



“Wedding Feast,” serigraph
by John August Swanson (1996)

January 16, 2022
Second 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. 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

Jennings Tarpley, acolyte

The Prelude

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

arr. David Lowe

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

Kelsey Stillwell

Rejoice and be glad for the Good News,

God calls us to joyful celebration!

Rejoice and be glad for the Good News,

God’s steadfast love pours out in abundance!

Rejoice and be glad for the Good News,

In God we find light and life!

In the face of despair, we find refuge.

Let us rejoice and share the Good News.

*The Hymn of Praise 295 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise:

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;

Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by Thy help I’m come;

And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home:

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!

Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here’s my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

*The Invocation

Scott Dickison

**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

JD Granade

“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 Elinor Fenimore and Emma Stephens

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of
Offertory 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 Offertory Prayer

Shannon Hart
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory

““With a Voice of Singing”
The Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this,
and let it be heard, Alleluia. Declare ye this,
and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sing praises to the honour of his name,
make his praise to be glorious.

With a voice of singing declare ye this,
and let it be heard, Alleluia. Alleluia.
Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Text: Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

*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

Psalm 36:5-10

Romelle Jones

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

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

John 2:1-11

Scott Dickison

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon

"What Joy"

Scott Dickison

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of
Commitment 281

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

*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

“Let All Who Have Breath Praise the Lord”

Douglas Wagner

Anne Armstrong, organ



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, January 16

9:45 am	Sunday school
11:00 am	Worship
5:00 pm	Church Council on Zoom

Monday, January 17

Church office closed for MLK day

Wednesday, January 19

No Wednesday activities

Sunday, January 23

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

Deacons of the Week

January 13	Shannon Hart
January 20	Kay Shurden

Birthdays

January 16	Peg McCann
January 16	John Pattillo
January 18	Jessica Northenor
January 22	Ruth Bentz
January 23	Jan Taylor

Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Lillian Rice** in her death on December 10.

We grieve with the family of **Stephanie Keith** in her death December 18.

We grieve with the Macon Korean Baptist Church in the death of their pastor emeritus, Pastor **John Lee**, December 26.

We grieve with Suzy Nicholson in the death off her brother, **Tom Chambliss**, on January 3.

We grieve with Ruth and Jim Hunt in the death of Ruth's brother, **John Setzer**, on January 8.

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

Save the Date:

Sunday, January 23

First Spiritual Direction Group

Wednesday, January 26

Church Conference

Sunday, January 30

Deacon Ordination and Installation
Deacons' Meeting

Sunday, February 6

Baptist Heritage Sunday

THE FRIDGE DOOR



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

Shout out to FBCX volunteers who prepared delicious soup at Daybreak the week after Christmas! There are a number of organizations that serve meals regularly throughout the week, but are closed on holidays. Joe Saturna asked around to figure out which holidays did not have anywhere to get a free meal and coordinated with Daybreak to host groups to serve lunch on these days. Because of this, the week after Christmas when there would typically have been no place to get a meal, Daybreak hosted volunteer groups and fed the community all week. Dan Riley planned the meal and coordinated a FBCX group to cook and serve on December 29th.

Thank you Joe for seeing this need in our community, Dan for bringing people together, and to volunteers that helped during their Christmas break!

UPDATE FROM PANDEMIC TASK FORCE

Due to the sharp rise in Covid cases locally, our Pandemic Task Force has recommended that we delay sharing any meals at the church. Given that the supper is so central to our Wednesday Night rhythm, we will postpone our return to Wednesday night

activities for at least another week. So, no Wednesday night activities on Wednesday January 19. The Church Council will discuss a plan for moving forward.

Stanley will be in touch with the choir about a plan for rehearsals.

We continue to ask that everyone wear masks while in the building, regardless of vaccination status. Adult Sunday school classes and committees are encouraged to make their own plans regarding meeting in person, virtually, or in a hybrid form.

Thank you for your continued cooperation, patience, and imagination as we do our part to keep our congregation and community safe and well.

YOUTH

WINTER RETREAT RESCHEDULED

New Retreat: February 18-20

We will stay at the same retreat center we had reserved in Huntsville, AL.

More details to come.

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

GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Meeting monthly

Starting Sunday, January 23rd

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

First, we all have an inner teacher whose guidance is more reliable than anything we can get from a doctrine, ideology, collective belief system, institution, or leader. Second, we all need other people to invite, amplify, and help us discern the inner teacher's voice. Parker Palmer, *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*

Lately I've been telling anyone who will listen (and unfortunately lots of people who don't really want to listen) that the most life-giving thing I've done for myself in the past two years has been a spiritual direction group I've been attending with some fellow travelers at a sister congregation across town. Once a month we sit quietly in a circle, holding space for one another as each in turn shares a struggle, a joy, a question, or simply a status update. The group listens closely and offers questions and responses. It's really as simple as that. But there's a kind of magic in being with people whose only focus is trying to listen deeply for the voice of God in my life, who are there to truly see me.

It's a rare gift to offer and to receive such kind attention. Most of us long for that sort of recognition in our friendships, in our Sunday school groups, and in our life partnerships. Spiritual guidance is one way we can clear the space to attend to the inner

teacher, the Holy Spirit, the true self.

It's a gift I'd love for us to share at First Baptist. To that end, we are meeting for an introductory session on January 23 from 4-6.

If you are curious about giving spiritual direction a try, I invite you to come!

For more details on format and grounding principles, consult the Parker Palmer book.

Shaun Kell

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. I'm also happy to sign you up, if you'll just let me know. Thank you!



Now. Here. This.

I've been thinking this week of an episode of "StoryCorps" from a few years ago. StoryCorps, you may know, is a national nonprofit that records conversations between two people and then archives them in the Library of Congress. You can go to their website and listen to thousands of conversations between ordinary folks—family members, friends—sharing about the tender moments of their lives.

This particular interview was between nine-year old Aiden Sykes, and his father Albert, and was recorded in Jackson, MS. To start the interview, Aiden asked his dad if he remembered what was going through his head when he first saw him. "I remember when the doctor pulled you out, the first thing I thought was that he was being too rough with you," his dad laughed. But then the doctor handed little Aiden to him and said, "Here's your baby."

Albert said it was the proudest moment of his life, because "it was like looking at a blank canvas... imagining what you want that painting to look like at the end, but also knowing you can't control the paint strokes." But there was also some fear, he shared with his son. He told him he's seen the statistics that tell us "Black boys born after the year 2002 have a 1 in 3 chance of going to prison." Aiden and his other two brothers are all Black and born after 2002.

Aiden asked his dad why he takes him to protests so much? Albert said it's because he wants him "to see what it looks like when people come together, but also that you understand that it's not just about people that are familiar to you. It's about everybody."

He asked his son if he knew the work Martin Luther King was doing was for everybody and not just for Black people. Aiden said that he

did. "So that's how you gotta think," his father told him. "If you decide that you wanna be a cab driver, then you gotta be the most impactful cab driver that you can possibly be."

The interview ended with Aiden asking his father what his dreams were for him. "My dream is for you to live out your dreams," Albert told his son. "There's an old proverb that talks about when children are born, children come out with their fists closed because that's where they keep all their gifts. And as you grow, your hands learn to unfold, because you're learning to release your gifts to the world. And so, for the rest of your life," he told his son, "I wanna see you live with your hands unfolded."

Church, isn't this it? Isn't this what we're called to do and who we're called to be? People who live with their hands unfolded.

Live with your hands unfolded so that your gifts may be released into the world.

Live with your hands unfolded so that they can't become a fist.

Live with your hands unfolded, not simply so your gifts can be released, but so that the gifts of others can be received.

Live with your hands unfolded, your arms open, and your eyes forward, so that you might see the world and the people in front of you. Because it's only when we're in this position that our hearts are fully exposed.

When I meditate on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this weekend, it will be on how he lived this posture out in so many ways. And how he did it for all of us. And I want to make sure my sons know that, too.

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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