



**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
NURTURE. LOVE. SERVE. ALL.



"Monastery Cemetery in the Snow" by Caspar David Friedrich, 1819

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 5, 2021**

Welcome to worship this morning with the First Baptist Church of Christ. We are thrilled to be back worshiping 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

Anne Armstrong

Robyn Candler, Acolyte

Prelude

"Festive Trumpet Tune"

David German

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

Phoebe Capps

Hallelujah! We sing praises to the Holy One

We attend to the silent, invisible God beyond and within—a stable force amidst all that changes.

We put our trust in God and try to fathom Love.

You, who are nature—We see you in the glorious beauty of the earth.

You, who are justice—We see that you prompt us to feed the hungry, and deal fairly with the powerless.

You, who are compassion—We hear your call to care for the sick, the stranger, the bereaved, and the lost.

Your love blesses us all.

Hallelujah!

improvisation on Psalm 146

*The Hymn of Praise 307 All Creatures of Our God and King LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All creatures of our God and King,

Lift up your voice and with us sing

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,

Thou silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,

Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,

O praise Him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice

Ye lights of evening, find a voice,

O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
 Make music for thy Lord to hear,
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 Thou fire so masterful and bright,
 That givest us both warmth and light,
 O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 All ye who are of tender heart,
 Forgiving others, take your part,
 O sing ye, alleluia!
 Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
 Praise God and on Him cast your care,
 O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 Let all things their Creator bless,
 And worship Him in humbleness,
 O praise Him, alleluia!
 Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
 And praise the Spirit, Three in One,
 O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*The Invocation

Kelsey Stillwell

*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

Kelsey Stillwell

"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 shepherd this week is Phoebe Capps.*

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 69

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA

Children of the Heavenly Father

**Children of the heavenly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.**

**Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

The Offertory Prayer

Shereé Keith
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“Wings of the Dawn”
The Chancel Choir

Linda Spencer

O Lord, you have searched me and known me;
You know when I sit and when I rise.
Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Where can I go from Your presence?
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
If I settle on the far side of the sea -
Even there Your hand will guide me,
Your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, surely darkness will hide me,
And the light become dark all around me -
Not even dark is dark to you,
Night will shine like the day.
And if I rise on the wings of the dawn,
If I settle on the far side of the sea -
Even there Your hand will guide me,
Your right hand will hold me fast.

So I'll praise You, praise You,
Lift up my voice and I'll praise You, Lord.
Father, I praise You, praise You,
Praise you, Lord.

You created me within,
You knit me in my mother's womb.
I praise You for I am fearfully made;
Your works are wonderful.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
If I settle on the far side of the sea -
Even there Your hand will guide me,
Your right hand will hold me fast.

Text: Based on Psalm 139

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

Psalm 125

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time on and forevermore.

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
so that the righteous might not stretch out
their hands to do wrong.

Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,

and to those who are upright in their hearts.

But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways

the LORD will lead away with evildoers.

Peace be upon Israel!

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

The Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Scott Dickison

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 1:1-22

Scott Dickison

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. He had seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys, and very many servants; so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. His sons used to go and hold feasts in one another's houses in turn; and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. And when the feast days had run their course, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." This is what Job always did.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil." Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not put a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not stretch out your hand against him!" So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

One day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the eldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were

feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell on them and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was still speaking, another came and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was still speaking, another came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you.” While he was still speaking, another came and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house, and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”

In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon

“The Lord Giveth, the Lord Taketh Away”

Scott Dickison

First in the series: A Sufferer's Wisdom

The Bread and Cup of the Lord’s Supper

Communion Solo

Marie Jarriel Roberts

Soprano

THE OFFERING OF THE COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 72

Day By Day

BLOTT EN DAG

**Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father’s wise bestowment,
I’ve no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what he deems best—
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.**

Every day the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He gladly bears and cheers me,
He whose name is Counselor and Power.
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
“As your days, your strength shall be in measure,”
This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in every tribulation
So to trust Your promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith’s sweet consolation
Offered me within Your holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father’s hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.

*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 to the Lord, the Almighty"
Anne Armstrong, organ

arr. David Lowe



Our Life Together

Sunday, September 5

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship
6:30 pm	Ice cream social

Monday, September 6

Office closed for labor day

Wednesday, September 8

9:30am	Language Ministry
3:00 pm	Open Time in youth room and for children
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

Sunday, September 12

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship
12:15 – 1:15pm	Church Council Meeting

Deacons of the Week

September 9	Shereé Keith
September 16	Greta O'Dell

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 5	Carolyn Jones
September 6	Christina Jones
September 10	Helen O'Dell
September 11	Teddrick Carter
September 12	Rodney Goff

Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Exelle Chambers** in her death on July 16.

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 18: Welcome to FBCX Gathering

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

Sunday, October 3: World Communion Day

Ice Cream Social Tonight in the Parking Lot



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

The following dates are open for providing flowers for Sunday worship: September 12, 19, 26; October 3, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14; and December 5 and 26. If you're interested and have questions about the process, Mary Leonard will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact her at 478-745-3866 home, 478-737-4171 cell, or michael.leonard1@cox.net.

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.

Wednesday Schedule

3:00—4:45 pm open time in youth room for homework and rest

4:45—5:30 pm Help with children's activities or church project

5:30—6:15 pm Youth choir

5:30 pm—Dinner

6:15-7:30 pm—Youth "Unplugged"

Youth choir

Starts September 1st 5:30-6:15 pm

Youth will meet in the choir room at 5:30 and Kelsey will be sure a boxed dinner is saved for them. They can pick up their dinner after choir and eat in the youth room.

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)

See the church Highlites or children's ministry newsletter for more details!

Upcoming Worship Arts:

September 8 and 15: Creative Worship 101

September 22 and 29: Baking with Elliott Wall

Now. Here. This.

Daybreak until nightfall,
he sat by his wife at the hospital
while chemotherapy dripped
through the catheter into her heart.
He drank coffee and read
the Globe. He paced; he worked
on poems; he rubbed her back
and read aloud. Overcome with dread,
they wept and affirmed
their love for each other, witlessly,
over and over again.
When it snowed one morning Jane gazed
at the darkness blurred
with flakes. They pushed the IV pump
which she called Igor
slowly past the nurses' pods, as far
as the outside door
so that she could smell the snowy air.

“Her Long Illness,” by Donald Hall

This is the first poem in Donald Hall’s book of poetry entitled, *Without*, in which he chronicles the cancer diagnosis, treatment, and eventual death of his wife, the poet Jane Kenyon, as well as his first year without her.

It is a beautiful, gutting collection of poems. Most of them are written in the kind of straightforward, just the facts style of this poem. Many began as notes in his journal as he chronicled the mundane details of their life in cancer treatment, even including the jargon one is forced to become so adept with. The obscure names of chemotherapy drugs. Descriptions of procedures that outside the context of trying to save one’s life sound hellish and gruesome, but when you’re at the bedside, or in it, are a lifeline. A hope.

There’s very little “poeticizing” in these poems. There is poetry enough, we find, in the moments or seasons of our lives when we are able—or, more often the case, forced—to see life and relationships with which we fill it for the miracle and mystery that they are.

And perhaps even more than our joy, it is our pain that has the power to bring this clarifying vision.

Over these weeks in September we will take an extended look at the Bible’s great exploration of suffering and pain, the Book of Job. Over 42 chapters we sit with Job at his darkest moment and listen to how he responds to unspeakable pain and loss.

Job is not a book that the Christian tradition, certainly in modern times, has known just

what to do with. Both the questions it asks and perhaps even more the answers it refuses to give are difficult to square with popular notions of Christian piety. Job exposes the cruel lie of “everything happens for a reason,” and has no patience for “God doesn’t give you more than you can handle.”

And Job certainly doesn’t subscribe to the notion that God doesn’t have either the time or the strength to receive our anger, despair, grief, and doubt. Or that prayer should always end in praise. Instead we’re given chapter upon chapter of Job’s unvarnished rage, confusion and lament.

Yet in the end, if there is comfort to be found in this incredible work of ancient literature, it is that Job finally gets what he asks for, which is God’s full attention, and a response to his concerns, even if it is not what he had in mind. Most of all, he is able to find strength, courage, and imagination enough to continue to live.

After a year and a half in which we have become so acquainted to the point of saturation with the scale and depth of suffering in our world, I hope these weeks will reveal the power of scripture to speak to even our deepest pain. I hope it will open up space for us to speak of our pain in new ways. Most of all, I hope it will leave us ready to hear the voice of God that finds us in the midst of it, moving us to a place where we can begin to live again.

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 by Betty and Don McGouirk in appreciation of the 57 years of marriage granted to them so far.



511 High Place Macon, GA 31201 • (478) 742-6485 • email: office@fbcxmacon.org
• www.fbcxmacon.org • Wifi: fbcx-Guest Password is: welcome511

Staff and Leadership

Ms. Anne Armstrong
ORGANIST

Mrs. Kirstine Buchanan
JOHNSON MUSIC FELLOW

Ms. Phoebe Capps
MINISTRY INTERN

Rev. Scott Dickison
PASTOR

Mr. Chuck Dumas
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VICE CHAIR OF DEACONS

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AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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FINANCE & HR ADMINISTRATOR

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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Dr. Stanley L. Roberts
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Rev. Kelsey Stillwell
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH
AND MISSIONS