



**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.



Job and His Friends, Ilya Repin, 1869, oil on canvas,

**The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 12, 2021**

Welcome to worship this morning with the First Baptist Church of Christ. We are thrilled to be back worshipping in our sanctuary after a year outside of our building. As we gather this morning know that we are committed to everyone's safety and comfort as we create sacred space and time together.

Things to Know

- Masks are required at all times during worship, when moving through the building, and when with children. Each Sunday school class is making its own decisions regarding masks in class.
- Available pews have cushions in them. Unavailable pews have the cushions removed.
- Please keep social distance by avoiding gathering in groups before and after the service.
- Be mindful of others. Err on the side of caution out of respect for those who are abiding by stricter practices.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please find an usher.

For Those With Children

Thank you for bringing a child to worship! Take a deep breath and know they are welcome here. Parents with infants are more than welcome to remain in the sanctuary, or ushers can direct you down the back stairs to a comfortable room with sound from the sanctuary so all can still hear the service. A nursery is provided for children younger than 3. Preschoolers (age 3-kindergarten) are invited to leave after "Let the Children Come" for our W.O.W. (Working on Worship) experience in the Seekers' classroom.

For Those with Special Needs

Thank you for joining us for worship! We love our historic buildings, but know they can be a challenge for those with mobility needs. Know that we are committed to doing all we can to make this space welcoming to everyone. Reserved seating for those in wheel chairs and those sitting with them is found near the elevator, and is marked with signs on the walls and on the back of the pews. Please don't hesitate to ask an usher for assistance. Large print bulletins are available at both entrances. If you have special hearing needs, please ask one of the ushers to bring you a hearing assistance device from the sound booth in the back, or feel free to go back there and get one. An accessible restroom is located up one floor across from the office. If you, or someone with you, requires special assistance for any reason, please find a minister or an usher.

THE OFFERING OF PRAISE

The Sounding of the Hour

Patrick Johns, Acolyte

Anne Armstrong

Prelude

"Processional"
Anne Armstrong, organ

Daniel Gawthrop

The Call to Worship

Stanley L. Roberts

My love is for God, who knows me and hears my voice when I cry out.

When the grip of fears and anxieties takes hold of me, when I come to grief and sorrow I call on God and find relief.

Rest, O my soul, relax. God is with you. God has given your life meaning, soothed your sufferings, and guided your feet.

Walk in God's presence in the land of the living. Even when you are very low. Even when trust is hard.

Call on God's name. Fulfill your promise.

Be grateful. Lighten up. Sing.

An Improvisation on Psalm 116, by Christine Robinson, Psalms for a New World

*The Hymn of Praise 315

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul He fills, and every faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory.**

**What God's almighty power has made in mercy He is keeping;
By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping;
Within the kingdom of His might, lo! all is just and all is right:
to God all praise and glory.**

**The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,
An ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing;
As with a mother's tender hand He leads His own, His chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.**

**Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud His praises,
That all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises;
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart! Both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.**

**Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;
Let all who know His power proclaim aloud the wondrous story.
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
to God all praise and glory.**

*The Invocation Phoebe Capps

*The Gloria Patri 705 Glory Be to the Father GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.**

The Words of Welcome Scott Dickison

"Let the Children Come" JD Granade

Children in 3K-K are invited to W.O.W., a preschool worship experience! We will meet with the W.O.W. Shepherds at the end of "Let the Children Come". Parents, please come pick up your children immediately after worship. The leaders this week are Phoebe Capps and Sara Binet.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 490 HENDON

Take My Life, and Let It Be Consecrated

**Take my life, and let it beconsecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.**

**Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King,
Always, only, for my King.**

**Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

The Offertory Prayer

Greta O'Dell
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“How Shall I Sing to God”
The Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larsen

How shall I sing to God when life is filled with gladness,
Loving and birth, wonder and worth?
I'll sing from the heart, thankfully receiving, joyful in believing.
This is my song, I'll sing it with love.

How shall I sing to God when life is filled with bleakness,
Empty and chill breaking my will?
I'll sing through my pain, angrily or aching, crying or complaining.
This is my song, I'll sing it with love.

How shall I sing and tell my Savior's story:
Passover bread, life from the dead?
I'll sing with my life, witnessing and giving, risking and forgiving.
This is my song, I'll sing it with love.

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

The Offertory Response

"Doxology"

OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

Job 2:11-13

Suzy McCullough

Now when Job's three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

JD Granade

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespassed against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever, Amen.

The Second Lesson

Job 4:1-9, 7:11-21

Scott Dickison

Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered:

“If one ventures a word with you, will you be offended?

But who can keep from speaking?

See, you have instructed many;

you have strengthened the weak hands.

Your words have supported those who were stumbling,

and you have made firm the feeble knees.

But now it has come to you, and you are impatient;

it touches you, and you are dismayed.

Is not your fear of God your confidence,

and the integrity of your ways your hope?

“Think now, who that was innocent ever perished?

Or where were the upright cut off?

As I have seen, those who plow iniquity
and sow trouble reap the same.

Job 7:11-21

By the breath of God they perish,
and by the blast of his anger they are consumed.

“Therefore I will not restrain my mouth;
I will speak in the anguish of my spirit;
I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

Am I the Sea, or the Dragon,
that you set a guard over me?

When I say, ‘My bed will comfort me,
my couch will ease my complaint,’
then you scare me with dreams
and terrify me with visions,
so that I would choose strangling
and death rather than this body.

I loathe my life; I would not live forever.

Let me alone, for my days are a breath.

What are human beings, that you make so much of them,
that you set your mind on them,
visit them every morning,
test them every moment?

Will you not look away from me for a while,
let me alone until I swallow my spittle?

If I sin, what do I do to you, you watcher of humanity?

Why have you made me your target?

Why have I become a burden to you?

Why do you not pardon my transgression
and take away my iniquity?

For now I shall lie in the earth;

you will seek me, but I shall not be.”

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon

“Honest Speech”

Scott Dickison

Second in the series: A Sufferer's Wisdom

THE OFFERING OF THE COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 210

DUKE STREET

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

I know that my Redeemer lives!

What comfort this assurance gives!

He lives, He lives, who once was dead;

He lives, my ever-living Head!

He lives triumphant from the grave;

He lives eternally to save;

He lives exalted, throned above;

He lives to rule His church in love.

He lives to bless me with His love;

He lives to plead for me above;

He lives my hungry soul to feed;

He lives to help in time of need.

He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly friend;

He lives and loves me to the end;

He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;

He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!

He lives, all glory to His name!

He lives, my Savior, still the same;

what comfort this assurance gives:

I know that my Redeemer lives!

*The Spoken Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Congregational Response 481 Go to the World!
(stanza 4)

SINE NOMINE

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
For I am with you 'til the age shall end,
When all the hosts of glory cry "Amen."
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

"Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him"
Anne Armstrong, organ

arr. Jason Payne



Our Life Together

Sunday, September 12

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Worship
 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 15

9:30am Language Ministry
 3:00 pm Open Time in youth room
 and children's center
 4:45 pm Youth and Children
 Worship Arts Workshops
 5:30 pm Youth Choir
 5:30 pm Family Dinner
 6:00 pm Children's Choir
 6:15 pm Youth "Unplugged"
 6:30 pm Language Ministry
 6:30 pm Choir Practice
 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study
 6:45 pm Flex time for children

Saturday, September 18

5:00 pm Welcome to FBCX Gathering

Sunday, September 19

9:45 am Sunday school
 11:00 am Worship

Deacons of the Week

September 16 Greta O'Dell
 September 23 Jackie Riley

THE RECORD SPEAKS

Date: 7/31/2021
 Budget to Date: \$377,697
 Contributions: \$316,783
 Expenses: \$320,990
 Missions: \$31,704
 -\$35,911

September Birthdays

September 12 Rodney Goff
 September 13 Sonya Milam
 September 14 Faye Wiggins
 September 15 Chuck Dumas
 September 15 Bob Hardy
 September 18 Karen Summerlin
 September 18 Wallace Taylor
 September 19 Robert McCord
 September 19 Lynn Scott

Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Angel Vazquez** in his death on July 31.

We grieve with Sandra and the Adams family in the death of **Stan Adams** on August 14.

We grieve with Richard Green and family in the death of his step-father, **Charles Pinkham**.

Save the Date

Saturday, September 25: Women's Retreat at Claystone Park

Sunday, October 3: World Communion Sunday

Wednesday's Menu

Baked turkey spaghetti, steamed mixed vegetables; garlic Texas toast; double chocolate chip cookies

Welcome to FBCX Gathering Saturday at 5:00 pm

A gift of returning to in-person church is seeing faces who have joined us during or since virtual church. If you have been visiting or joined the church recently, we're glad you're here and would love the chance to get to know you better! On Saturday, September 18 at 5:00 pm you're invited to a cookout/bonfire at the home of Stanley and Marie Roberts (223 Old Ridge Way, Macon, tell the gate guard you're with the Roberts family). We hope you'll join us for a laid back evening of fellowship with our ministers and church leadership.

College Student Lunch, Sunday, September 19

Welcome to all of our college students! We're looking forward to returning to our monthly college lunches. This month's gathering will be hosted by Charlie and Anita Gustafson. If you'd like to join us, gather in the sanctuary following worship next week and we will all head over to their home together. Bring a friend!

Wednesday Night Suppers: Please make reservations

We are excited to once again offer supper as part of our Wednesday night schedule. Providing our meals this fall will be Evette Goolsby of E.G. Catering. Evette will offer a monthly rotation of delicious meals. The cost will be \$6 per plate. To help streamline our logistics

this fall, there will be no discount for child plates or families.

To help us know how much food to provide, we also ask that meals be reserved. You can do this by following the link in the Highlites, or calling the church office. You can also set up a recurring reservation. We encourage as many who can to pay through the church's online giving/payment portal.

September Sermon Series: A Sufferer's Wisdom: Studies in Job

Ellen Davis writes that the book of Job provides more than just a theology of suffering, but "the theology of a sufferer." Suffering is something with which we all have become acquainted in new ways over the past year and a half. Not only have we all been touched in some way by the wide-scale suffering of this ongoing pandemic, but we have become keenly aware of the sufferings of others. Over these four weeks we will engage the Bible's great exploration of suffering, and reflect on the light that can only be revealed in darkness.

Adult Bible Study in September: Studies in Job

Join us for Bible study every Wednesday night at 6:30pm. This month, we'll follow along with the sermon emphasis and take a closer look at the Book of Job. Arguably among the greatest pieces of world literature, biblical or otherwise, Job explores

universal questions of suffering and grief: Why do we suffer? What is the purpose of suffering? Is there a purpose to suffering? Is God good? Is God just? How are we to respond to suffering in our own life, in the lives of others? Job offers no definitive answers, but instead honors the faithfulness of the questions themselves, and so we will too.

We will gather in the fellowship hall, or you can join us virtually on Zoom following a link in the weekly email.

Sanctuary Flowers

These eight remaining dates are open for providing flowers for Sunday worship: September 19, 26; October 3, 17, 31; November 7; and December 5 and 26. If you're interested and have questions about the process, Mary Leonard will be happy to help. Please contact her at 478-745-3866 home, 478-737-4171 cell, or michael.leonard1@cox.net. You may also follow the link in the Highlites.

Online Directory

The church now has available a new online directory app for your phones. To access the directory, please send an email to office@fbcxmacon.org requesting access. You will receive an invitation from Connect.

This app allows you to update your information such as mailing address, email address, phone number, and directory photo. You can also see your

pledge amount and year to date giving. We hope this becomes a useful tool for all of us.

Women's Day Retreat

We will "get away" for a day retreat at Lake Tobesofkee. For those who are interested, camping together the night before will be an option.

Beginning at 9:00am, we will gather for a few Women's Retreat traditions. Sharon McWhorter will lead us as she shares her experience with contemplative prayer and guides us through the practice. We will share communion and lunch, with an open afternoon to spend as you'd like. Registration Information is in the Highlites.

When: Saturday, September 25th With the option of camping Friday night

Where: Lake Tobesofkee at Claystone Park

Cost: \$20 + \$3 admission fee

Youth

Wednesdays

Youth are welcome to come to church as soon as they get out of school. As students trickle in at different times, there will be space to do homework and activities to unwind. When children start their worship arts class, youth have the option to help with the children or work on a church project. Youth can eat with their families or spread out in the youth room.

- 3:00 Youth room open: homework, relax, and play
- 4:45 We will spend this time helping in different areas of the church. Students have the option to work on a chosen project in the church or help the children's leaders if they are interested in the worship arts theme for the week.
- 5:00 Youth Choir
- 5:30 Pick up dinner in the fellowship hall. In order to help with social distancing while eating, youth can sit with their family in the fellowship hall or come up to the youth room where they will be assigned seating that is spread out while they eat.
- 6:15 Youth "Unplugged" After a long and busy day, this is the time that we will protect as "family time" where we will put away our phones and distractions in order to be intentional about our time together. This time includes a brief devotion and conversation, games, and prayer.

Children

New Wednesday schedule

- 3:00-4:45 pm—Koinonia Corner (open time in the children's center beginning after school for homework, rest, and play)
- 4:45-5:30 pm—Worship Arts Workshops (exploring different creative outlets every few weeks)
- 5:30-6:00 pm—Family Dinner
- 6:00-6:45 pm—Children's Choir
- 6:45-7:30 pm—Flex Time (may include missions, discipleship, play, or whatever else the children may need that week)

Upcoming Worship Arts:

September 15: Creative Worship 101
We'll explore what it means to worship and how we can creatively connect with God in ways that work with each of us.

September 22 & 29: Baking with Elliott Wall

Bread is a central image in Scripture and key element in Christian worship. In the weeks leading up to World Communion Sunday we'll explore these themes and discover how sharing food can build community (and your children may even see what they make in the Lord's Supper on October 3)!

Now. Here. This.

Never Forget

I was a freshman in college. We had been in classes for just a few weeks. I had a 9:00 am intro-level music class with Dr. Gorlick. I woke up, threw some clothes on, and headed across campus.

As I remember it, when I arrived in the classroom, a few students were already there talking in a whisper about a plane flying into one of the World Trade Center towers. Dr. Gorlick was working to get the news on the projector at the front of class. The footage came on just after the second plane struck the second tower, and the possibility that the first collision had been a terrible accident vanished against the new, harsh reality that this--whatever it was--was intentional.

Class was dismissed. We all went back to our dorm rooms. As the rest of my hall woke up, we gathered around TV screens for the remainder of the day. We were all still getting to know ourselves, let alone one another, 18 and 19 year-olds away from home for the first time. Both of those educations would be accelerated in the hours, days, and weeks ahead. We learned to confide in each other as we and our world changed. To grieve together. At times

even to pray together. But more often to simply sit together in silence, even if in front of a TV screen and trays of chinese food--which itself, I learned as a pious young baptist boy, too, was a kind of prayer. This is what I remember well.

“Never forget,” we were told in the aftermath, in what would become a refrain over the next 20 years.

For some these words became a battle cry: Never forget what they did to us. Never forget the pain, the horror, the humiliation.

For others it would become a lament: Never forget those whose lives were taken. Never forget how our world changed forever.

For others it would be a call to gratitude: Never forget the first responders and those who walked into buildings as they fell. Never forget all those who cleaned up the wreckage.

And for others still, it would become a political tool, appealing to our base responses of rage, fear, and desire for retribution.

As Christians, we are a people of memory. Just this past Sunday we gathered again, as is our custom, around a table and repeated those words of Jesus at the beating heart of our faith, “As often as you do this, remember me.” We know the value--the necessity--of memory. And yet we also know that it is not enough to simply remember. We

must pay attention to how we remember. We must aim to remember well.

To remember well is first to remember with accuracy and honesty, not sparing ourselves the harder memories--the painful, the unflattering. But for people of faith, remembering well also means remembering in such a way that honors the presence of God in the events of our lives, both large and small, personal and communal. The light amid the darkness, yes. But also the God that sits in the darkness with us.

As we look back on that day and the immediate aftermath 20 years later, especially against the end of our occupation of Afghanistan that came in response to it, we may ask the question anew: What is it that we hope to remember? Which is another way of saying, what have we learned?

Surely we will remember the chaos and terror, and we must. But I hope too that we will remember the pain and vulnerability, the compassion and tenderness that overtook us in our collective grief. I hope we will take care not to forget these.

And for us in the church we might ask, too, where was God in it all? Surely God was in so many different places. As many places as there were people. As many places as there was pain. We would learn something new and important in naming as many places as we can of where God was. For we

can attest as people of faith that we remember best when we remember together.

SHD

Signs of the Season

The paraments of the pulpit and the communion table are visible reminders of the current season of the church year. Ordinary Time begins after Pentecost and ends with Advent. During this season, we celebrate the "ordinary events" of our Christian lives. The liturgical color for this season is green, symbolizing life, freshness, and hope.

Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of J. B. Bryant, a veteran, an ordinary man, and a member of the Greatest Generation, on whose shoulders we stand today.



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