



*Byzantine mosaic in Ravenna, Italy*

**Sunday, January 23, 2022**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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.
- 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. 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	<i>Reece Huston, acolyte</i>	Anne Armstrong
The Prelude	“Processional in D Major” <i>Anne Armstrong, organ</i>	David Lasky
The Call to Worship		JD Granade

God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

**God calls us to be builders as well.**

God calls us to build our lives:

**to restore broken places and continue to grow.**

God calls us to build our faith:

**to study the Word and ponder its interpretation.**

God calls us to build our community:

**to build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.**

God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

**to preach the good news of God’s love and liberation for all people.**

(From Psalm 19, Nehemiah 8:8, Luke 4:18)

\*The Hymn of Praise 332 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing AZMON

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.**

**Jesus, the name that calms my fears, that bids my sorrows cease;  
‘Tis music in the sinner’s ears; ‘tis life and health and peace.**

**He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.**

**He speaks, and listening to His voice, new life the dead receive;  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.**

**To God all glory, praise, and love be ever, ever given  
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.**

\*The Invocation Phoebe Capps

\*The Gloria Patri 705 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, amen.**

The 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 W.O.W. shepherds this week are Luke McBrayer and Sara Binet*

### **THE OFFERING OF GIFTS**

\*The Hymn of Where Charity and Love Prevail RESIGNATION  
Offertory 264

**Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ’s love, by love are we thus bound.  
With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.  
Forgive we now each other’s faults as we our faults confess;  
And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.  
Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;  
Be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours His holy peace.**

\*The Offertory Prayer Eric Spears  
Vice Chair of Deacons

The Offertory Anthem “Where Charity and Love Prevail” arr. Mark Roberts  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*

\*The Offertory Response 1 Holy, Holy, Holy OLD 100TH  
(stanza 4)

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

## **THE OFFERING OF THE WORD**

The First Lesson

Luke 4:14-21

Lesley Myrick

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

For the Good News of God,

**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 Anthem

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”  
*The Chancel Choir*

Claude L. Bass

Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts, thou Fount of life, Thou Light of all,  
From the best bliss that earth imparts, we turn unfilled to Thee again.  
Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood; thou savest those that on Thee call;  
To them that seek Thee Thou art good, to them that find Thee all in all.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee, wherever our changeful lot is cast;  
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,  
Blessed when our faith can hold Thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay, make all our moments calm and bright;  
Chase the dark night of sin away, shed over the world Thy holy light.

Text: Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th-century

Translated: Ray Palmer, 1858

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Scott Dickison

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member

suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

**Thanks be to God**

The Sermon

“One to Another”

Scott Dickison

### **THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT**

\*The Hymn of Lord, Your Church on Earth Is Seeking BEACH SPRING  
Commitment 288

**Lord, Your church on earth is seeking Your renewal from above;  
Teach us all the art of speaking with the accent of Your love.**

**We would heed Your great commission: “Go now into every place;  
Preach, baptize, fulfill My mission, serve with love and share My grace.”**

**Freedom give to those in bondage, lift the burdens caused by sin;  
Give new hope, new strength and courage, grant release from fears within.  
Light for darkness, joy for sorrow; love for hatred, peace and strife:  
These and countless blessings follow as the Spirit gives new life.**

**In the streets of every city where the bruised and lonely dwell,  
We shall show the Savior’s pity, we shall of His mercy tell.**

**In all lands and with all races, we shall serve and seek to bring  
All the world to render praises to our Lord, Redeemer, King.**

\* The Benediction

Scott Dickison

\*The Congregational Response 512 “We Go in Peace”

Keith Christopher

**We go in peace, we go in love,  
We go with grace and mercy from the Lord above  
To tell the world this very thing:  
That Jesus Christ is Lord and King!**

Postlude

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” arr. Charles Callahan  
*Anne Armstrong, organ*



## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### Sunday, January 23

9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship  
 4:00 pm Group Spiritual Direction

### Monday, January 24

9:00 am Crisis Closet

### Wednesday, January 26

9:30 am ESL  
 3:00 pm Open Children's Center  
 3:00 pm Open Youth Room  
 4:30 pm Worship Arts for children  
 4:30 pm Youth fellowship and games  
 5:30 pm Children's choir  
 5:30 pm Youth Unplugged  
 5:30 pm Church Conference  
 6:15 pm Celebrations  
 Announcements  
 Deacon Report  
 6:30 pm Supper to-go  
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir  
 6:30 pm ESL

### Sunday, January 30

9:45 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship with deacon  
 ordination  
 12:15 pm Deacons' meeting  
 12:30 pm Hope for the Planet  
 Youth Workshop  
 4:00 pm Organ concert

### Deacons of the Week

January 20 Kay Shurden  
 January 27 Sharon Bailey

### Birthdays

January 23 Lynda Brown  
 January 23 Jan Taylor  
 January 25 Bryan Shelburne  
 January 28 O. Suthern Sims

### Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Stephanie Keith** (daughter-in-law of Gladys Keith) on December 18.

We grieve with the family and congregation of Pastor Emeritus, Pastor **John Lee**, of the Macon Korean Baptist Church.

We grieve with the family of **Tom Chambliss**, brother of Suzy Nicholson, on January 3.

We grieve with the family of **Kitty Wilson**, on her death on January 8.

We grieve with the family of **Glynn Broome** on his death on January 5, 2022.

### Celebrations

We celebrate with Monica Stevens in the addition of a new nephew: **Waters Stevens Lawson**, born 12/12/2021 Adoptive parents are her sister, Molly Stevens Lawson and her wife, Ashlee Lawson Stevens.

## THE FRIDGE DOOR



**A place to display the small moments that make up the larger story of the church**

Before Christmas, the children were a bit more active than usual. Wednesday nights are rushed. We have so much energy after full days of school, and preparing for our Children's Choir Christmas program was a bit of added pressure and excitement. My soul sang in gratitude and pride when Andrew Fuller stopped with a giant smile on his face, holding the door for our snaking (and hopping!) "line" of children and adults making our way from Wednesday Night Supper to the choir room. Andrew planted himself at both thresholds we cross as part of our path to choir. His decision to offer a simple act of service emanated from his bright soul, and that spirit is catching. Being served inspires serving others, and Andrew was my reminder that night.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT PLAN BEGINNING JANUARY 26

As we continue to weather this latest COVID Wednesday Night schedule. As you can see, most activities will take place before 6:30pm to allow people to leave before supper. We

will have suppers to go that can be reserved following the link in the Highlites or by contacting the church office.

### Children

3:00 pm Open Children's Center  
4:30-5:30pm Worship Arts/Games  
5:30-6:15pm Children's choir

### Youth

3:00-4:30pm Open Youth Room  
4:30 Youth fellowship and games  
5:30-6:15pm Youth Unplugged  
Youth choir will not meet

### All Church

5:30pm Adult Bible Study  
Church Conference  
6:15pm Celebrations,  
Announcements,  
Deacon Report  
6:30pm Supper to-go  
6:30pm Chancel Choir

## GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Starting today, January 23rd

4:00-6:00 pm in the Pastor's study

Talk to Shaun Kell or Kelsey if you have any questions. Please sign up if you plan on attending.

## DEACON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Join us in morning worship Sunday, January 30, as we ordain and install a new class of deacons. New deacons to be ordained: Jody Long, Julie Long, Jennifer Medgull, and Monica Stevens.

## ORGAN CONCERT

We hope you will join us on January 30 at 4:00 p.m. for an organ concert by Dr. Jack Mitchener. Jack will perform works by Bach, Franck, Widor, and others. This concert is co-sponsored by the Macon Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Music Ministry of First Baptist Church of Christ. It is free and open to the public!



Rev. Kasey Jones

## JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE BAPTIST HERITAGE SUNDAY Sunday, February 6th

The Associate Coordinator of Outreach and Growth for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship ,

Reverend Kasey Jones, will lead us in worship as our guest preacher. Attend the joint Sunday School class in the Fellowship Hall to hear more from Kasey about CBF and the Dr. Emmanuel McCall Racial Justice and Leadership initiative. Rev. Kasey Jones engages with churches and individuals to invite partnership with CBF. Also , her work includes working with congregations to engage in diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial justice ministry efforts. In her work to help grow the Fellowship's impact, Kasey is most passionate about working directly with churches and individuals to make meaningful connections to do kingdom work together. Prior to joining the CBF staff in October 2017, Kasey served as a senior pastor in Washington. D.C. for 12 years, and also worked previously as a community organizer. She earned a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and Bachelor of Arts from Howard University. In her CBF role she combines her ministry and community organizing experiences as she engages partners on behalf of CBF and builds relationships that are resources for our churches.

The Dr. Emmanuel McCall Racial Justice and Leadership Initiative is one of our new identity Partners. Learn more about it at [cfb.net](http://cfb.net).

## **SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

If you have thought about sponsoring a flower arrangement or plant for Sunday worship, now is the time to pick a date for 2022 when we have many open dates. Please click on this link to sign up. If you have any questions — the process, suggestions for a florist, etc. — please contact Mary Leonard, 478-745-3866 Home, 478-737-4171 Cell, or [michael.leonard1@cox.net](mailto:michael.leonard1@cox.net). I'm also happy to sign you up, if you'll just let me know. Thank you!

## **CHILDREN'S NEWS 2022 UPDATE**

The children's committee is excitedly working on events for this year, but also some long term goals and dreams for the future of this ministry. Stay tuned for more updates coming soon!

### **Save the Summer Dates**

June 20-24—VBS

July 17-20—PassportKids Camp (3-5 grades)

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **Winter Retreat Rescheduled**

February 18-20

### **March Mission Madness**

CBF Youth Mission Retreat

**When:** March 18-20

**Where:** Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

**Cost:** \$125 (Includes lodging, t-shirt, & 3 meals)

**Deadline:** Sign up by January 24th with a \$25 deposit

### **Community Youth Group Sunday, January 30th**

High Street Unitarian Universalist Church

12:30-2:30pm

Hope for the Planet: Hannah Shultz, GIPL's Program Associate will provide an introduction to the topics of climate change, environmental advocacy, and justice. Youth will view environmental stewardship through the lens of their faith tradition, gain practical skills in addressing pressing climate issues and explore ways to raise their voices for change.

## NOTES AND DOODLES



## Now. Here. This.

In his beautiful new book, *Northwind*, children's author Gary Paulsen tells the story of a boy named Leif who finds himself on a solo journey through the north country in a dugout canoe.

Leif was born to parents "of no remembered name," and quickly became an orphan. He's taken in by a sailing community and raised on the docks, moving from one ship to another, feeding himself from the crew's castoffs, gleaning enough skills to make himself worthy of their keep.

He finally finds something of a home among a group of seal hunters, but this falls apart as their camp is infected with "a sickness." Old Carl, the closest to a father figure Leif has, shoves him and another smaller boy, Little Carl, into a canoe with a few supplies and tells them to go north and not stop, don't ever return.

Little Carl is unable to escape the sickness, but Leif does and begins his journey north alone.

He sails through inlets and fjords, encountering whales and dolphins, bears and birds of all kinds. He pulls salmon from the water and blackberries off the bushes that seem to grow everywhere.

He spends time alone in his thoughts, deciphering his dreams, and trying to remember his mother. But more than anything, he commits his life to learning. Or rather, he discovers his life depends on it.

Learning how to navigate a canoe through waters whose currents are always shifting. Learning how to coexist with the myriad of creatures that surround him. Learning how to find balance in so many different situations. To keep his canoe wet, but not too wet. Dry, but not too dry.

Near the end of the story, Leif comes to understand just how central this has become to his life and to his journey. Paulsen writes,

"He thought briefly of turning south, back down into the country of small islands and many inlets, but it was only a thought and his body kept paddling the canoe along the bank... pushed by some reflexive and instinctive curiosity that kept him moving, kept him wanting to know more.

To learn?

Did that have to enter everything that happened to him?

So there it was: to learn."

There is something clarifying about naming the commitment to learning as the true heart of a journey. It's not just the steps we take or the miles we travel, but what we learn from them that is important, even essential. Leif's story—and perhaps all stories of journey, even all childhoods—is really a celebration of curiosity.

It's through curiosity that we come to appreciate the complexity and wonder of creation and the depths of the human spirit. It's how we continue to grow, how we come to be a more complete, more mature version of ourselves. It is not how we thrive, but how we survive.

Here at the start of this new year, but one in which we continue on what has been a nearly two-year-long journey, I wonder if this is the message we need to hear. Even as the monotony of masks and tests and quarantines and delayed and canceled events rolls on, like canoe paddles pulling through an arctic fjord, so much depends on our ability to learn and remain curious within it. Curious about ourselves and each other, and this world we cannot help but share.

SHD

## Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and Communion table are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. Winter Ordinary Time begins after Epiphany and ends with the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. 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.



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## Staff and Leadership

**Ms. Anne Armstrong**  
ORGANIST

**Ms. Phoebe Capps**  
MINISTRY INTERN

**Rev. Scott Dickison**  
PASTOR

**Mr. David Cooke**  
CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

**Mrs. Harriet Eason**  
CHAIR OF DEACONS

**Rev. JD Granade**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CHILDREN  
AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Ms. Tierra Johnson**  
CUSTODIAN

**Mr. Bradley Lott**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Mrs. Connie Pursiful**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Dr. Stanley L. Roberts**  
MINISTER OF MUSIC

**Dr. Eric Spears**  
VICE CHAIR OF DEACONS

**Rev. Kelsey Stillwell**  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH  
AND MISSIONS