



Jean Louis Forain, "The Prodigal Son", 1909

Sunday, March 27, 2022
The Fourth 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

Sam Northenor, acolyte

The Prelude

“Processional in B Flat Major”
Anne Armstrong, organ

David Johnson

The Call to Worship

JD Granade

Do you feel it? God’s kingdom is beneath our feet.

We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our brokenness.

Do you know it? God’s reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing people.

No longer do we label our siblings, we welcome them with open arms.

Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new,
and sends us forth to share this good news with everyone!

*The Hymn of Praise 17

This Is My Father’s World

TERRA PATRIS

**This is my Father’s world, and to my listening ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.**

**This is my Father’s world, I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father’s world, the birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white declare their Maker’s praise.**

**This is my Father’s world, He shines in all that’s fair;
In rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father’s world, O let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.**

**This is my Father’s world, why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King! Let heavens ring! God reigns! Let earth be glad!**

*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

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. leader this week is Sara Binet and the shepherds this week are Ben and Rachel Huston.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

*The Hymn of Offertory 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 Offertory Prayer

Monica Stevens Kirby
Deacon of the Week

The Offertory

“I Shall Not Want”
Kirstine Buchanan, soprano

Audrey Assad

*The Offertory Response 186 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

**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

Psalm 32:1-11

Kay Gatins

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*
Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*
Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*
I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.
Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

For the Word of God in Holy Scripture,

Thanks be to God

The Call to Confession

JD Granade

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

JD Granade

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.

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

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
The Chancel Choir

Ralph Manuel

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's glow its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to hide from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

George Matheson (1882)

The Second Lesson

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Craig McMahan

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned

against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. but we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

For the Good News of God,

Thanks be to God

The Sermon

“The Prodigal’s Father”

Craig McMahan

THE OFFERING OF COMMITMENT

*The Hymn of
Commitment 587

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

NEW BRITAIN

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

Craig McMahan

*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

"Solemn Recessional"
Anne Armstrong, organ

Colin Mawby

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 27

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

Monday, March 28

9:00 am Crisis Closet

Wednesday, March 30

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, April 3

Children's Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship

Deacons of the Week

March 24 Monica Stevens Kirby
 March 31 Fred Bongiovanni

Birthdays

March 27 Lacie Brown
 March 29 Don McGouirk
 March 29 Charles Whitby

March 31 Charlie Thomas
 April 1 Jennifer Graham
 April 2 Kirby Godsey

Save the Date

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 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.

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.

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:

Save the Date

May 15: Graduate Recognition Sunday

June 4: Macon Bacon Game

June 5-10: Appalachian Mission Immersion

July TBD: High School Mission trip

July 18-23: Passport Camp

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, the summer schedule and 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. 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.

Remember to RSVP for dinner!



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 by a most-thankful congregation in honor of Anne Armstrong for her 42 years and three months as our organist.

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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