



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



"All Things New," by Jessica Britt, 2017

November 7, 2021
All Saints Sunday

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.
- Participate in the service as much or as little as you like. Stand when others stand, or remain seated. Sing when others sing, or enjoy the way this old sanctuary fills with sound. Invitations to stand as you are able are marked with an asterisk (*). Invitations to respond in word or song are noted in bold.
- 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.

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

Prelude

"For All the Saints"
Anne Armstrong, organ

arr. Douglas Wagner

The Call to Worship

Phoebe Capps

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

We dream of a future with hope.

While we were still far off, you saw us with compassion, and ran to put your arms around us and kissed us.

We run to meet you in this future with hope.

You tell us not to fear, for you have redeemed us, and called us by name.

We do not fear, for we have a future with hope.

Do not remember the things that have passed, you say. For you promise to do a new thing.

We watch as it springs forth among us and around us and within us, this future with hope. Praise be to the God who brings us all home!

Psalm 126, Luke 15:11-24, Jeremiah 29:10-14, Isaiah 43

*The Hymn of Praise 566

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!**

**Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears mortals all away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.**

*The Invocation Stanley L. Roberts

*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

The Procession of Commitment "Fanfare and Processional" Lynn Trapp
Anne Armstrong, organ

"Let the Children Come" Kelsey Stillwell

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 W.O.W. leader this week is Phoebe Capps and the shepherds this week are Elinor Fenimore and Emma Stephens.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 567 For All the Saints SINE NOMINE

**For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou in the darkness drear their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*The Offertory Prayer

Bryan Whitfield
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”
The Youth Choir
Kirstine Buchanan, conductor

John Rutter

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their little wings.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Text: Cecil Alexander (1848)

*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

Revelation 21:1-6

Hiro Jones

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

Remembering the Saints

Scott Dickison

Thelma Deep	June 21, 2021
Catherine Dupree	November 25, 2020
Harry Eskew	November 29, 2020
Gladys Giddens	December 7, 2020
Betty Griffin	December 21, 2020
Anne Linnenkohl	April 11, 2021
Mary McEachern	January 12, 2021
Bob Milam	September 29, 2021
Ross Newton	March 11, 2021
Ralph Nix	April 13, 2021
David Thompson	December 25, 2020
Marguerite Thurman	February 23, 2021
Willene Viglione	December 26, 2020

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.

And the Father will dance over you in joy.
He will take delight in whom he loves.
Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God?
No the Lord God himself is exulting o'er you in song.

My soul will make its boast in God;
For he has answered all my cries.
His faithfulness to me is as sure
As the dawn of a new day.

Awake, my soul and sing!
Let my spirit rejoice in God.

Sing, oh daughter of Zion, with all of your heart.
Cast away fears for you have been restored.
Put on your garment of praise, as on a festival day.
For the Lord God himself is exulting o'er you in song.

Adapted from Zephaniah 3:14, 17 & Psalm 34:2, 4

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon

“A New Thing”

Scott Dickison

Last in the series: A Future with Hope

THE OFFERING OF THE COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 335 Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

HYFRYDOL

**Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore Him; praise Him, angels in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him; praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord! for He hath spoken; worlds His mighty voice obeyed;
Law which never shall be broken for their guidance hath He made.**

**Praise the Lord! for He is glorious; never shall His promise fail;
God hath made His saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation! Hosts on high, His power proclaim;
Heaven and earth and all creation laud and magnify His name.**

**Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer unto Thee;
Young and old, Thy praise expressing, in glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heav'n adore Thee. We would bow before Thy throne;
As thine angels serve before Thee, so on earth Thy will be done.**

*The Spoken Benediction

Scott Dickison

The Congregational Response "May the Road Rise to Meet You"

Lee Turner

**May the road rise to meet you
May the wind blow at your back
May the sun shine warmly on your face
May the rain fall softly on your field
And until we meet again, (until we meet again)
May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.**

Postlude

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

arr. Eric Thiman

Anne Armstrong, organ



Our Life Together

Sunday, November 7

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Commitment Sunday

9:45 am Sunday school
11:00 am Worship

Wednesday, November 10

9:30am Language Ministry
3:00 pm Open Time in youth room
 and children's center
4:45 pm 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, November 14

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

Deacons of the Week

November 4 Bryan Whitfield
November 11 Fay Boie

THE RECORD SPEAKS

Date: **9/30/2021**
Budget to Date **\$485,611**
Contributions **\$403,580**
Expenses **\$416,974**
Missions **\$40,383**
 -\$53,777

November Birthdays

November 7 Michael Fulwood
November 8 Hal Collier
November 9 Carrie Ingoldsby
November 10 Mark Sexton
November 13 Lin Carter
November 13 Linda Dawson
November 13 JD McCord
November 14 Mary Leonard
November 14 Marjorie Mosely

Condolences

We grieve with the Milam family in the death of **Bob Milam**.

We grieve with Beverly Penley and her family in the death of her sister-in-law **Susie Pape**.

We grieve with William Underwood and his family in the death of his father **William Underwood**.

Save the Date

Sunday, November 28:The First Sunday of Advent

Wednesday's Menu:

Please make reservations by Wednesday morning.

Spinach Alfredo/Italian Sausage Pasta Bake,
Green Salad,
Garlic Texas Toast,
Red Velvet Tiramisu and Fresh Fruit Cups.

FBCX Fridge Door

Traditionally, when appliances were magnetic, the fridge door functioned as a place to display items. The fridge door tells a story; filled with children's art, thoughtful letters, graduation announcements, wedding invitations, magnets from travels, inspirational quotes, photos, and more. It displays things that are worth celebrating, remembering, or admiring.

Within this FBCX community, I witness and hear so many stories that I am proud to share and celebrate. They are the simple but powerful moments that make up the larger story and mission of the church. I wanted to create a space to share these stories with you, our own FBCX Fridge Door, to display the moments within church life that we should celebrate, but that often go unrecognized. There is plenty to share each week, but I hope this will also encourage you to take note of these moments yourself. You are welcome to send your stories to me to be displayed on the FBCX Fridge Door. Thanks be to God for these moments, for they tell our story.

Kelsey

The first 'FBCX Fridge Door' story, and the inspiration for the name, is about a fridge, actually a freezer.

The crisis closet has a new double door commercial freezer that was given to us through a grant that the Food Bank received to help their affiliates with material handling. This freezer, valued at \$3,000, doubles our capacity for frozen food allowing us to give out more frozen meat.

Earlier this year, the Food Bank sent out a questionnaire in which Dan Riley mentioned how, over the years, the food has doubled in price and that we would give out more heavy protein if we had more freezer space. Because of this, and our long standing relationship, the Food Bank gave FBCX a credit of \$2,500, that we are still spending, and the commercial freezer. This is especially helpful during the holiday season when we give more bags of food, in both quantity and quality. We are grateful for the generosity of the Food Bank and for the hard work and persistence of Dan Riley, who is always looking for ways to give more to those the crisis closet serves and continues these important relationships.

Special Missions Giving



Envelope Challenge

How to Give: Displayed in the Education building and hallway by the office are envelopes numbered 1 through 200. The number marked on each envelope represents the donation amount. To donate, pick up an envelope (or two) and turn it into the office or offering plate with your donation matching the envelope number.

Your gift will support missions in 3 ways:



OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS

BECAUSE PRESENCE MATTERS

1

The Offering for Global Missions **secures the long-term presence of all CBF field personnel**, while field personnel raise support from friends, family, and other partners to fund their mission programming.

2

Support the Ministry of Field Personnel, Jonathan & Tina Bailey



Jonathan and Tina Bailey are serving in Bali, Indonesia with emphasis on spiritual expression through music, dance, and visual arts both inside and outside the local Christian community.

3



Encourager
Church

WHAT IS AN ENCOURAGER CHURCH?

Encourager Churches come alongside field personnel in partnership in order to build bridges in mission engagement.

A portion of giving will go towards our **efforts to connect with the ministry of Jonathan & Tina Bailey** as we enter into an **Encourager Church covenant** together.

Prefer to give online? Pick up an envelope and make your donation through our online giving site and app, EasyTithe. **Scan this QR code to be taken to the site.** Choose "Envelope Challenge" Fund.



Construction on the Spire

Earlier this year, water damage was discovered in our beloved spire. Over the past few weeks a crew from Sheridan Construction has been working to remove the damaged wood in the old spiral staircase and rebuild a new platform at the sanctuary level. They will soon install a new metal staircase up to the next platform. The leak, which turned out to be from a drain pipe coupling that had separated, was also repaired, as well as some cosmetic elements on the exterior. The Properties Committee has been working closely with the crew to guide this process, keeping the Church Council updated with the progress. While these are not repairs we had planned, they will dramatically improve the safety and usability of the spire and preserve this beloved feature of our church for years to come.



Over the last several weeks we've been thinking and praying together about how Christian life includes cycles of exile and return. We've given thanks for the tools that God has given us to connect even as we are apart, to be together in Spirit even when we aren't together in body.

And yet: there's one more step in the dance of Christian life.

There is exile, there is return, and then there is a third movement: being sent back out into the world for the sake of our neighbors and creation as a whole. It's being commissioned, sent for the sake of God's love and justice, God's future of hope.

First Baptist is a community of return, a place of homecoming. And it's also a community of sending, a place that commissions us as agents of God's love and grace, so that all may experience a sense of homecoming into God's new world of compassion, dignity, and joy.

Hopefully you have joined us over these past several weeks in prayerfully considering how, with the Spirit's wisdom, you can contribute to the ongoing returning and sending that makes the First Baptist Church of Christ who we are today, and who we'll be tomorrow.

This morning in worship we will return our pledge cards as we recommit ourselves to each other and to work God has put before us as the people of this church. Blank pledge cards are available if you left yours at home.

You may also return your card to the church office anytime through the end of the year.

Children

Upcoming Worship Arts:

Patchwork, November 10

led by Gladys Keith

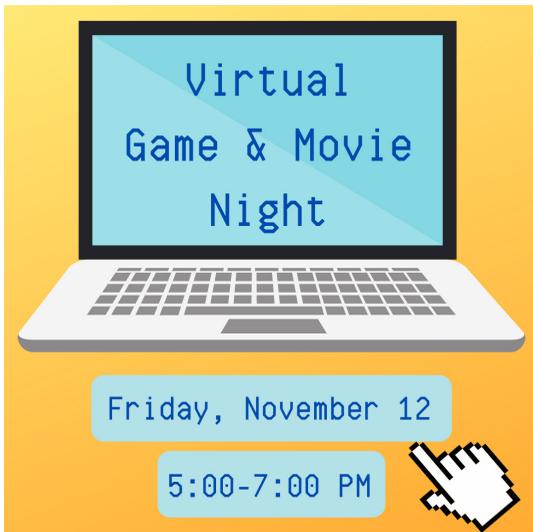
Gladys is a prime example of using creativity to help the community, crafting and sharing quilts that bring comfort to others. As she shares about patchwork art with children we'll experience a real-life metaphor for God's Kingdom—many pieces coming together to make one whole.

Upcoming Events:

November 12

Virtual Game and Movie night.

(see Children's Ministry newsletter for more details)



Youth

Winter Youth Summit

January 14-16th in Huntsville.

If you are signed up, Kelsey will be in touch as other deadlines approach. If you did not sign up, there are a few extra spots available. Email Kelsey ASAP to claim one!

Macon Community Youth Group Starts Today!

12:30-2:30 at St. Francis Episcopal Church

Lunch and mandala making. Carpool or let Kelsey know if you need a ride.

Parents, pick up there at 2:30.

We are teaming up with 3 other churches to offer Sunday gatherings as a collective group!

As leaders of these churches, we want to offer an ecumenical space for our students to gather, giving them the chance to both meet other youth and benefit from a larger group gathering that we can't create in our smaller individual groups.

Notes and Doodles

Now. Here. This.

A Last Beatitude

And blessed are the ones we overlook;
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,
The ones who hold no candle, bell or book
But keep the books and tally up the quota,
The gentle souls who come to 'do the flowers',
The quiet ones who organise the fete,
Church sitters who give up their weekday
hours,
Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.
God knows the depths that often go unspoken
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,
Or the slow healing of a heart long broken
Placing each flower so for a year's mind.
Invisible on earth, without a voice,
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.

-Malcolm Guide, from *Sounding the Seasons:
Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year*

The beauty of All Saints Sunday lies in the time
set aside to lift up these "overlooked" saints
Malcolm Guide describes.

The ones who, to borrow from Mother Teresa,
do "small things with great love." Who in so
many ways not only keep the church running,
but make the church the church.

The ones who "do the flowers," who staff the
office reception desk, who give stickers to the
children on Sunday morning, who put the
bulletins on the ministers' chairs on the
chancel and water behind the pulpit, who
help people find a place for their walkers, who
count the money on Tuesday mornings, who
hang the Christmas decorations, who pull
the weeds, who paint the doors, who teach
the children, who stuff the grocery bags, who
attend the funeral.

The word saint literally means "holy one,"
and each of these reveal some glimpse of
holiness. They pull back the curtain on the
heavenly among us and remind us what
Jesus meant when he said the kingdom of
God is at hand. We see it most often not
in a light shining down from above, but
shining through in acts and habits of simple
kindness or generosity.

We know the church is serving its purpose
in the world when we create an
environment where these kinds of "faithful
servers" flourish.

Over the past almost two years we have
been reminded in ways that are as
profound as they are painful of the gift of
life and what a blessing it is that we get to
spend it with others. In the end, this is what
we celebrate on this All Saints Sunday: the
miracle and mystery of shared life. Isn't this
community? You give me a little bit of your
life and I give you a little of mine. Through
God's grace we watch how life multiplies as
it divides. The more we share the more we
receive ourselves. And all the while the
future of hope we dream of grows between
us.

SHD

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and the communion table are visible reminders of the current season of the church year. For All Saints' Sunday, the liturgical color is white, symbolizing the hope of resurrection. .

Flowers

The flowers are given in honor of those moments where we commit to one another. "To God be the Glory!" Hunter Godsey and Jon Simpson.



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