



“Eclipse” from the triptych “The Road to Damascus,” by Frank Spring (2006)

Sunday, February 6, 2022
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Baptist Heritage 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.
- 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

Rita Brown, *acolyte*

The Prelude

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

arr. Charles Callahan

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

JD Granade

Magistrates are not by virtue of their office to meddle with religion or matters of conscience, to force or compel people to this or that form of religion (John Smyth, 1612)

We rejoice in our freedom and accept the charge to live faithfully within it.

Every person ought to be left free with respect to matters of religion. The Holy Author of our religion needs no compulsive measures for the promotion of God’s cause. (General Committee of Baptists in Virginia, 1785)

We rejoice in our freedom and accept the charge to live faithfully within it.

Everyone must give a personal account to God, and therefore all people ought to be at liberty to serve God in a way that each can best reconcile to [their] own conscience. (John Leland, 1791)

We rejoice in our freedom and accept the charge to live faithfully within it.

Baptists believe in free churches within a free state. We believe religious liberty to be an inalienable human right and indispensable to human welfare. Profoundly convinced that any deprivation of this right is a wrong to be challenged, we condemn every form of compulsion or restraint in religion. (The American Baptist Bill of Rights, 1939)

We rejoice in our freedom and accept the charge to live faithfully within it.

Compiled by Reid Trulson, in *For the Living of These Days*, ed. C. Michael Hawn

*The Hymn of Praise 285

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

**God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church’s story, bring her bud to glorious flower.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us, free our hearts to work and praise.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days, for the living of these days.**

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for Thy salvation be our glory evermore.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving Thee whom we adore, serving Thee whom we adore.**

**Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces in the fight to set all free.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee! That we fail not man nor Thee!**

*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 Ben and Rachel Huston.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 671

BEACH SPRING

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store:
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door,
Gifted by You, we turn to You, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at Your throne.**

**Treasure, too, You have entrusted, gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.**

*The Offertory Prayer

Eric Spears
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory Anthem

“Festival Piece on ST. ANNE”

Eugene Butler

(The congregation will stand and sing with the choir at the appointed time)

**O God, our help, in ages past
Our hope for years to come.
Be thou our God while life shall last
And our eternal home!**

Robert Herrick, alt. (1591-1674)

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

Acts 9:10-17

Erika Houser

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” But

the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

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 Solo Anthem

“Softly and Tenderly”
Caroline Cooke, soprano

arr. Raymond Brown

The Second Lesson

Philemon 8-19

Kasey Jones

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of Commitment 587

NEW BRITAIN

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun.**

* The 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

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation”

arr. Anna Laura Page

Anne Armstrong, organ



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, February 6

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

Wednesday, February 9

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 13

9:00 am Finance Committee
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 2:00 pm Church Council on zoom
 6:00 pm Youth Super Bowl party

Deacons of the Week

February 3 Eric Spears
 February 10 Greta O'Dell

Birthdays

February 1 Walter Shurden
 February 6 Mary Beth Conn
 February 6 Julianna Dumas
 February 6 Cathy Logue
 February 6 DeWayne Moore
 February 9 Sidney Dickison
 February 10 Betty McGourik

February 11 Lucy Wilson
 February 12 Scott Dickison
 February 13 Leon Brock
 February 13 Beverly Owens
 February 13 Jackie Riley

Condolences

We grieve with the family of **Tom Chambliss**, brother of Suzy Nicholson, on his death 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.

We grieve with the family of **Mary Skinner**, mother of Claire Davis on her death on January 27.

Save the Date

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

Wednesday Night Supper Menu

Turkey/beef hamburger steaks w/gravy
 Steamed broccoli
 Garlic mashed potatoes
 Brown-n-serve rolls
 Mini vanilla pound cake



TODAY WE CELEBRATE BAPTIST HERITAGE SUNDAY

Our guest speaker is the Associate Coordinator of Outreach and Growth for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Reverend Kasey Jones. Kasey engages with churches and individuals to invite partnership with CBF. She works 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.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9: BAPTIST IDENTITY, LED BY ANDREW MANIS.

We will continue the conversation of Baptist Heritage this Wednesday. Andrew will facilitate a discussion of reflections from Sunday.

THE FRIDGE DOOR



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

A Christmas miracle story! Warren Jones listed his radial saw on Facebook Marketplace for sale. Kitty Knight saw it and they made a deal. Warren, with the help of David and Charlie, loaded up and delivered the saw to the Knight's house on Zebulon Rd. While they were unloading, Tommy and their Yorkie, Winston, came to the front door to say hello and they visited for a bit. A few hours later, Connie got a call from Kitty asking if Warren had seen their dog when he was there, that he is nowhere to be found. Warren notifies David and Charlie about the situation, and Charlie and Harriet consider a trip to Zebulon to help look for Winston. But Kitty calls back and says, "You're not going to believe this." She got a call from a woman saying Winston made it all the way to Forsyth Rd. Drivers were dodging him in traffic. The lady calling stopped (with her children) to rescue the dog. She took him to the nearest vet and paid \$30 for the staff to scan the chip and call Kitty. Kitty and Tommy asked Connie to relay the good news to Warren as they were on their way to meet the woman. In class

on Sunday, Tommy shared the rest of the story: he wanted to give the woman more than the \$30 so he added another \$50. What he didn't expect was her response—"You didn't know this, but I was wondering what I was going to feed my children tonight, so thank you so much!" There were tears in the room when Tommy told the final part of the story. This miracle story is due to Winston's latest "excellent adventure"!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE: MEN'S RETREAT, APR. 29 - MAY 1

Cloudland Canyon State Park

Men's Retreat returns! After a two year hiatus, we will once again gather for a weekend of communing with each other and with creation. We will return to Cloudland Canyon State Park, staying in the group lodge. All ages and comfort levels in the outdoors welcome and valued. Cost is \$50. Sign-ups will begin soon.

New Award Created in Memory of Jack Caldwell at Mercer University

In appreciation for Jack's love of music at Mercer University, the "Jack Caldwell Spirit Award" has been created to provide an annual gift to a Mercer student participating in a choir/choral group. This student will exhibit some of the same characteristics as Jack: a perceptible love of music, dependability in attending practice, enthusiasm and joy in performing, and excitement in traveling or repeating the performance for a new audience. Those interested in contributing to this fund may give online at giving.mercer.edu, or contact Shawna Dooley, Associate Vice President of the university and founder of the fund, at (478) 301-2720 or dooley_sr@mercer.edu.

Deacons for 2022

While we will wait until later in the year for our official service of ordination and installation, our deacons have nonetheless begun their year of service. See our list of Deacons for 2022 below. One of the hallmarks of deacon service in our congregation is the “Deacon Family Ministry,” in which each family and member within the church is assigned a deacon for their special support. You should be hearing from your deacon for this year soon!

Harriet Eason, chair



*Eric Spears, vice chair



Chuck Dumas, past chair



Sharon Bailey

David Cooke

Ruth Hunt

Jody Long***

Linda Manis

Greta O'Dell

Marina Spears

Kerri Thompson

Tricia Whitby

Fred Bongiovanni*

Richard Green*

Laura Lease

Julie Long***

Jennifer Medgull***

Jackie Riley

Monica Stevens***

Beth Walker

Bryan Whitfield

Dee Bratcher*

Shannon Hart

Mary Leonard*

Andrew Manis

Suzy Nicholson

Kay Shurden

Doug Thompson

Scott Walker

* Term starting in 2022.

** To be ordained.

CHILDREN'S NEWS:

Upcoming Worship Arts:

February 9 and 16-- Movement and Breathing with Chris Kirby and Monica Stevens

Save the Summer Dates

June 20-24-- VBS

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

YOUTH NEWS:

FBCX Youth Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 13

6:00 pm until halftime

The Longs' house

638 Mill Run Court

Menu - Nacho Bar

Please pick up your student at halftime.

Youth Winter Retreat (Rescheduled)

February 18-20

Huntsville, AL

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.

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.



Now. Here. This.

Last Sunday the New York Times published an op-ed by Rev. Tish Harrison Warren, a priest in the Anglican Church in North America entitled, “Why Churches Should Drop Their Online Services.”

She writes, “Online church, while it was necessary for a season, diminishes worship and us as people. We seek to worship wholly — with heart, soul, mind and strength — and embodiment is an irreducible part of that wholeness.”

To offer both in-person and virtual worship, she argues, makes embodiment, “elective,” akin to any other “consumer preference.” “A chief thing that the church has to offer the world now,” she closes, “is to remind us all how to be human creatures, with all the embodiment and physical limits that implies. We need to embrace that counter cultural call.”

This has set off a whirlwind of responses and conversation about the nature of worship, what we hope to be doing in it, and what the past two years have revealed to us about the reaches of “presence” and even what “embodiment” can mean.

I’ll admit my initial reaction was that the author seemed dismissive of those who cannot, for medical reasons, gather in person, even before COVID. “This, however, is not a new problem for the church,” she writes, “For centuries, churches have handled this inevitability by visiting these people at home in person.”

True, but this read to me a little like, “Certain folks are used to not being included in worship.” One of the gifts of this long season, for me, has been gaining a greater awareness of and appreciation for the people for whom our traditional rhythms of worship are not designed. Namely, those who are home-centered for reasons of health, age, or even work scheduling.

Others have pointed out that the prevalence of online worship offerings has allowed folks to find types of churches that they simply don’t have access to in person. For instance, a church that is of a different theological position than the norm in their area, or one that is intentionally welcoming in the way they need it to be, or want to be a part of.

For these people, online worship isn’t an alternative to gathering in person. It’s an alternative to not gathering at all.

Much of the author’s experience of the past two years resonated with my own, namely the struggles (and joys...but mostly struggles) of reconfiguring church in the face of relentless obstacles.

Like her, there are few things that feed my soul more than gathering with others in worship, with all the coughing and children making a ruckus (usually the pastor’s) and papers shuffling and pews creaking and all the rest of it. To return to that, even in the park across the street or our parking lot, was nothing short of a revelation.

But something else of which the pandemic has made me keenly aware is the necessity of grace.

Grace toward each other, remembering that we all carry so much more than we show.

Grace toward ourselves, remembering that we can only do and be so much.

And grace toward this world of ours that is broken in so many places, but beautiful—I'm convinced—in so many more. Often it's both at the same time.

There's a tremendous grace in realizing that many things can be true at once, and that God can work with even our most humble, "diminished" efforts. And learning that—deeply and truly, in body, mind, and spirit—may be why we worship in the first place.

SHD

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and communion table are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. Ordinary Time begins after Epiphany and ends with 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.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mike Leonard on the occasion of his birthday on February 2nd, by Mary Leonard.

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