



Keith Haring, Untitled, 1985. Keith Haring Foundation.

Sunday, January 30, 2022
Fourth 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

Anne Armstrong

Abby Ingoldsby, acolyte

The Prelude

“Trumpet Tune in C Major”

David Johnson

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

Phoebe Capps

In You, Holy One, do I take refuge

Let me never be ashamed.

Deliver me in love and set me free.

lean your ear to me, and help me.

Be my strong rock,

a home to keep me safe.

You are my hope, Holy One—

I have been sustained by your love since I was born.

You have shown me great adversities—

and you have restored my life.

You strengthen me more and more

you enfold and comfort me.

I will sing your praise all my days

and show forth my joy to those around me.

Praise be to the God of faithful love!

Adapted from an improvisation on Psalm 71, by Christine Robinson, *Psalms for a New World*

*The Hymn of Praise 418

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;

Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;

His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,

on earth is not his equal.

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.**

**Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabbaoth, His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God has willed His truth to triumph through us.**

**The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.**

**That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.**

**Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.**

*The Invocation

Kelsey Stillwell

*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

Scott Dickison

“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. shepherds this week are Danielle and Doug Barnes

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 272 They'll Know We Are Christians

ST. BRENDAN'S

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will work with each other; we will work side by side.
We will work with each other; we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us all one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

*The Offertory Prayer

Sharon Bailey
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“The Gift of Love”
The Chancel Choir

arr. Hal Hopson

*The Offertory Response 1

Holy, Holy, Holy
(stanza 4)

OLD 100TH

**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 4:21-30

Robyn Candler

Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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 Solo

“Lord Take Control of Me”
Stanley L. Roberts, baritone

Paul Johnson

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Scott Dickison

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became

an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon

“The Greater Gifts”

Scott Dickison

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of
Commitment 278

We Are Travelers on a Journey

BEACH SPRING

**We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

*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 soft upon your field
And until we meet again, (until we meet again)
May God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen**

Postlude

“Jubilant Finale”
Anne Armstrong, organ

Michael Higgins



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, January 30

9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship with deacon ordination
 12:30 pm Hope for the Planet
 Youth Workshop
 5:00 pm Deacons' meeting

Wednesday, February 2

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 Adult Bible Study
 6:15 pm Celebrations
 Announcements
 Deacon Report
 6:30 pm Supper to-go
 6:30 pm Chancel Choir
 6:30 pm ESL

Sunday, February 6

9:45 am Joint Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship

Deacons of the Week

January 27 Sharon Bailey
 February 3 Scott and Beth Walker

Birthdays

January 31 Mac Dickison
 January 31 Craig McMahan
 February 1 Owen Dickson
 February 1 Charlie Gustafson
 February 2 Martha Duke
 February 5 Shaun Kell

February 6 Mary Beth Conn
 February 6 Julianna Dumas
 February 6 Cathy Logue
 February 6 DeWayne Moore

Condolences

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.

Save the Date

February 6 Baptist Heritage Sunday
 February 18 - 20 Youth Winter Retreat
 March 2 Ash Wednesday
 April 29 - May 1 Men's Retreat



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.

WE WILL CELEBRATE OUR BAPTIST HERITAGE BEFORE AND BEYOND FEBRUARY 6TH!

Join us Wednesday night on February 2nd and February 9th as we talk more about our Baptist identity in the adult Bible study.

THE FRIDGE DOOR



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

Returning to teach the Bible Friends (K-2 grade) after Zoom Sunday School then my absence once we returned to the building this summer and fall has been great for my soul! These children have been tremendously cooperative and understanding in wearing their masks, not getting to eat snacks, and giving up their playroom next door in order to provide accessibility to a third-grader. They really are a dream class—a testament to their parents! This gives me great hope they will someday look back on the pandemic that altered their world yet taught them cooperation, resilience, and “doing unto others” at such an early age which will carry them far into their futures! Thanks be to God!

DEACON ORDINATION POSTPONED

Due to increased COVID concerns within the church and deacon body, we have postponed our service of ordination and installation planned for this morning until later in the year. Please pray for our new deacons, as well as those returning to active service, as they begin this new year of care for our congregation.

DEACONS MEETING TONIGHT AT 5PM OVER ZOOM

Our first deacons meeting of the year will be held over Zoom tonight at 5pm. We will orient our new members and discuss new initiatives for the year. Look for the link in your email.

NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT PLAN

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. **Please make reservations for next week by Friday of this week.** If you previously had a Wednesday night reservation, please resubmit it so that we may have an accurate count. You may make new standing reservations.

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
6:15pm Celebrations,
Announcements,
Deacon Report
6:30pm Supper to-go
6:30pm Chancel Choir

ORGAN CONCERT HAS BEEN POSTPONED

We hope you will join us later in the year for an organ concert by Dr. Jack Mitchener.

FLOWER SPONSOR

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.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

We will meet on March 13, 2022, at 6 pm at the home of Tricia Whitby, 210 Sleepy Creek Rd, 31210. Our selection for this meeting is Jodi Picoult's book, *Wish You Were Here*. Author Taylor Jenkins Reid describes it as "a powerfully evocative story of resilience and the triumph of the human spirit". Many of us are familiar with Jodi Picoult books and know that they are always profound and lead to great discussions.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Sunday school begins at 9:45 and we have returned to age-divided classes. If you need directions, enter through the Education Lobby where someone will be to assist you.

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

Community Youth Group: Today

12:30-2:30pm

“Hope for the Planet: Youth Workshop”

Check out the Facebook event here.

Hosted by: Unitarian Universalist Church and Georgia Interfaith Power and Light

Event will be outside at the park across from the UU church. If it rains, we will reschedule

Youth meet in the Education Lobby to walk over together.

Lunch: Ramen Bar

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.

Youth Winter Retreat (Rescheduled)

February 18-20

Huntsville, AL

Cost: \$150 (There is no additional cost if you have already paid for WYS)

Let's get away and dwell together and with God. We will use the “Dwell” theme from Winter Youth Summit and will focus on getting to know ourselves, each other, and listening for God away from distractions. Sign today!

March Mission Madness

March 18-20

Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Cost: \$125 (Includes lodging, 3 meals, and a t-shirt)

MMM is a youth mission weekend hosted by CBF of GA. We will join other churches in Georgia to work and learn about different ministries in Atlanta and how they are showing God's love in their community. We will leave Friday after school and return Sunday after morning worship. We will stay in a hotel or lodge in Atlanta near the church. Sign today with a \$25 deposit.

FBCX Youth Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 13

6:00 pm until halftime

At the Long's house

638 Mill Run Court

Menu - Nacho Bar

Please pick up your student at halftime.



Now. Here. This.

In a recent column he shares with Gail Collins, New York Times opinion writer Bret Stephens offered the following description of the internet's effects on our ability, or often inability, to form meaningful community and a healthy interior life—noting the connection between the two.

“Social media has created the phenomenon of ‘Together Alone’... Only it's the wrong kind of togetherness and the wrong kind of aloneness... The old togetherness taught people how to negotiate differences in communities they hadn't chosen for themselves. And the old aloneness often entailed long periods of engaged solitude, like reading a novel or gardening or building a model ship. But the new togetherness allows us to select the communities to which we belong, mostly with people who like what we like, hate what we hate, and never challenge our assumptions. And the new aloneness often means scrolling among endless internet distractions without ever focusing on anything in particular. The result is that we now live in a world where people know neither how to be together nor how to be alone. It's the ultimate recipe for unhappiness and bad behavior.”

While I'm suspicious of arguments rooted in some usually-fictional notion of “the good old days,” I'm struck by this idea of “Together alone,” with “the wrong kind of togetherness and the wrong kind of aloneness.”

This question of what kind of “togetherness” we're after speaks to the complexities of belonging we touched on in worship Sunday. In Paul's image of the church as a body, differences are not to be avoided, but counted as “gifts,” and reflections of the diversity and complexity of creation and the creator.

Yes, there is a place for finding those with whom we share much in common—that, in and of itself, is not a bad thing. But it becomes dangerous when these commonalities calcify and we begin to see difference as a threat. A true and deep sense of “togetherness” must be rooted in an appreciation for the ways we cannot help but be connected to one another, whether we agree with each other or not.

There's a tension here that's difficult to maintain, but essential to our long term spiritual health.

I'm not on board with Stephens' description of the “new aloneness” (I don't think productivity must or should be the measure of all things), but I agree with his diagnosis.

I remember being told some time ago that two of the most important things we can do for our children as parents is help them learn how to be sad and how to be alone. We might also add that we should help them know the two need not be linked.

I think our faith has something to teach us about how to be alone that's not rooted in productivity. Throughout the gospels, Jesus is said to have gone off to a “lonely” place to reconnect with himself, with God, and his calling. These times of respite and

renewal seem essential to his ministry and the health of the community he shared with his disciples. Likewise, much of what we do as a church, as I saw it put recently, is a “beautiful waste of time!”

The pandemic has illuminated the ways in which loneliness can literally kill us. But it’s also revealed how important it is to have an “interior life” in which we discover our own inherent worth apart from others.

Human life cannot help but be some form of “together alone.” What we want from our faith and our faith community is help in finding ways to do and be these things that are life-giving and not life-denying.

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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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

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