



Photograph of a dry dead fig tree in
Fuerteventura by Tamara Kulikova

Sunday, March 20, 2022
The Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome to worship with the First Baptist Church of Christ.

Whatever road has brought you here and wherever you should go once we depart, know that you are welcome in this space fully and completely, and that the image of God we all bear together this hour is more complete because you are here as a part of it.

Things to Know

Masks are now optional on the church campus. We understand there are those within the congregation who will need or want to continue to wear masks, and we will continue to keep masks around the church for those who may want to use them.

Restrooms can be found through the double doors on the side near the elevator, one flight of stairs up or one flight down.

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 Sounding of the Hour

Anne Armstrong

Billy Dickison, acolyte

The Prelude

“Trumpet Tune”

Antony Holborne

Anne Armstrong, organ

The Call to Worship

Scott Dickison

When our souls thirst and our flesh faints,

In a dry and weary land, we seek You, O God.

When we see You in Your dwelling place,

We behold Your glory and praise You, O God.

In joyful feasting and restful meditation, You have been our help.

We sing with joy as our souls cling to You!

God’s right hand upholds us,

Let us seek the Lord.

(inspired by Psalm 63:1-8)

*The Hymn of Praise 471

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;

Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;

In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God’s free bounty glorify;

True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh. [Refrain]

Come, ye weary, heavy-laden, lost and ruined by the fall;

If you tarry till you’re better, you will never come at all. [Refrain]

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;

All the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him. [Refrain]

*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 Audrey Dickison and Elinor Fenimore

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 366

O God Beyond All Praising

THAXTED

**O God beyond all praising, we worship You today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift You send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end;
We lift our hearts before You and wait upon Your Word,
We honor and adore You, our great and mighty Lord.
Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know Your favor may serve You as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless You still:
To marvel at Your beauty and glory in Your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.**

Stewardship Moment

Hunter Godsey
Chair of Finance

The Offertory Prayer

Mary Leonard
Deacon of the Week

Offertory

“Lenten Hymn”
Kelley Dixson, flute

Julia Smith

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

THE OFFERING OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-9

Paige Tench

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

The Call to Confession

Scott Dickison

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank You for all that is good,
for our creation and for our humanity,
for the stewardship You have given us of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and of one another,
for Your love which is unbounded and eternal,
O Thou, most holy and beloved,
our Companion, our Guide upon the way.
We repent the wrongs we have done:

The Discipline of Silence

The Response 399

“O Lord, Hear My Prayer”

Jacques Berthier

(choir sings first time, congregation *second time*)

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call answer me.**

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.**

Assurance of Pardon

We have wounded Your love.

O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.

Light of the world, transfigure us.

We forget that we are Your home.

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to You,

to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.
Living flame burn into us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

Amen.

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

“Walking with God”
The Chancel Choir
Kelley Dixson, flute

Paul Basler

O! for a closer walk with God, a calm and a heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road, that leads me to the Lamb!

Where is the blessedness I knew when first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul refreshing view of Jesus and his word?

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed! How sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void the world can never fill.

Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known, whate'er that idol be;
Help me to tear it from thy throne, and worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road, that leads me to the Lamb.

Text: William Cowper (1772)

The Second Lesson

Luke 13:1-9

Scott Dickison

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed

when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon

“Do We Get What We Deserve?”

Scott Dickison

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of
Commitment 650

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

JOYFUL SINGING

**Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy’s perfect deed:
We, Your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose every gift that You impart.**

**Still, Your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision, till Your love’s revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving Your abundant life to share.**

**Called by worship to Your service, forth in Your dear name we go
To the child, the youth the aged, love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord, in freedom may Your mercy know, and live.**

*The Benediction

Scott Dickison

*The Congregational Response 512 “We Go in Peace”

Keith Christopher

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

*Postlude

“Postlude”
Anne Armstrong, organ

Fred Binckes

HOLY WEEK 2022: JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AND REFLECTION

Palm Sunday, April 10, 11:00 am
Worship with Palm Processional.

Followed by children’s Easter Egg Hunt in High Street Park with First Baptist Church!

**No Wednesday Night Activities on Wednesday April 13*

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 6:30 pm
Meal and Service

We’ll meet in the Fellowship Hall to share a family-style meal together while having a communion service.

Good Friday, April 15, 10:00 am–7:00 pm
Prayer Stations and Reflection

The sanctuary will open at 10:00 am.
Music and Scripture reflection will be offered from 5:30–7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 17, 11:00 am
Worship

Come for Sunday school at 9:45, then join us as we celebrate the resurrection together in the sanctuary!

Please read church emails and check our website for more details.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Sunday, March 20

Youth away at March Mission Madness
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 12:15 pm VBS planning meeting

Wednesday, March 16

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 Lenten Vespers
 6:45 pm Flex time for children

Sunday, March 27

9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship
 12:15 pm Child Protection Policies meeting
 4:00 pm Group Spiritual Direction

Deacons of the Week

March 17 Mary Leonard
 March 24 Monica Stevens Kirby

Birthdays

March 20 Jonah Brainard
 March 20 Chris Bruner-Burgess
 March 22 Rebecca Pursiful
 March 24 Jennings Tarpley
 March 25 Andy Digh
 March 25 Mary Donovan

March 25 Isiah Thomas
 March 26 Darrell T. Pursiful
 March 27 Lacie Brown

Save the Date

Sunday, April 3 Children's Sunday
 Sunday, April 10 Easter Egg Hunt
 in High St. Park
 Thursday, April 14 Maundy Thursday Meal
 and Worship
 Friday, April 15 Sanctuary open
 throughout the day for
 Good Friday meditation, art
 and music that night
 Sunday, April 17 Easter Sunday Worship
 April 29-May 1 Men's Retreat

Wednesday Night Supper Menu

*Note: Price per plate will increase to \$8
 beginning Wednesday, March 30.*

March 23: Pizza night

March 30: Buttermilk pancakes, turkey/pork
 sausage, cheesy scrambled eggs, hash browns
 and fresh fruit.

The Record Speaks:

Date:	2/28/2022
Budget to Date:	\$109,422
Contributions:	\$64,080
Expenses:	\$116,508
Missions:	\$6,408
	(\$58,836)

Two Opportunities to Support Relief Efforts in Ukraine

Shared Relief Project with Mercer University and Baptists in Republic of Georgia

Craig McMahan and Mercer University are partnering with Republic of Georgia Baptist leader and friend of the church Bishop Malkhaz Songulashvili to provide direct aid to refugees from Ukraine coming into the Republic of Georgia during this dreadful war. Malkhaz has partnered with Craig in various Mercer on Mission efforts, and has spent time with us here in Macon. He is coordinating refugee efforts from Georgia and will oversee this relief effort.



To support this effort, you may write a check to the church and designate it for “Ukrainian Relief.” You may also donate online through the church’s platform, by selecting “Ukrainian Relief” on the drop-down menu.

Support CBF’s Ukraine Relief Fund

Prayerfully consider a financial contribution to CBF’s Ukraine Relief Fund. CBF’s first commitment for the fund is to provide relief to those served by Village of Hope and for local partners of that ministry under the leadership of CBF field personnel Gennady and Mina Podgaisky and CBF Global Missions. They have served in Kyiv for



20 years. Beyond that, support will be directed to The Baptist World Alliance Forum for Aid Development (BFAD) in international disaster response work. They are working actively with Baptist leaders in Ukraine and others in that country to identify the most essential use of funds.

Wednesday Night Lenten Vespers in the Park at 6:30 pm

On most Wednesday nights through the Lenten season we will gather in High St. Park across the street from the church for this time of midweek sunset prayer. Seating is available in the amphitheater, but you are welcome to bring a lawn chair. In case of weather we will move to the fellowship hall. This service will not be live-streamed.

FBCX+ Gathering

Our LGBTQ+ fellowship group is hosting a gathering open to any who wish to attend (allies included)! On Sunday, April 3 we’ll eat lunch out together after worship and then attend the matinee performance of Little Shop of Horrors at Macon Little Theatre (featuring several members of FBCX). You may purchase tickets at the Macon Little Theatre website, or sign up to be part of a block of group tickets.

To sign up please email JD (jd@fbcxmacon.org) to let him know you’ll attend and whether or not you’d like to purchase tickets in a group block. To sit in the group block, please email by March 27. You may also reach out to Richard Pennington or Kim Candler with questions.

Online Lenten Devotional

We are excited to once again offer an online Lenten devotional featuring authors from within our congregation. To subscribe, follow the link in the weekly email. Thank you to Kathy Manis Findley for once again spearheading this project and to all of our writers for sharing their gifts.

Men's Retreat, April 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 up on the FBCX website.



Easter Lilies

As with so many things right now, we are unable to acquire our usual number of lilies for Easter this year. The price has gone up and they will be \$14.00. Please sign up on the FBCX website and follow the link to pay for the lilies or let the church office know that you would to purchase one and put your check in the mail or in the offering plate marked lily. Once we have sold the ones we have ordered, we will not be ordering any more.

Easter Eggs Needed

Please drop off filled Easter Eggs for our annual Palm Sunday egg hunt! If you would like to have some to fill, please find them in the education or office lobbies or contact JD (jd@fbcxmacon.org). You can fill them with small candies, stickers, erasers, etc. Please stay mindful of allergies and other dietary restrictions if possible. If you're unable to bring filled eggs, you can also donate a bag of individually wrapped candy.

Properties Committee Update

We are happy to report our spire repair/renovation project is complete! After repairing the leak and cleaning out the water damage, a new metal spiral staircase has been installed and this iconic feature of our church building is safe and secure for us to enjoy.

We now move on to our next project, which is replacing all of the flat roofs on the church campus. A crew will begin this weekend, and you may notice some parking spaces will be blocked as they store their materials during the project.

After the completion of both these projects, the Properties Committee will turn its attention to some smaller repairs, such as repairing the stairs leading down into the sanctuary from the office level and repainting the exterior doors and window boxes, as well as a remodel of our lobbies and entrances.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

Family Lent Devotion

Any families with children (or anyone who wishes to embrace a childlike faith) are welcome to grab a copy of "God is Still with Us" from the education lobby (or download it from the weekly Highlites). This weekly resource includes reflections, discussion, activities, and coloring pages for each week of Lent.

Children's Sunday

God said through the prophet Isaiah "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?" (Isaiah 43:19a CEB). Children are the embodiment of the newness God offers. We hope you'll take the opportunity to recognize this as they lead us in worship on April 3!

YOUTH NEWS:

March Mission Madness

A group of youth went to Atlanta this weekend to worship and participate in mission work around the city. They are on their way home today.

Save the Date

May 15: Graduate Recognition Sunday

June 4: Macon Bacon Game

June 5-10: Appalachian Mission
Immersion

July 18-23: Passport Camp

July TBD: High School Mission trip

Free Parent Workshop

Dr. Brian D. Wright will be leading an informative workshop for parents on how

to help kids deal with anxiety, stress, and develop healthy emotional regulation.

Thursday, March 24th

6:30–8:00pm at Vineville Baptist Church (in the gym)

To RSVP, call Crossroads at 478-475-4608

Youth & Families Forum

April 3rd, 5:00-7:00pm

Youth and their families are asked to attend this forum at FBCX. We will talk about fundraisers and the summer schedule as well as our hopes and plans for the youth ministry. Students will stay for a portion of the conversation and then hang out in the youth room while adults continue to meet. Youth ministry is always changing, but even more so through the pandemic.

We hope you will make this gathering a priority because this ministry depends on your support and we want to hear from everyone as we continue to strive for an inclusive, sustainable, and strong youth community.

Walter B. And Kay W. Shurden Lectures in Macon, March 30

Designed to enhance the ministry and programs of the Baptist Joint Committee on Religious Liberty (BJC), the Walter B. and Kay W. Shurden Lectures are held at Mercer University in Georgia every three years and at another seminary, college or university in the intermediate years. This year's lecturer is Rev. Dr. Jay Augustine. Dr. Augustine is a multidisciplinary professional who serves in both ordained ministry and academia. He is part of a group of national social justice leaders who speak for the equality of all human beings, while advocating for policies of diversity, inclusion and belonging. In addition to serving as the senior pastor of St. Joseph AME Church in Durham, North Carolina, and as a missional strategist with the Duke Center for Reconciliation, he also is a law professor at North Carolina Central University. Augustine's published works have been featured in numerous law reviews throughout the country.

Schedule:

Lecture #1: Atlanta, Georgia	Lecture #2: Macon, Georgia	Lecture #3: Macon, Georgia
Tuesday, March 29, at 11 a.m.	Wednesday, March 30 at 11:15 a.m.	Wednesday, March 30 at 3:30 p.m.
Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology	Mercer University College of Liberal Arts & Sciences	Mercer University School of Law
Location: AAC building 2nd floor auditorium (ACC 280)	Location: Medical School Auditorium	Mercer Law Building's First Floor Courtroom

All events are free and open to the public.

Dr. Augustine to join us at FBCX on Wednesday, March 30, at 6:30pm

Dr. Augustine and other leaders from the BJC will join us in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm for further conversation about his lectures and his new book, *Called to Reconciliation: How the Church Can Model Justice, Diversity and Inclusion* (Baker Academic, 2022). This event will be available over Zoom as well.



HOLISTIC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

TENDING TO OUR CHILDREN IN

BODY MIND and SOUL

A WORKSHOP SERIES FOR CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS AND CHILDREN'S FAMILIES

Child Safety Policies | Sunday 3/27

Chair of Church Council and attorney David Cooke will review the policies FBCX follows that protect children and those who work with them. We will also update required background checks.

CPR and First Aid | Date TBD

Charles Matson will lead training in hands only CPR, choking for infants and children, AED use, and some general first aid techniques.

Resiliency & Inclusion | Saturday 5/14

The Center for Interrelational Science and Pediatrics will lead training in Community Resiliency Model as we explore creating space where all children can flourish.

Faith Development | Sunday 6/11

JD Granade will lead discussion on speaking theologically with children, including what topics are appropriate at which age and best practices for approaching them.

See weekly newsletters for registration and details as each date approaches.

The more we return to “normal” the more apparent it is that our children’s ministry has grown in several ways, which is a blessing to be celebrated! It’s also becoming clear how dependent we are on the work of volunteers who help this ministry run smoothly and safely. While we’re so grateful to those who continue to serve, we are also in need of those who can volunteer either regularly or as needed for special events. This series of workshops aims to refresh and reiterate the values of children’s ministry for those currently volunteering, and also empower those who would like to volunteer to feel confident in offering their gifts.

The first workshop will be required for all who currently or wish to work with children or youth, including parents and guardians, so childcare will

be provided. It will happen briefly after church. We will go over our Child Protection Policies and have forms available for the background checks we require of volunteers. If you cannot attend, please let JD know so we can work out another option.

Signs of the Season

The paraments on the pulpit and communion table along with the ministers' stoles are visual reminders of the current season of the church year. The season of Lent lasts forty days, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Sunday. It is traditionally a time of fasting, penitence, and prayer. The color purple, symbolizing repentance, marks the season.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in appreciation of our pastor and ministers by Suzy McCullough.

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• www.fbcxmacon.org • Wifi: fbcx-Guest Password is: welcome511

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Dr. Eric Spears
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Rev. Kelsey Stillwell
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