source of goodness,
you have created all things for blessing
and lavished love in Jesus Christ.
Grant us by grace to walk in that Light
that the world may shine
with redeeming justice and truth.
Through your Word incarnate,
in the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE 6

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

PSALM 15

Lee Gray

(Refrain - sung twice: leader, then people)



Let jus - tice roll down like the wa - ter and
right - eous-ness like an ev - er-flow - ing stream.

- 1 O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?
- 2 **Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;**
- 3 Those who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;
- 4 **Those who despise wickedness, and who honor those who fear the Lord; Those who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**
- 5 Those who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

(Repeat refrain)

PRAYING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

DISCIPLES' 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Beloved in Christ, hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.

People: **See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called the children of God,
and that is what we are.**

Leader: Give thanks and bless God's name!

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

(Refrain - sung twice: leader, then people)

God's good-ness and mer - cy sur - round__ us! Give
thanks__ and bless His name!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing.

HEARING

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

EPISTLE READING

Jane Winn

Amos 5:21-24

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15:6-11

So, for the sake of your tradition, you make void the word of God. You hypocrites! Isaiah prophesied rightly about you when he said: “This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.”

*HYMN 293

Out of Need and Out of Custom

sung to the alternate tune
called *HOLY MANNA*

SERMON

“It Doesn't Have to Be This Way!”

Layne Smith

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP 274

I Love Your Church, O God

ST. THOMAS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Grant Us Thy Peace

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Grant us Thy peace, Almighty Lord, O Source of every blessing! We cannot have abiding joy, without thy peace possessing. Thy peace, O give by which we live.

*PRESENTATION

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him, above, ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. O praise Him, O praise Him.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

DEPARTING

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYER AND PASTORAL BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)



* Congregation Standing: **Let Justice Roll Down**, response by Warren Howell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth News

There will be a brief meeting of parents of youth, immediately after worship in the Chapel to discuss Passport Camp travel details and to notarize release forms.

Men's Softball Schedule

Monday, July 12 - 6:00 pm. All games are at Providence Baptist Church.

Farmer's Market NEXT WEEK!

Our St. John's "Farmers' Market" is scheduled for **Sunday, July 18**. Please bring your backyard produce, home-baked goodies, pickles and other canned goods, and plants to Lasater Hall that morning. The sale will be at 11:45 am after morning worship. Proceeds will go to local hunger projects - last year we collected \$600!

Deacon Nomination Process Begins

The Deacon Nominating Committee will begin meeting July 19 to form a slate of Deacons to be presented by early September, with a congregational vote scheduled for September 19.

Please take this opportunity to prayerfully consider names you would nominate and send them to James Laney at jamesmlaney@yahoo.com or leave a message at 704.643.4448. If possible, please contact your nominees to get their agreement and recommend which Deacon panel they would serve (Ministry, Pastoral or Administrative). Please submit your nominations prior to July 19 to ensure that they are included in the committee's deliberations.



An Evening of Entertainment and Inspiration—August 22, 7p.m.

The Chancel Choir is now preparing for this production of nostalgic favorites representative of our great land. Plan to join us for the program and stay for the ice cream social!

St. John's Baptist Church

300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

704/333-5428 (office); 704/333-2041 (fax)

www.stjohnsbaptistchurch.org

This Week's Events

Sunday, July 11

9:00 Holy Grounds
9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
11:45 Youth/Parent Meeting

Monday, July 12.

9:00 Uptown Kids Camp

Tuesday, July 13

9:00 Uptown Kids Camp

Wednesday, July 14

9:00 Uptown Kids Camp

7:00 Women of the Church Leaders

Thursday, July 15

9:00 Uptown Kids Camp

7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, July 16

9:00 Uptown Kids Camp

9:30 Craft Class

Saturday, July 17

..... Youth Leave on Passport Trip

Recent Illnesses

At Home:

Lou Fuller

The St. John's Pulpit - July 18

Proclaimer: Layne Smith

"A Servant Community:

Actively Faithful, Faithfully Active"

Micah 6:18; Matthew 22:37-39

Becoming a Member

Towards the end of the worship service this morning, we will sing a *Hymn of Discipleship*. During the singing of this hymn, we invite those who wish to join SJBC to come to the front and speak to the Pastor. We receive members in the following three ways:

- Profession of faith in Jesus Christ (followed by baptism at a later time)
- Transfer of membership from another church
- Statement of previous church membership

Copies of the church covenant are available through the church office. If you have questions, one of the ministers is available during the week to visit with you regarding membership. Call the church office (704-333-5428) or fill out an *I Wish* card found in the backs of the pews and place it in the offering plate.

Church Staff

Intentional Interim Pastor Layne Smith
Minister of Youth and Young Singles Lee Gray
Minister of Music Warren Howell
Minister of Children and Family Life Martha Kearse
Organist Maureen Howell
Business Manager Carolyn Richards
Support Staff Peggy Harrison, Charlene Fry
Building Superintendent Steve Taylor
Custodial Staff Floarea Secere, Willie Nash
Weekday School Director Lydia Olmsted